NEWTON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Planning for the Future

Newton Community
School District
Public Input Sessions
February 12, 2024 @ 5:30-7pm
February 13, 2024 @ 5:30-7pm

RSP & Associates

RSP Quick Facts:

Founded in 2003
Professional educational planning firm
Expertise in multiple disciplines (GIS, Planning, Facilitation)
Over 20 years of planning experience
Over 80 years of education experience
Over 20 years of GIS experience
Projection accuracy of 97% or greater

RSP Clients:

RSP was started with the desire and commitment to assist school districts in long-range planning.
RSP has served over **130** clients in:

Arkansas	Minnesota	South Dakota
Colorado	Missouri	Tennessee
Iowa	Nebraska	Wisconsin
Illinois	North Dakota	
Kansas	Oklahoma	

RSP Planning Team:

Robert Schwarz, CEO
Military, County, City, and School District Planner
University of Kansas – Master of Urban Planning (MUP)
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
Accredited Learning Facility Planner (CEFP)

Ginna Wallace, Planner
University of Kansas – Master of Urban Planning (MUP)
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

RSP Recent Projects:

Ankeny Community School District
- Enrollment Analysis, 2022/23
- Boundary Analysis, 2022/23

Bondurant-Farrar Community School District
- Enrollment Analysis, 2021/22

Carlisle Community School District
- Enrollment Analysis, 2022/23

Setting the Stage

Process and Boundary Objectives (Board Direction)

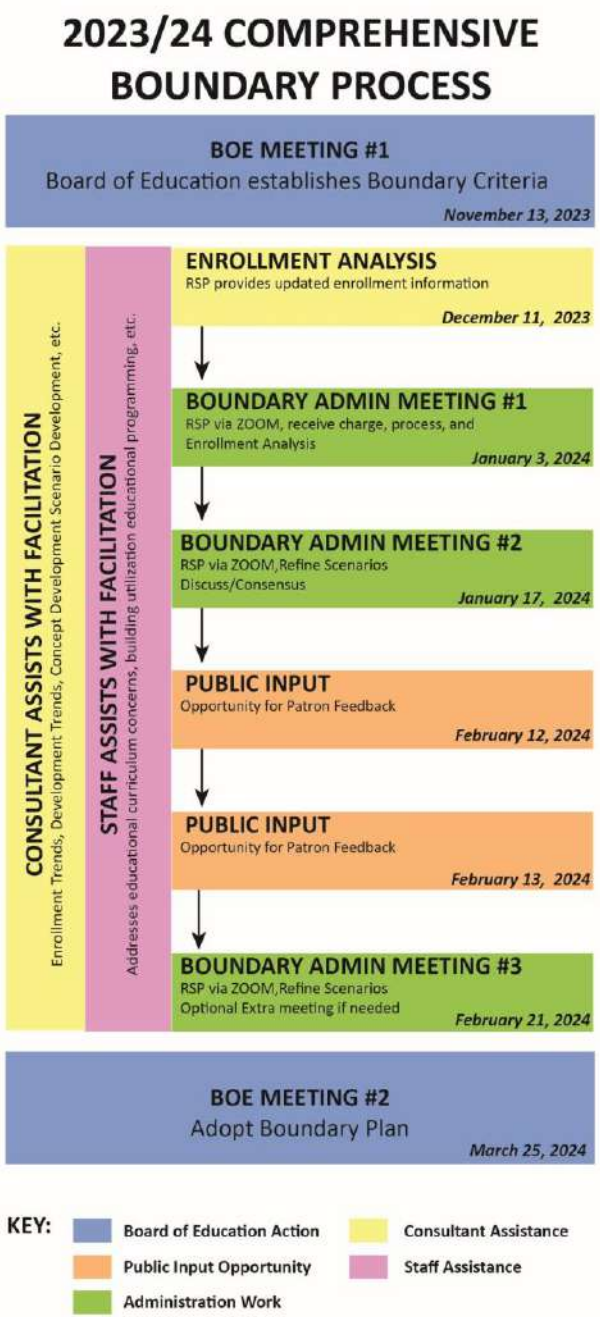
Boundary Process

3 Administrative Meetings

2 Opportunities for Public Input

2 Board of Education Meetings

Main Takeaway: The process begins this winter after RSP has updated the Enrollment Analysis with 2023/24 student data.



2023/24 Guiding Principles (RSP Modified)

Guiding Principles:

The following are to be considered:

- The boundary adjustment plan reflects a two-to-three-year transition plan to allow for facility renovation
- The boundary adjustment plan should reflect providing better educational opportunities at each school for there to be an equitable student experience at each school
- The end grade configuration should be: PK to 4th, 5 to 8th, and 9 to 12th
- Elementary inventory is reduced to two core facilities by 2026/27
- Attendance boundaries are modified over the next two to four years to allow for building renovations
- Building renovations and boundary transition plan contingent on bonding capability and timing of projects
- Boundaries could be modified to create flexible/transition areas with high transition residential areas to help balance enrollment
- Grandfathering/Transfers/Student Options are determined by Administration – could happen if space allowed

Boundary Criteria

TOP BOUNDARY CRITERIA (11/13/2023 meeting)

1. Students Impacted by Boundary Change
   - *Focus on number of transitions for students*

2. Fiscal Considerations – Operational

3. Neighborhoods/Schools Intact

All Boundary Criteria (alphabetized):

- ❑ Boundary Natural Features: All portions of the boundary are physically adjacent, no disconnected islands within the boundary.
- ❑ Fiscal Considerations (Operational Cost): Boundaries that are planned to maximize district resources.
- ❑ Demographic Considerations: Boundaries that seek some level of balanced socioeconomic indicators.
- ❑ Neighborhoods Intact: Boundaries that ensure neighborhoods are maintained in a school's attendance area.
- ❑ Duration of Boundaries : Boundaries that anticipate future changes in enrollment and seek to make the boundary last as long as possible using forecasted data.
- ❑ Projected Enrollment/Building Utilization: Boundaries that focus on balancing enrollment, so each building is utilized efficiently while not projected to exceed functional capacity for several years.
- ❑ Feeder System Considerations: Boundaries that attempt to keep entire elementary schools together as they move to a middle school.
- ❑ Students Impacted by Boundary Change: Boundaries that minimize the number of current students that have to change schools.
- ❑ Fiscal Considerations (Capital Costs) :Ensure boundary changes minimize the need for additional construction projects until overall enrollment growth dictates.
- ❑ Transportation Considerations: Boundaries that consider transportation logistics including bus route efficiency and length of time students spend on bus.

Elementary Boundary Process

BOE approved Dec. 18th

2024/25 to 2025/26

- ❑ Close Aurora Heights Elementary for renovation
- ❑ Operate the three other elementary buildings (3-sections of K-4th grade)
  - Pre-K will remain at Thomas Jefferson during the construction
- ❑ Create a transition boundary plan for three elementary schools
  - Target of having 25 students per section, 3-sections per building
  - Target of having 20 student per section for K-1st grade

2026/27

- ❑ Transition to two core elementary schools
  - Aurora Heights (reopens) as K-4
  - Thomas Jefferson as K-4
  - Emerson Hough and Woodrow Wilson elementary schools are repurposed
- ❑ **Create new boundary final plan for two elementary schools (Aurora Heights & Thomas Jefferson)**

Enrollment Projections

Enrollment by Grade

Growth Potential

5-Year Enrollment Forecast

Sophisticated Forecast Model

Built-Out $S_{c,t,x} = S_{c-1,t-1,x} * GC$

Let:

- S = The number of students, either an actual count or a projected count
- x = A subscript denoting an attendance ares in the School District
- c = Grade level
- t = Time (years)
- GC = Growth component either modeling enrollment increase or decrease based on historical information, expressed as a real number

Developing $S_{c,t,x} = S_{c-1,t-1,x} + (BP_{t,x} * R_{c,x})$

Where: $BP_{t,x} = \left(\frac{(CP_x)(BT_x)(A_x)}{\sum x (CP_x)(BT_x)(A_x)} \right) * CT$

Let:

- S = The number of students, either an actual count or a projected count
- x = A subscript denoting an attendance area in School District
- c = Grade level
- t = Time (years)
- BP = Building permit forecast as given by the Building Permit Allocation Model (BPAM) model
- Rc, x = Student Enrollment ratio of cohort c in planning area x
- CP = Capacity of a planning area as expressed by available housing units
- BT = Building history trend of planning area
- A = An index which models the likelihood of development
- CT = Building permit control total forecast

The SFM is…

- a social science… not an exact science; it identifies behavior trends to determine the propensity of them to be recreated
- valuable in how our team created and analyzes the geography at a planning area level for any commonality which while help produce an accurate forecast

Some variables examined for each planning area (but not limited to) are…

- natural cohort (district data)
- planning area subdivision lifecycle (a RSP variable)
- the value of homes (county assessor data)
- type of residential units like single-family, multi-family, townhome, mobile home, etc. (county assessor data)
- year units were built
- estimated female population (census data)
- estimated 0-4 population (census data)
- existing land use (county and city data)
- future land use (county and city data)
- capital improvement plan (county and city data)
- future development (county and city data)
- in-migration of students (district data) & out-migration of students (district data)

This is the **central focus** of everything RSP does.

The model is based on what is happening in a school district. The best data is statistically analyzed to provide an accurate enrollment forecast. The District will be able to use RSP's report and maps to better understand demographic trends, school utilization, and the timing of construction projects.

Each variable is analyzed as an indicator of the future student population:

(+) Indicator of Student Growth

(−) Indicator of Student Loss

Understanding the Model

RSP Recommended to continually monitor the following indicators:

Enrollment may decrease more than forecasted if…	Enrollment may increase more than forecasted if…
⊖ Decreasing share of live births	⊕ Increasing share of live births
⊖ Current housing stock does not re-green (continues to age)	⊕ Current housing stock re-greens (turns over)
⊖ Housing development experiences minimal potential growth	⊕ Housing development experience more potential growth
⊖ Economic indicators challenge the ability for new homeowners and affordability aspects of the district	⊕ Economic indicators improve the ability for new homeowners and the affordability aspects of the district
⊖ Demographic shifts in community and/or surrounding communities	⊕ Demographic shifts in community and/or surrounding communities
⊖ Incoming Kindergarten class smaller than outgoing senior class	⊕ Incoming Kindergarten class larger than outgoing senior class

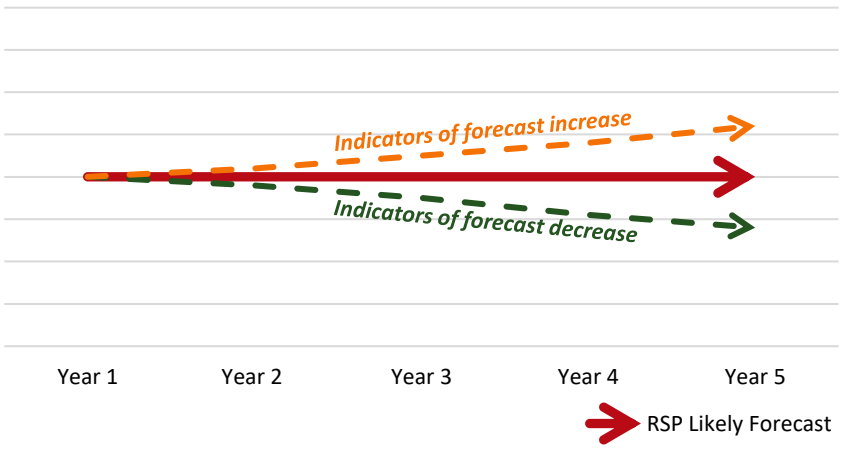
See graphic below to illustrate how the different variables may impact forecasted enrollment outlook:

Main Takeaway:

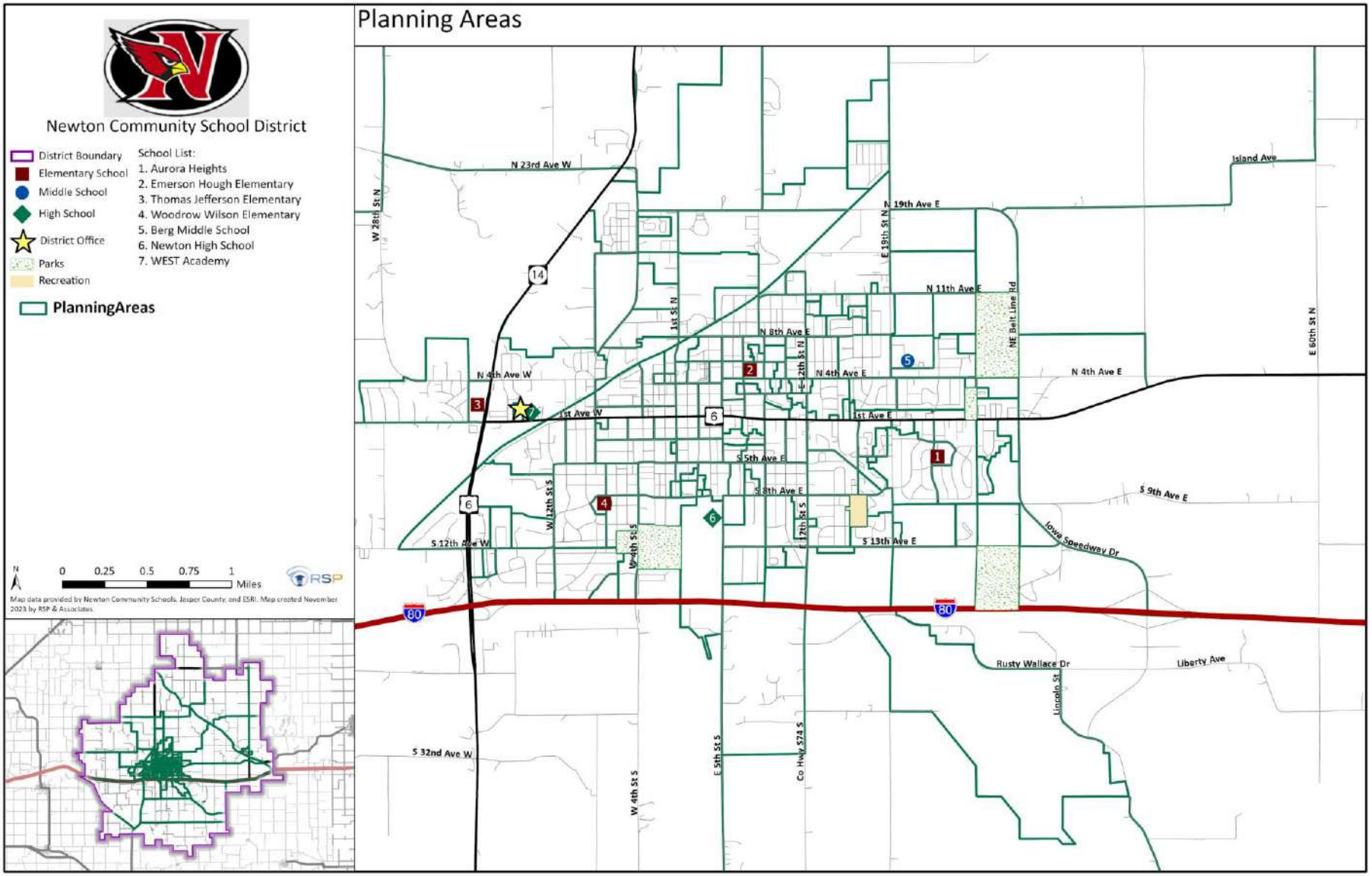
- These factors are not all positive or negative. Each have a different impact on future outlooks.
- State education policy change may impact enrollment outlook. This analysis assumes policies will continue as they currently operate throughout the projection time frame.
- It is important to continue to monitor these factors – RSP modeling attempts to find the most likely outcome:

The goal of this study is to help the board, administration, and public understand how to make the best decision for the students at the classroom level.

Example of Forecast Evolution



RSP Planning Areas Map



Birth Rate Information

Jasper County Iowa Live Births and Newton Kindergarteners 5 Years Later

Calendar Year	# Live Births	Birth Change	% Birth Change	School Year	# Kdg	%Kdg of Live Births
2005	474			2010/11	251	53.0%
2006	402	-72	-15.2%	2011/12	251	62.4%
2007	423	21	5.2%	2012/13	238	56.3%
2008	441	18	4.3%	2013/14	252	57.1%
2009	389	-52	-11.8%	2014/15	211	54.2%
2010	415	26	6.7%	2015/16	206	49.6%
2011	417	2	0.5%	2016/17	197	47.2%
2012	441	24	5.8%	2017/18	212	48.1%
2013	404	-37	-8.4%	2018/19	202	50.0%
2014	424	20	5.0%	2019/20	197	46.5%
2015	395	-29	-6.8%	2020/21	187	47.3%
2016	429	34	8.6%	2021/22	205	47.8%
2017	385	-44	-10.3%	2022/23	207	53.8%
2018	404	19	4.9%	2023/24	177	43.8%
2019	401	-3	-0.7%	2024/25	176	229
2020	411	10	2.5%	2025/26	180	235
2021	398	-13	-3.2%	2026/27	174	227
2022	360	-38	-9.5%	2027/28	158	206
3-Year Average	411.8	-13.7				
3-Year Weighted Average	381.2	-21.7				

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Newton Community School District

Low Range
High Range

Live Birth Observations

- Tracks the number of county live births and the corresponding number of kindergarten students in five years later
- The number of live births have decreased the past two years with less than 400 per year (3-year average of 13 less live births per year)
- Kindergarten enrollment has varied between 177 to 252 students per year
- Kindergarten was the lowest this year with 177 students (44% of live births)
- The kindergarten classes moving forward are forecasted to be between:
  - Low End: 158 to 180 students
  - High End: 206 to 235 students

Main Takeaway: The decline of live births in the Jasper County can potentially result in smaller kindergarten classes. To keep similar or greater enrollment will require an increased in the market share of future kindergarten students. RSP recommends continuing to monitor this variable for more understanding on demographic trends as propensity of Jasper County live births enrolling in Newton Community School District.

Past Enrollment by Grade

Observations:

- Largest K-12 class in 2023/24 – 12th grade with 225 Students
- Smallest K-12 class in 2023/24 – Kindergarten 177 students
- Graduating senior class is larger than the incoming Kindergarten class which will decrease total enrollment
- Largest historical increase was from 2016/17 to 2017/18 with increase of 6.0%
- Largest total enrollment since 2005/06 was in 2005/06 with 3,271 students
- The district decreased by 88 students from last year (-3.1%)

IOWA SCHOOL DISTRICT - Dept of Education

Enrollment By Grade

														PK-12		
Year	**PK**	**K**	**1st**	**2nd**	**3rd**	**4th**	**5th**	**6th**	**7th**	**8th**	**9th**	**10th**	**11th**	**12th**	**Total**	**Change**	**% Change**
2005/06	24	291	239	226	226	223	232	225	263	274	273	265	259	251	3,271	3,271	
2006/07	16	241	231	230	216	216	222	228	225	267	274	261	255	265	3,147	-124	-3.8%
2007/08	15	293	229	232	234	219	221	245	241	228	275	268	247	277	3,224	77	2.4%
2008/09	55	258	249	227	239	230	222	226	234	239	222	283	256	279	3,219	-5	-0.2%
2009/10	62	256	214	241	232	234	222	226	226	235	241	223	258	268	3,138	-81	-2.5%
2010/11	115	251	216	207	241	224	232	228	229	218	219	231	208	251	3,070	-68	-2.2%
2011/12	128	251	213	208	218	243	228	234	220	231	224	213	213	210	3,034	-36	-1.2%
2012/13	141	238	221	218	206	220	243	230	235	217	221	217	205	222	3,034	0	0.0%
2013/14	129	252	220	230	224	216	224	236	226	231	216	216	219	222	3,061	27	0.9%
2014/15	122	211	217	219	217	222	202	221	229	224	224	205	194	204	2,911	-150	-4.9%
2015/16	133	206	198	215	224	221	227	207	223	229	232	234	201	205	2,955	44	1.5%
2016/17	107	197	182	178	194	198	211	204	200	218	214	215	225	188	2,731	-224	-7.6%
2017/18	114	212	189	189	211	212	205	235	222	210	226	228	217	225	2,895	164	6.0%
2018/19	111	202	215	188	194	213	216	209	234	236	217	232	220	227	2,914	19	0.7%
2019/20	99	197	207	222	194	208	216	224	216	246	224	221	203	201	2,878	-36	-1.2%
2020/21	92	187	177	208	209	192	202	218	233	227	243	220	215	199	2,822	-56	-1.9%
2021/22	133	205	191	187	202	211	198	212	215	223	224	242	207	214	2,864	42	1.5%
2022/23	125	207	202	194	194	209	210	196	215	216	228	219	243	201	2,859	-5	-0.2%
2023/24	118	177	203	205	187	194	204	205	198	217	215	218	205	225	2,771	-88	-3.1%

Source: Iowa Department of Education and Newton Community Schools (2005/06 to 2023/24)

Cohort Student Change

Observations:

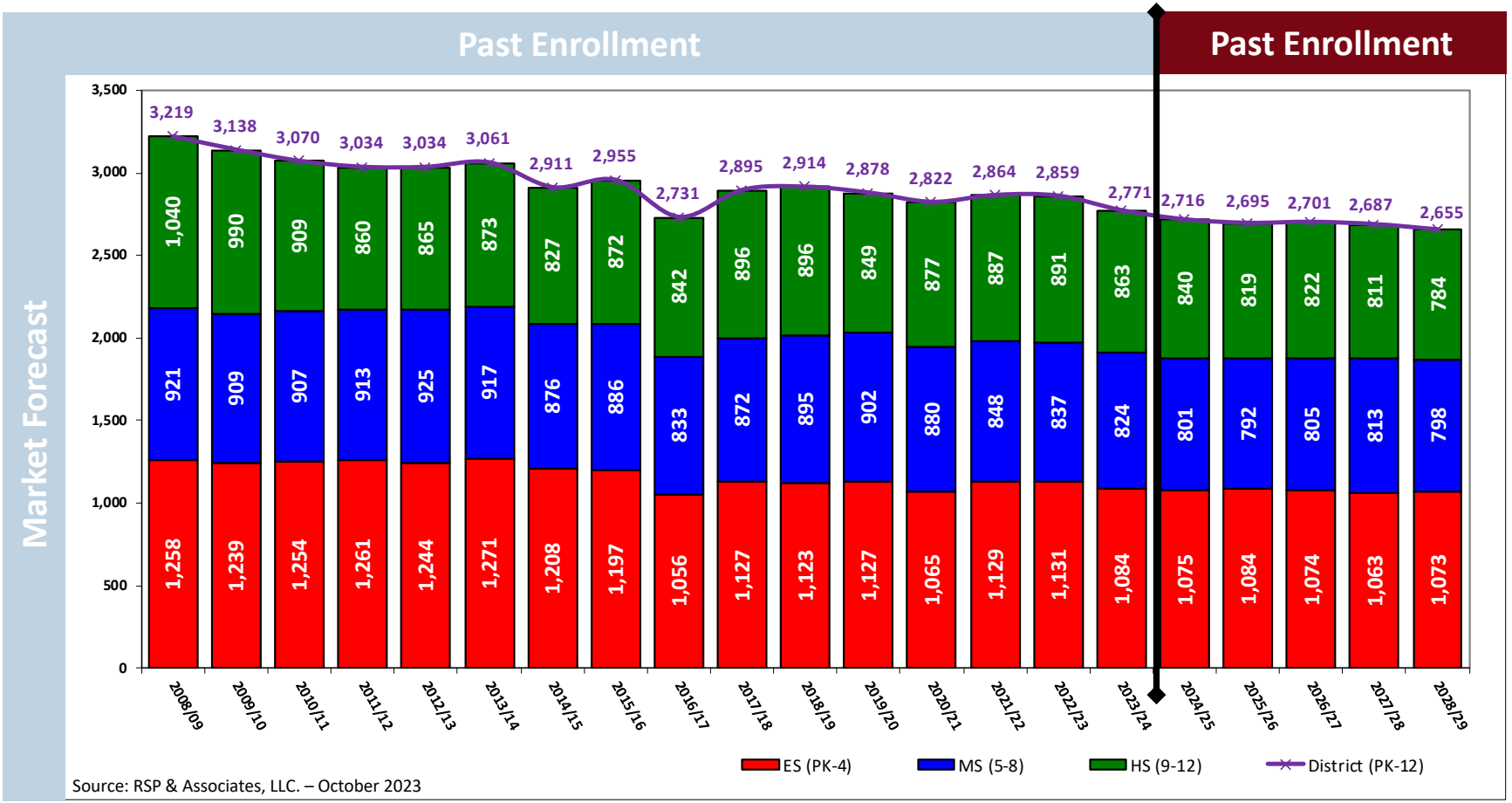
- Largest 3-year average K-12 class cohort increase – 1st to 2nd grade **(+5.3)**
- Largest 3-year average K-12 class cohort decrease – 10th to 11th grade **(-8.7)**
- Overall percent change from previous year of -3.1% - decrease of 88 students
- Instructional Modality will have to be monitored to determine if the students who are not attending the district still reside in the district and if or how many return to receive services in the future years

Enrollment Grade Change

From	To	PK K	K 1st	1st 2nd	2nd 3rd	3rd 4th	4th 5th	5th 6th	6th 7th	7th 8th	8th 9th	9th 10th	10th 11th	11th 12th	PK-12 Change	PK-12 % Change
2005/06	2006/07	217	-60	-9	-10	-10	-1	-4	0	4	0	-12	-10	6	-124	-3.8%
2006/07	2007/08	277	-12	1	4	3	5	23	13	3	8	-6	-14	22	77	2.4%
2007/08	2008/09	243	-44	-2	7	-4	3	5	-11	-2	-6	8	-12	32	-5	-0.2%
2008/09	2009/10	201	-44	-8	5	-5	-8	4	0	1	2	1	-25	12	-81	-2.5%
2009/10	2010/11	189	-40	-7	0	-8	-2	6	3	-8	-16	-10	-15	-7	-68	-2.2%
2010/11	2011/12	136	-38	-8	11	2	4	2	-8	2	6	-6	-18	2	-36	-1.2%
2011/12	2012/13	110	-30	5	-2	2	0	2	1	-3	-10	-7	-8	9	0	0.0%
2012/13	2013/14	111	-18	9	6	10	4	-7	-4	-4	-1	-5	2	17	27	0.9%
2013/14	2014/15	82	-35	-1	-13	-2	-14	-3	-7	-2	-7	-11	-22	-15	-150	-4.9%
2014/15	2015/16	84	-13	-2	5	4	5	5	2	0	8	10	-4	11	44	1.5%
2015/16	2016/17	64	-24	-20	-21	-26	-10	-23	-7	-5	-15	-17	-9	-13	-224	-7.6%
2016/17	2017/18	105	-8	7	33	18	7	24	18	10	8	14	2	0	164	6.0%
2017/18	2018/19	88	3	-1	5	2	4	4	-1	14	7	6	-8	10	19	0.7%
2018/19	2019/20	86	5	7	6	14	3	8	7	12	-12	4	-29	-19	-36	-1.2%
2019/20	2020/21	88	-20	1	-13	-2	-6	2	9	11	-3	-4	-6	-4	-56	-1.9%
2020/21	2021/22	113	4	10	-6	2	6	10	-3	-10	-3	-1	-13	-1	42	1.5%
2021/22	2022/23	74	-3	3	7	7	-1	-2	3	1	5	-5	1	-6	-5	-0.2%
2022/23	2023/24	52	-4	3	-7	0	-5	-5	2	2	-1	-10	-14	-18	-88	-3.1%
3-Year Average		79.7	-1.0	5.3	-2.0	3.0	0.0	1.0	0.7	-2.3	0.3	-5.3	-8.7	-8.3	-17.0	-0.6%
3-Year Weighted Average		69.5	-2.3	4.2	-2.2	2.7	-1.8	-1.5	1.5	-0.3	0.7	-6.8	-8.8	-11.2	-38.7	-1.3%

Source: Iowa Department of Education and Newton Community Schools (2005/06 to 2023/24)

Past, Current, & Future Enrollment



Source: RSP & Associates, LLC. – October 2023

District-wide enrollment projected to continue decreasing for the next five years. By 2028/29…

- District-wide enrollment forecasted to decrease by 116 students (-4.2%)
- Elementary enrollment forecasted to decrease by 11 students (-1.0%)
- Middle School enrollment forecasted to decrease by 26 students (-3.2%)
- High School enrollment forecasted to decrease by 79 students (-9.2%)

**All past student data is exported from the district student database allowing the ability to do robust statistical analysis by student geography The student database export will not always align perfectly with the Official Counts (Statistically 99% greater match by grade)*

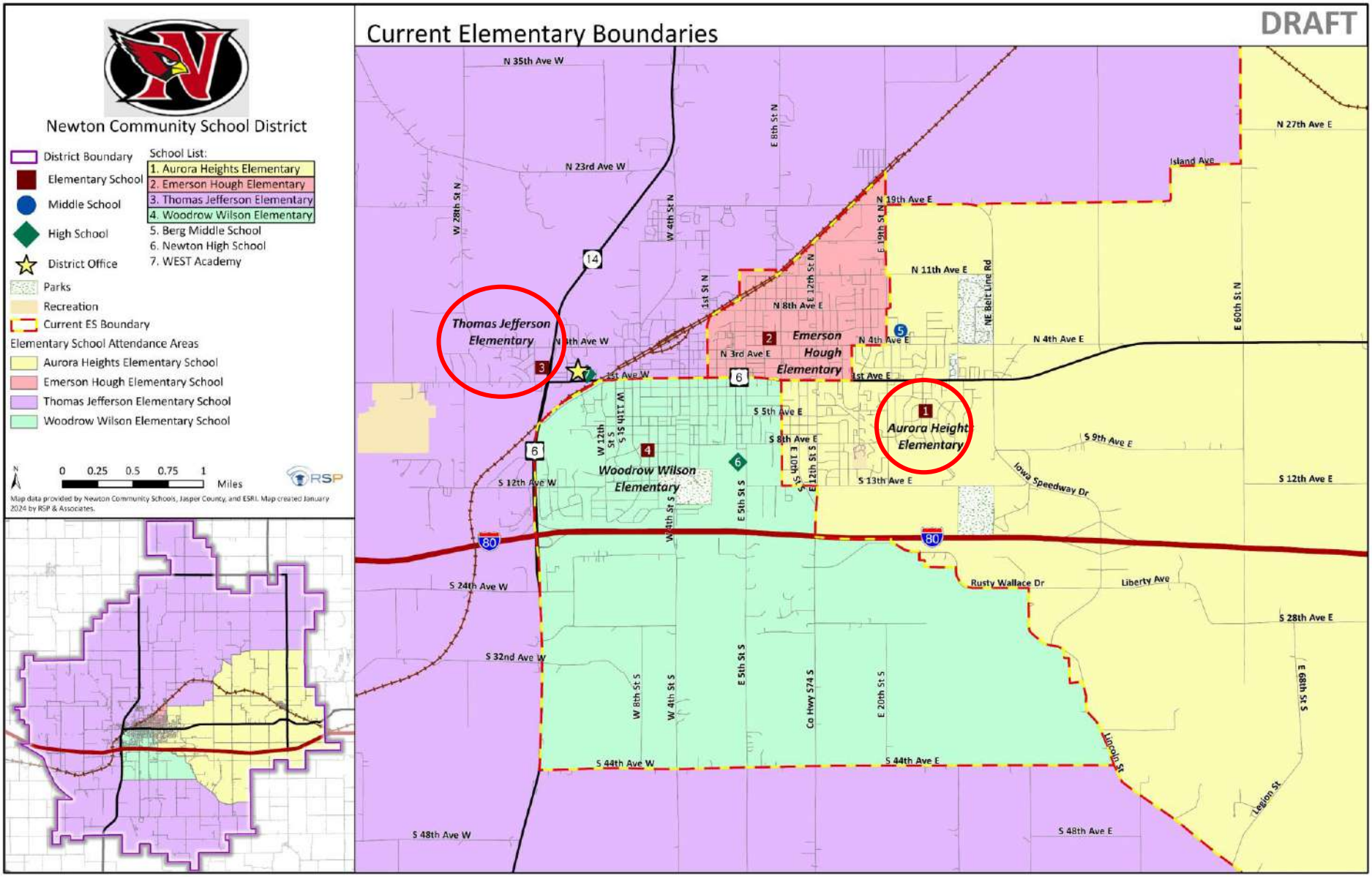
Proposed Boundary Plan

Current Elementary Boundaries

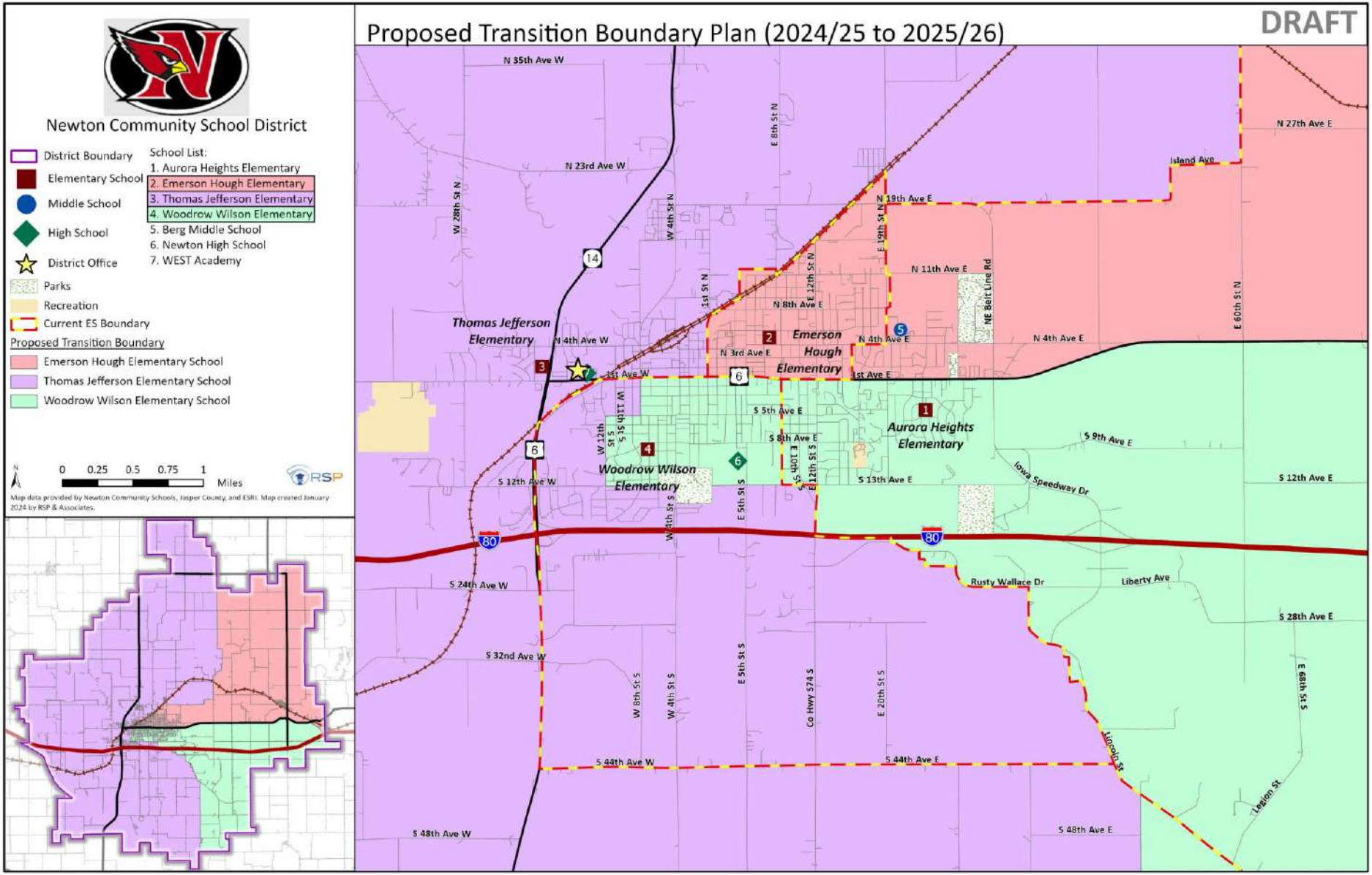
Proposed Transition Boundaries

Propose Final Boundaries

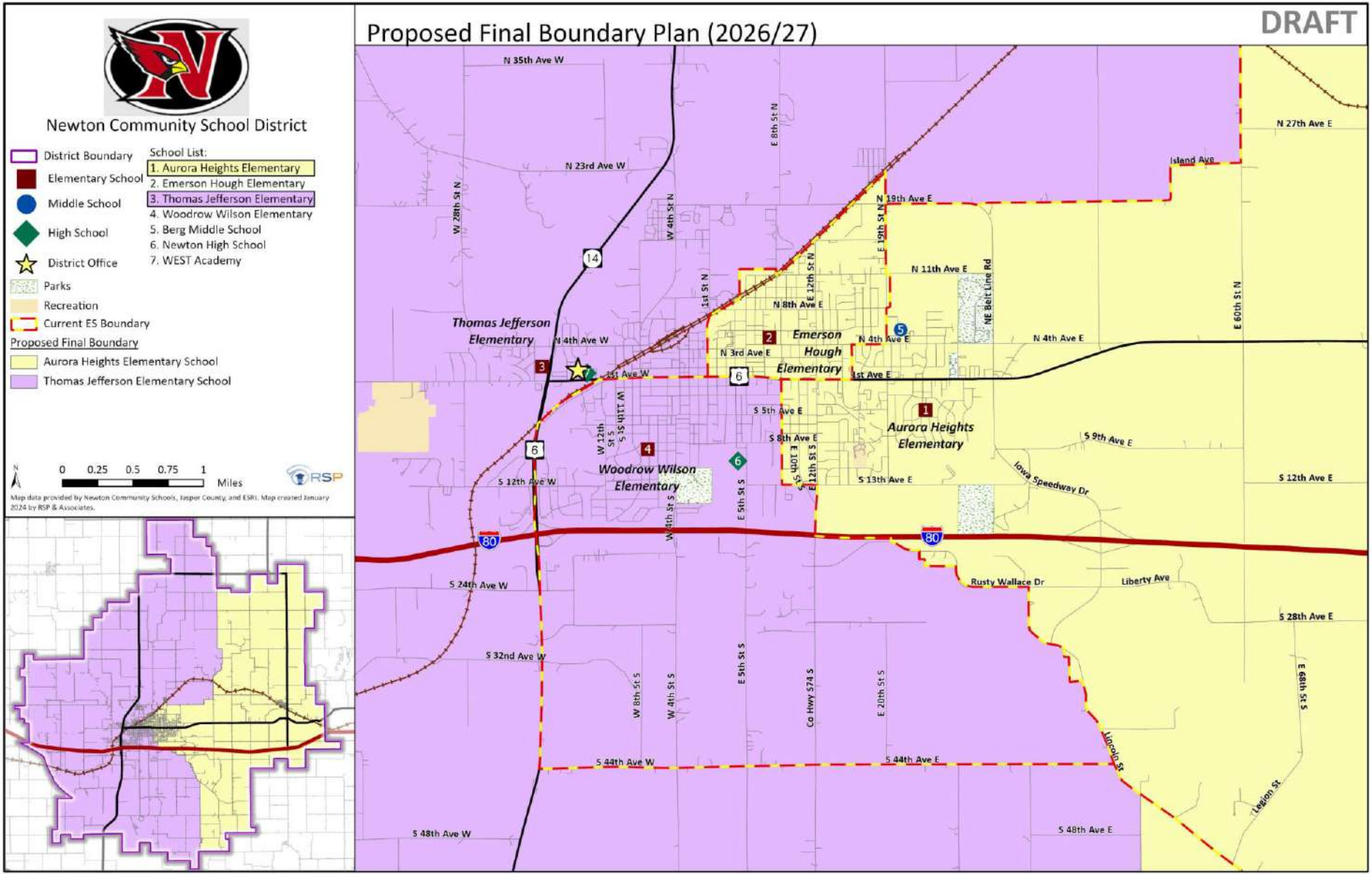
Current Elementary Boundary Map



Proposed Transition Boundary Plan (2024/25 & 2025/26)



Proposed Final Boundary Plan (2026/27)



Enrollment Projections:

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Current Boundary Enrollment Projections:	Grades	Capacity		Enrollment by Reside					Utilization Percentage				
		Current	Future	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Aurora Heights Elementary	K-4	357	500	266	273	284	288	297	75%	76%	80%	81%	83%
Emerson Hough Elementary	K-4	357	0	205	195	194	186	187	57%	55%	54%	52%	52%
Thomas Jefferson Elementary	K-4	357	500	237	234	230	230	235	66%	66%	64%	64%	66%
Woodrow Wilson Elementary	K-4	357	0	253	263	245	241	232	71%	74%	69%	68%	65%
TOTAL	K-4	1,428	1,000	961	965	953	945	951	67%	68%	67%	66%	67%

Source: RSP & Associates, LLC - December 2023

Note: Green shading indicates when building is less than 75% utilized; orange shading indicated when building is over 100% utilized

Proposed Boundary Enrollment Projections	Grades	Capacity		Enrollment by Reside					Utilization Percentage				
		Current	Future	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Aurora Heights Elementary	K-4	357	500	0	0	486	480	491	0%	0%	97%	96%	98%
Emerson Hough Elementary	K-4	357	0	317	310	0	0	0	89%	87%	0%	0%	0%
Thomas Jefferson Elementary	K-4	357	500	327	324	467	463	459	92%	91%	93%	93%	92%
Woodrow Wilson Elementary	K-4	357	0	317	331	0	0	0	89%	93%	0%	0%	0%
TOTAL	K-4	1,428	1,000	961	965	953	943	950	67%	68%	95%	94%	95%

Source: RSP & Associates, LLC - December 2023 1/30/2024

Note: Green shading indicates when building is less than 75% utilized; orange shading indicated when building is over 100% utilized. Projection totals may differ from current due to rounding at the student and building level.

Observations:

- ❑ Transition Years (shaded gray in table):
  - Aurora Heights students are divided north/south of 1st Avenue (Hwy 6)
  - Some Woodrow Wilson students are assigned to Thomas Jefferson (will be there in final plan)
  - Adjustment to the eastern rural routes to create more efficient transportation
- ❑ Final Year:
  - All of current Emerson Hough is assigned to NEW Aurora Heights
  - All of current Woodrow Wilson is assigned to Thomas Jefferson

Capacity Notes (provided by district administration): NEW Aurora Heights & Thomas Jefferson Capacity is targeted at 500 students. Pre-K is planned at Aurora Heights (Total capacity of 150 students, 75 students in AM and PM section)

Students Impacted Analysis (by grade)

DRAFT

		Proposed Transition Plan Reside													
	Students Impacted Analysis:	Emerson Hough				Thomas Jefferson				Woodrow Wilson				*Total Impact (K-3)*	
	Transition Years (24-25 & 25-26)	Kdg	1st	2nd	3rd	Kdg	1st	2nd	3rd	Kdg	1st	2nd	3rd	*Students*	*Percent*
Current Reside	Aurora Heights Elementary	28	21	15	19					23	38	37	32	213	100.0%
	Emerson Hough Elementary													0	0.0%
	Thomas Jefferson Elementary	1	1	1	0						1	3	1	8	4.3%
	Woodrow Wilson Elementary					21	21	22	15					79	38.3%
	SUM (K-3 student impacted)	29	22	16	19	21	21	22	15	69	39	40	33	300	38.9%

Source: RSP & Associates; utilizing 2023/24 student data

1/30/2024

		Proposed Final Plan Redide					
	Students Impacted Analysis:	Aurora Heights		Thomas Jefferson		*Total Impact (K-1)*	
	Final Year (26-27)	Kdg	1st	Kdg	1st	*Students*	*Percent*
Transition Plan Reside	Emerson Hough Elementary	63	65			128	100.0%
	Thomas Jefferson Elementary					0	0.0%
	Woodrow Wilson Elementary	23	39	28	34	124	100.0%
	SUM (K-1 student impacted)	86	104	28	34	252	66.3%

Source: RSP & Associates; utilizing 2023/24 student data

1/30/2024

Observations:

- Transition Years (table 1):
  - The 213 K-3 students that currently reside in Aurora Heights, are split between Emerson Hough and Woodrow Wilson (about 40/60%)
  - 79 Woodrow Wilson students are assigned to Thomas Jefferson (will be there in final plan)
  - 8 students would be assigned from Thomas Jefferson to Emerson Hough or Woodrow Wilson to improve transportation in north and south rural routes
- Final Year:
  - All of current Emerson Hough is assigned to NEW Aurora Heights (128 K-1 students)
  - All of current Woodrow Wilson is assigned to Thomas Jefferson (124 K-1 students)
  - The 62 students going from Woodrow Wilson to Aurora Heights currently attend Aurora Heights and were moved out for building renovations

Proposed Boundary Discussion

BOUNDARY CRITERIA	Proposed Boundary Plan Observations
1. Students Impacted by Boundary Change *(Focus on number of transitions for students)*	❑ 38.9% of K-3 students impacted in Transition Boundary Plan ❑ 66.3% of K-1 students impacted in Final Boundary Plan ❑ Current Aurora Heights community and the eastern rural routes would be impacted twice ❑ All other students are only impacted one time
2. Fiscal Considerations – Operational	❑ Successfully reduces building inventory to two core Elementary facilities ❑ Balances class size without creating additional operational costs (reviewed by Administration)
3. Neighborhoods and Schools Intact	❑ Neighborhood boundaries (RSP Planning Areas) are maintained between proposed boundaries plans ❑ Efforts made to move entire school communities ▪ Emerson Hough → Aurora Heights ▪ Woodrow Wilson → Thomas Jefferson

DISCLAIMER*:* Table provide talking points as to how the proposal addresses the Board of Education prioritized criteria. It does not encompass all differences from current boundaries to proposed boundaries.

Public Input

Survey Introduction

Small Group Directions

Thank you for attending the Newton Public Input Meeting!

We look forward to hearing your input on this topic.

Providing Feedback:

❑ Verbal Feedback

- Provide feedback to representatives at small group maps
- They will be noting themes of feedback from participants to discuss at the next meeting

❑ Electronic Feedback Survey (preferred)

- Best format to provide feedback to administration and Board
- Insert questions and feedback into the survey
- DEMO
- Scan QR codes to access survey
- Survey is open until Feb. 20th
- Results will be discussed at the next meeting

Access the Survey:

CLICK HERE to access the survey:

SCAN ME

Thank you for your input and participation!

Access the Maps:

CLICK HERE to access the large maps:

SCAN ME

Next Steps

- ✓ RSP completes 2023/24 enrollment analysis
- ✓ Admin Boundary meetings begin in January 2024
- ❑ **Public input Sessions:**
  Feb. 12, 2024
  Feb. 13, 2024
- ❑ Plan comes back to Board of Education for final adoption in March 2024