

Why doesn't the school district just expand current schools to accommodate the growth in the district?

There are two answers to this question.

- 1) In April 2001, we asked voters to:
 - a) build an elementary school in the south part of Spring Hill (at 223rd and Victory) and add additions to Spring Hill High School (currently Spring Hill Middle School) and to Spring Hill Middle School (currently Spring Hill Middle School North),
 - b) add a practice gym, locker and training room and tennis courts,
 - c) add money for a new school site.

All three proposals failed. We had a similar bond issue in January of 2000 which also failed.

- 2) The last community committee made a decision that we would keep our schools at the following sizes:

Elementary = 525
Middle School = 525
High School = 1450

We would go against the community recommendations by adding on to the current buildings. Additionally, it is difficult to add on to buildings designed to hold fewer students. Cafeteria, auditorium, library and gymnasium sizes don't change, yet must be used by an increased number of students.

Why do the cities of Olathe and Overland Park keep approving new subdivisions if the schools don't have enough room?

Those cities, along with Spring Hill, are not turning away growth. Growth means opportunities. Opportunity for better roads, parks, infrastructure, activities, business and industry growth, etc. All great things for communities!

Why does our school district cover so many square miles? Are other districts this big?

In 1965, the Kansas Legislature reduced the number of school districts from 2,800 to 284. During this time school districts were consolidated and new school boundaries were formed.

Other surrounding school district boundaries by square miles:

Paola - 204.26
Lawrence - 175.34
Baldwin City - 140.32
Gardner/Edgerton - 101.15
DeSoto - 93.35
Blue Valley - 91
Shawnee Mission - 75.15
Olathe - 74.32
Spring Hill - 71



FAQs

If the district builds more schools will school boundaries move again? How will this affect my student(s)?

Yes, the boundaries will need to change, but with the following caveat. We would do our best to allow families to be grandfathered into the elementary they are currently attending. We would require new students to the district to attend within their boundaries. We would also ask for transfers.

Why don't we change the school district boundaries?

The Kansas Legislature determines school district boundaries, but it is more than just that. All of the students who live within our boundaries are part of our USD 230 community. Our district is a geographical region, which happens to have the same name as the city of Spring Hill. All of our students deserve the best education possible. While some districts only encompass the same boundaries as their closest city, many do not such as Olathe (includes Olathe, Lenexa, Overland Park and Shawnee).

Would changing the school district boundaries keep our schools the same size?

Changing the school district boundaries will not guarantee stagnant enrollment in our schools. Even by removing the small areas of Overland Park and Olathe from our district, there is still a large area of unincorporated land surrounding the City of Spring Hill. Families will continue to migrate south to purchase more home and land for their money. Changing the school district boundaries would not eliminate the need for new schools; it would just prolong the discussion.

We cannot stop the metropolitan growth from moving south. However, we can choose how we will grow as a school district and how we will provide the best education and opportunities for our students.