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## **NEW ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONES APPROVED**

DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas—At its meeting Feb. 27, 2017, the Dripping Springs ISD Board of Trustees unanimously (5-0) approved new elementary and middle school attendance zones that will go into effect in August of 2017. The new zones incorporate the district's two new schools being constructed on Sawyer Ranch Road: Sycamore Springs Elementary and Sycamore Springs Middle School. The approved attendance zone configuration was labeled as "Option 3A" during the process.

As compared to the current district boundary map, the approved elementary attendance zones make several key changes, which are highlighted below. **See attached map for a complete overview.**

- Moves the Highpointe neighborhood from Dripping Springs Elementary/Dripping Springs MS to Sycamore Springs Elementary/Sycamore Springs MS
- Moves the Sawyer Ranch and Vistas of Sawyer Ranch neighborhoods from Walnut Springs Elementary/Dripping Springs MS to Sycamore Springs Elementary/Sycamore Springs MS
- Moves the Rimrock neighborhood and a few streets south of Darden Hill Road from Walnut Springs Elementary/Dripping Springs MS to Sycamore Springs Elementary/Sycamore Springs MS
- Moves several neighborhoods along 1826 from Rooster Springs Elementary/Dripping Springs MS to Sycamore Springs Elementary/Sycamore Springs MS, including Goldenwood, Reunion Ranch, Friendship Ranch, and Bear Creek, as well as several individual streets
- Moves some streets off Nutty Brown Road from Rooster Springs Elementary/Dripping Springs MS to Sycamore Springs Elementary/Sycamore Springs MS

The new feeder patterns will have students from Dripping Springs Elementary and Walnut Springs Elementary matriculating to Dripping Springs Middle School, while students from Rooster Springs Elementary and Sycamore Springs Elementary will attend Sycamore Springs Middle School.

The process to determine new elementary and middle school attendance zones began last fall as a committee worked with the district's demographer to develop options for boundaries. Six public forums were held from November through January, public input was collected, and additional options were developed. All options were analyzed, taking into account future enrollment projections. In all, five options were presented to the public.

"Our district population is not distributed in such a way that everyone can attend the school closest to their home, which led to some agonizing decisions for us," said Superintendent Bruce Gearing. "The bottom line is we are fortunate that every school in Dripping Springs ISD provides an outstanding education to the children of our community. I would like to sincerely thank the committee and community for their involvement in making this process as transparent as possible."

The Board also approved a one-year plan to "grandfather" incoming fifth- and eighth-graders who are zoned to the new schools but would prefer to remain at their current campus. In order to aid parents, siblings of grandfathered fifth- and eighth-grade students also will be given the option to remain at the same school as their sibling for one year. District transportation will not be provided to grandfathered students.

Principals for the two new schools were hired last summer and currently are working on staffing plans. Dr. Dru Robinett is the principal at Sycamore Springs Elementary and Mr. Dan Diehl will lead Sycamore Springs Middle School. Both schools will hold welcoming events for families and students assigned there this spring and summer. Websites for the schools are available at:

Sycamore Springs Elementary School: [www.dsisdtx.us/sses](http://www.dsisdtx.us/sses)

Sycamore Springs Middle School: [www.dsisdtx.us/ssms](http://www.dsisdtx.us/ssms)

