



Bettendorf Community School District  
Elementary Community Engagement Meetings  
**Misconceptions**

January 12 – January 21

**Grant Wood Elementary is in disrepair, falling down the hill and in the floodplain.**

Grant Wood Elementary was built in 1960. It certainly has needed maintenance and repairs over the years. We've had Grant Wood and all our school inspected and evaluated. Although Grant Wood is one of our older buildings, it is in sound shape. It is not in disrepair or falling down the hill. Although a portion of the lower field at the bottom of the hill at Grant Wood Elementary is in the floodplain, the building and playground are significantly higher and not within the floodplain zone.

**Changes to the elementary boundaries would make the time students spent on buses much longer.**

If the district adjusts elementary boundaries, the bus routes would be reassessed to adapt to the change in need. Iowa code prohibits students from being on a school bus route for more than one hour.

**Thomas Jefferson Elementary School is 100% filled with resident students.**

TJ Enrollment for 2015/16 school year is currently 146 students for K - 5

- 99 students (68%) - Live within TJ boundary
- 20 students (14%) - Open enrolled in *(These are mostly students who start as boundary and move to another district, but want to stay at TJ)*
- 15 students (10%) - Administrative transfer IN
- 12 students (8%) - Parent Choice IN

**Add on additional sections to schools to reduce class sizes.**

**Current Board Policy on Class Size**

<b>Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	Class size limit 25 (1 over without para support, 2 over with para support)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grades</b>	Class size limit 27 (1 over without para support, 2 over with para support)

While adding additional classrooms may be a consideration many factors come into consideration:

- **Current Facilities** – We have very limited space in our current facilities to add classrooms.

- **Building Additional Classroom Facilities** – The cost of the additions and projected future enrollment would both need to be considered as well as additional staffing and budget ramifications. To increase elementary staffing by multiple classrooms, the district would need to eliminate or repurpose resources and potentially positions to cover the costs.

**Retiring schools diminishes neighborhood property values and then property taxes will go down.**

The district does not have any comparative data that would support that property values or taxes would go up or down.