



LITCHFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

272 East Sagebrush Street • Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340 • 623.535.6000 • Fax 623.935.1448 • www.lesd.k12.az.us

"A Stronger Mind for a Stronger Future"

September 25, 2018

Dear Boundary Revisions Committee Member,

Thank you very much for your willingness to play a valuable role in what will be one of the most notable projects to be addressed by our "A" rated District in this decade. The opening of a new school is always thrilling, and we need your candid insight to help us make important decisions about attendance boundary revisions.

The explosive growth in the southwest valley has afforded Litchfield Elementary School District the exciting opportunity to build a new school in the northwest portion of Goodyear. With 15 schools in 4 cities across 65 square miles, we have already broken ground on School 16 in the community of Sedella at the northeast corner of Indian School Road and Jackrabbit Road. (The construction site is not ready for tours at this time, but you are welcome to drive by 18601 West Campbell Avenue, Goodyear.) Now it is time to determine the attendance boundaries for School 16 - an important decision that impacts many families in our west-side schools.

Our staff has worked hard to design an engaging process to shape the boundary revisions recommendation that I will make to the Governing Board on December 11, 2018. This participatory process includes a diverse Boundary Revisions Committee and multiple opportunities for all stakeholders to contribute.

Boundary revisions are often a controversial topic. Our students love their school families and we understand that some families are reluctant to move schools. That's why we will do everything we can to be thoughtful and inclusive about making the boundary revisions that are necessary for our growing region. We will also help families understand and access the Open Enrollment process that will help them choose their child's school, despite attendance boundaries.

We welcome your leadership in this important conversation and I thank you for lending your valuable time to this process.

Your partner in education,

Jodi Gunning, M.Ed.
Superintendent



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BOUNDARY REVISIONS COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Boundary Revisions Committee will study the goals and needs of Litchfield Elementary School District and shape Superintendent Gunning's recommendation to the Governing Board. The 14-person committee reflects a variety of stakeholder groups and is comprised of:

- Current and past parents in LESD and AFUHSD - and non-parents
- Parents in potentially high-impact grids (including 37, 40, 46A, 46B, 48, 64, 65) and parents in likely low-impact grids. Together they reflect east/west diversity.
- LESD and AFUHSD staff
- Business and community partners
- Self-nominated, community-nominated, and staff-nominated members

The Boundary Revisions Committee members will value and protect the participatory process. The committee will weigh key considerations, maps and data, and all input from various stakeholders. Boundary Revisions Committee members are expected to attend at least two of the three public workshops, partner with staff to master the topic, and review all community input throughout the process. The District website and public meetings will be the primary sources of community information.

Operating Norms

- All stakeholders are welcome. All ideas are valued.
- All committee members will set aside any personal impact of school boundaries and focus on what is best for more than 11,000 students.
- Service on the Boundary Revisions Committee is an important responsibility to be respected and appreciated.
- Committee members will discuss and adjust these norms in Workshop #1.

BOUNDARY REVISIONS COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key Considerations

The committee is challenged to consider the competing priorities that inherently come with this work. Here are some known factors that must be considered by the committee as it strives to promote balance and the common good. The Workshop #1 agenda invites the committee to identify any other major factors for consideration.

1. Current enrollment and future growth
2. The number of families impacted
3. Time to and from school, maximize safety and efficiency, transportation costs
4. Neighborhoods and communities
5. Elementary and middle school feeder areas and AFUHSD boundaries
6. Conclude boundary revision process with enough lead time to allow families and schools to plan and prepare (December 2018)

Background Information

- School 16 will serve Kindergarten through 8th grades. (Plans for preschool have not yet been addressed.) Grades at other schools may need to be adjusted to promote balance in student attendance numbers.
- Open Enrollment is an Arizona law that allows students to apply for admission to any state public school, based on available classroom space. Open Enrollment applications are approved on a year-by-year basis with no guarantee of continued enrollment. Approval of Open Enrollment applications are based on the capacity available per school. Litchfield's annual Open Enrollment process begins in January 2019.
- Litchfield Elementary School District and Avondale Elementary School District feed into Agua Fria Union High School District. The LESD/AFUHSD attendance boundaries will likely never align exactly, but both districts strive for balance and continuity.

Important Dates

Tuesday, 10-2-18	Boundary Revisions Committee Workshop #1
Tuesday, 10-23-18	Boundary Revisions Committee Workshop #2
Monday, 11-19-18	Boundary Revisions Committee Workshop #3
Tuesday, 12-11-18	Superintendent submits a recommendation to the Governing Board