

| Timestamp | With which school or schools are you affiliated? (Choose all that apply) | Please provide any feedback related to the 2022-2023 BPS Redistricting study. Thank you! |
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| 11/22/2022 1 | Arrowhead Elementary, Ben Steele Middle School, West High School | Our address and family are not affected by the purposed changes, but I appreciate that the information is available to the public through this entire process. It's nice to know why changes have been extended instead of being surprised come next school year. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Arrowhead Elementary, Ben Steele Middle School, West High School | We like that our neighborhood, Silver Creek Estates, will have our kids going to Arrowhead now. The school is within walking and bike riding distance for the families there. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Beartooth Elementary | From someone who grew up in a small town. Who had the same friends growing up and never had to fear of finding new friends because they would be there again each year unless they moved out of town. My issue in regards to this that fact that a lot of children are not going to qualify going to the school they might have gone too for most of their life. Then you require forms to be filled out of this that and to pay more money. Why not just let these kids learn and cherish their memories. This is just ridiculous. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Beartooth Elementary, Castle Rock Middle School, Sandstone Elementary | I understand that with growth changes need to be made. I also understand that stability, communication, trust and relationships with the students are important. A child/children should not be penalized in attending a school that they have been in for years because their parents couldn't find a house in the boundaries for the school they are attending. The option should still be there for a parent to leave their child in the same school, with the understanding of tardiness will not be accepted due to travel time. There are exceptions such as weather that would make the travel guidelines flexible. Many of these children have been affected by relocating, restrictions from Covid and general life changes that for some their stability comes from the comfort in their school where they know their teachers, leaders and peers. |
| 11/23/2022 8 | Ben Steele Middle School | / |

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| 12/7/2022 12 | Ben Steele Middle School | <p>My family lives within the school board district 7 of which you are the elected trustee. I am writing regarding the proposed changes to school boundaries. Currently, my daughter, who is a seventh grader, attends Ben Steele Middle School. We are one of the families who are impacted by these proposed changes.</p> <p>When the proposal for school redistricting was brought up at the November school board meeting, we were not notified by the superintendent of these proposed changes via email, which has been the usual method of notification. Instead, teachers at my daughter’s school were the first to discuss this proposal with her. They were the first to tell her “You are going to have to change schools again.” We, as her parents, were not even given the opportunity to discuss this with her and help her to understand the options for her next year.</p> <p>I have read the proposal and reviewed the maps for proposed changes. During my review of the proposed school changes, I noted that the Olympic Village area is not included in the area for Will James, when all other areas east of Shiloh are zoned for Will James. Why is this area excluded? Who “important” within the school district lives in this area? If this area remains in the “Ben Steele zone,” how do we get our daughter on this bus? Is there a form to complete or someone I am to call?</p> <p>The proposal states that students will be grandfathered into their current school. This is wonderful. The only issue is for those students who wish to remain at Ben Steele, there is no public transportation to this school. The city bus system does not go further than Shiloh. This is the only middle school that is outside of the city bus routes. This causes increased hardships for families affected by the proposed changes, and this constitutes discrimination against these students. If my daughter were in any other area of town, I could opt to purchase a city bus pass and she could transport to and from school using the MET bus. This is not an option for those who wish to remain at Ben Steele. Families would have to assume the responsibility for transportation. Unfortunately, not all families can change work schedules to accommodate transportation. I am a nurse, and my husband begins work at 6 am and drives a delivery truck throughout the region. I do not believe that it would be in the best interest of my patients to have to leave twice during my shift to transport a child. We do not have additional family in Billings and there are no public transportation options. So, our choices for our daughter are eliminated.</p> <p>I would like to request that, you make the following changes to the proposal. First, allow students enrolled in a school to finish their education at their current school and provide transportation, even if families are asked to pay a portion of that transportation cost. Second, begin proposed changes to school redistricting to begin with incoming classes of students. This allows current students to remain in their respective schools until they age out by grade. While I realize that this may also cause difficulties for families, I believe that the hardship would be less than it is in the current proposal. Another option would be for the school district to work with MET bus and develop routes that would run on school days to provide a transportation option for students who want to continue at Ben Steele.</p> <p>Our children are resilient; however, what they have had to endure in the last several years is unprecedented. Their learning has been disrupted and some may never recover academically. Some may never recover emotionally from this upheaval. Many families are still struggling with the repercussions of Covid on their households, including the financial impacts. This may be a final blow to some of these students and families. We will lose both middle school and high school students to truancy with the redistricting.</p> <p>I implore you to consider these students, their families, and the impacts another redistricting will have on them academically and socially. They have relationships built within their respective schools. They have solid relationships with their teachers and are confident at their current school. To uproot them again, even if only for a year, is more than they should have to bear and certainly more than many can bear. I understand that redistricting is inevitable. However, Ben Steele was at or above capacity when it was opened just a few years ago. The increased growth on the West End should have been factored into the initial districting lines to prevent just this situation. It is a disservice to the taxpayers who are funding the schools and most importantly to our students to continue to uproot them every few years because there was no foresight for growth.</p> |
| 12/10/2022 2 | Ben Steele Middle School | <p>Is it possible to pay for busing if a student is grandfathered in? Our backyard is the boundary line between Ben Steele and Will James and I noticed that my son could still get off and on at a bus stop around the Olympic Parkway apartment complex, which would be only a block from our house. (Before he used the bus stop at Hurdle and 28th Street) I would really like to not have to upend his entire world over 10 feet. He is thriving at Ben Steele and is in many clubs with his friends and I would have no way of keeping him there unless he was able to take the bus. He is currently in the 6th grade, so we are only looking at 2 years.</p> |

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| 11/22/2022 1 | Ben Steele Middle School, Big Sky Elementary | School boundaries were done a few years ago and seemed to accommodate the growing population. My concern is continuing to change these lines every few years and the students it will impact. Will there be an option to keep children at the school they have started attending? |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Ben Steele Middle School, Big Sky Elementary | Hi: I live at 2962 Providence Place. According to the interactive map, I believe that our elementary school is recommended to change to Central Heights, although it also looks like we stay at Big Sky according to the boundaries. When we moved to our house in 2010, our elementary school was Meadowlark Elementary, which we liked very much. It is also the closest school in proximity to us. All that was required was to cross Central Avenue to get there. In 2017, that changed to Big Sky. That required us to cross both Monad and 32nd Street. Now, it is proposed that we change our elementary school for the 3rd time in 5 years and cross Central Avenue and 24th Street, the busiest intersection in the State. We are also changing our middle school for the 3rd time in 5 years. Additionally, it makes no sense to me that we cannot attend the school closest to us when Meadowlark's current and proposed district includes all areas to the West, almost to Laurel. The school district is busing kids in who live several miles away when we are located to a school that is approximately 2-3 blocks away and within walking distance. I would very much like our kids to attend Meadowlark again. As a final note, these maps for Meadowlark and Ben Steele ensure that the parties living in a certain area are allowed to attend the schools that are either newer or better maintained to the exclusion of the rest of the taxpayers, including us. We are also paying taxes to employ the Cropper firm to continually re-district our area. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Ben Steele Middle School, Big Sky Elementary | My wife and I are required to start our workdays at 7:00 a.m. With this new redistricting my daughter will move from Ben Steele to Will James. She rides the bus to Ben Steele but now we will be with in the 3 mile radius. How are we supposed to get her school? |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Ben Steele Middle School, Big Sky Elementary, West High School | NA |
| 11/23/2022 1 | Ben Steele Middle School, Big Sky Elementary, West High School | I do not support the new proposed high school for the Makenzie Meadows subdivision off of Neibauer Rd. The new boundaries show it is zoned for Senior High School. This is further for students than going to West High School which is what it is currently zoned for. Having the district bus students to Senior High from Makenzie Meadows will also cost the district more money in gas and time, than if students were getting transferred to West High School. One of the primary reasons we also chose to build a house in that subdivision is because it is zoned for West. Our daughter who is going to Ben Steele has already been practicing with the West Orchestra. The neighbor directly across the street of Neibauer is zoned for West in the new proposed boundaries. It only makes sense that the Mackenzie Meadows subdivision goes to West High School as well because of proximity. Thank you for considering this before making a final decision. |
| 12/5/2022 16 | Ben Steele Middle School, Big Sky Elementary, West High School | Hello! Thank you all for all your hard work regarding these proposed changes. I would direct you to the Mackenzie Meadows Subdivision off of Neibauer Road across from the National Guard FMS Shop. This area is currently zoned for West High. The proposal would change it to Senior High. If this change is implemented, it will cost SD2 thousands of extra dollars each academic year in Diesel fuel for busses, maintenance and wages for the hired drivers not to mention extra time fixing the busses resulting from the cumulative extra wear-and-tear those additional miles would result in. Over 30 miles each week for each bus (6.2 miles round-trip) would add up fast. Please consider leaving this area zoned for West High School as this area is sparsely inhabited anyway. Thank you for your consideration. |
| 11/29/2022 1 | Ben Steele Middle School, Big Sky Elementary, West High School, Will James Middle School | We currently live by Big Sky and we are currently set up to go to Ben Steele but that's being switched to Will James. The new boundaries will split up Big Sky but also overload Will James. The neighborhoods going South from Central (so between Central & Monda and Monad & King) should stay as is to Ben Steele to avoid so much split. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Ben Steele Middle School, Burlington Elementary | Have you considered taking volunteers first instead of forced realignment? The only reason I haven't requested a change in school is because we'd have to do it every year. I would strongly consider permanently realigning my daughter out of Ben Steele/West and into Will James/Senior if given the option. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Ben Steele Middle School, Central Heights Elementary, Meadowlark Elementary, West High School | Pls do not change this! |
| 11/26/2022 6 | Ben Steele Middle School, Meadowlark Elementary, West High School | when figuring out what middle schools the kids will go to you need to take into consideration where the rest of the elementary class will go. Some kids have a really hard time with change, and to have 75% of the ES class go to one MS and the other 25% go to another can hinder the kid in the 25%. |

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| 12/2/2022 11 | Ben Steele Middle School, Meadowlark Elementary, West High School | Please reconsider the elementary boundaries for Meadowlark and Big Sky. The boundaries do not appear to be geographically consistent. For example, the bussing would be extremely inefficient with the current layout. Students spend way too much time on busses. For example, the Granite Park subdivision would be better suited within the Meadowlark boundary and the housing west of Shiloh and north of king is nearest to Big Sky. Efficient bussing leads to efficient traffic flow within the community and ultimately benefits the environment. The boundary layout on the fringes of Billings appear to be completed without careful consideration of challenging logistics. |
| 11/29/2022 2 | Ben Steele Middle School, West High School | Ben Steele and West are way too crowded! Rezoning is a great idea. Or maybe build a new school? |
| 11/27/2022 1 | Bench Elementary, Medicine Crow Middle School | we live on twin oaks drive and my middle school child has to go across main street a very busy street in order to get her to school at medicine crow. Also my son goes to bench and we live way closer to sandstone. I applied for them both to be able to go to schools closer to our home and was denied. The boundary is one street away from where we are at |
| 12/2/2022 16 | Bench Elementary, Sandstone Elementary | I think the Twin Oaks Subdivision should be part of Sandstone district or at let us chose. There is a .2 mile difference but same amount of driving distance of 4 minutes. Right now we are bench and rather have our child at sandstone. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Bitterroot Elementary, Medicine Crow Middle School, Skyview High School | There is a lot of new construction in the Medicine Crow area that could effect the numbers but I like the modifications made to the heights portion for the most part. |
| 11/23/2022 7 | Boulder Elementary | Our subdivision is proposed to be redistricted to Meadowlark. I understand the need to redistrict with the growing community but this puts undo hardship on students and parents. We specifically choose this location to build our house because it was in the Boulder school district. Me and my children have built relationships with the staff and other students at the school and now you're expecting these students to start over at a new school. I recognize this will happen when they get to middle school but by the time they are in middle school they are more mature to handle that situation. You are asking this of K-5 grade students. I understand that we can be grandfathered into our existing school but then bussing won't be provided. Again, this isn't acceptable to working parents that rely on bus transportation. You've now also put us in a situation where kids from the same neighborhood may not go to the same school (if some elect to stay at Boulder while others have no choice but to move to the new proposed school). My son has a 504 that we've worked really hard to get setup and make accommodations and now you're making us start that process all over at a new school. I have a child with anxiety and this is going to spin him out and ruin his summer worrying about starting a new school for the next school year. I respectfully ask that you re-consider rezoning Mont Vista subdivision to Meadowlark and allow our children to stay at Boulder with bus transportation. |
| 11/30/2022 8 | Boulder Elementary | I appreciate the opportunity for my child to be grandfathered in as she has already formed strong bonds with the staff and students. However, not allowing siblings not yet enrolled in school to fall under the grandfathering guidelines will greatly impact families, as we are now forced to make a decision that will affect my school aged daughter years before her sister is even in school. My family is facing the decision to move my daughter away from her school and friends or during the 2024-2025 school year I will have to have kids at 2 different schools. I would appreciate the consideration of allowing whole families to grandfather into a school if a sibling is already enrolled. |
| 12/12/2022 2 | Boulder Elementary | We currently have a 2nd grade boy at Boulder school. He has ADHD and did not do well on medication. Boulder staff and principal have been nothing short of amazing with him and what is needed to help him succeed and learn. We have a girl that will start kindergarten next fall and even if he is grandfathered into staying it would be a huge inconvenience to have two kids at two schools! We moved to this area because we Loved Boulder school. Please reconsider what this may cause for families! |
| 12/14/2022 1 | Boulder Elementary | We live in the "Mont Vista" neighborhood that is slated to change from Boulder elementary to Meadowlark. My daughter will be in 5th grade next year and is devastated to have to change schools. She has looked forward to this final year of elementary school with her friends and teachers, she is so disappointed at the thought of starting over her last year. This is definitely not a popular proposal in our home. We will most likely utilize the grandfather option and keep her in Boulder for her last year. However this will be highly inconvenient as we will be responsible for her daily transport. Not ideal. |
| 12/16/2022 7 | Boulder Elementary | I'm not happy with the redistricting plan that is currently being purposed. We have 5 children and 3 of them are currently enrolled in Boulder. Our oldest child will be in 5th grade next year. We paid extra money for our house so that our kids could go to Boulder. Also Boulder is closer to our home then Poly is. It isn't fair for the families who have already been established at a school to have to change schools. I'm very disappointed in our school board for not taking that into consideration and providing a grandfather clause for families like ours. |

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| 11/26/2022 8 | Boulder Elementary, Broadwater Elementary | <p>This redistricting plan will have a profoundly negative impact on many families who walk and bike to school. We live about three blocks from Boulder and in this plan would be required to attend Poly, which is about nine blocks away. This might not sound like much difference, but to a kindergarten student whose family chooses to walk or bike to be active and environmentally responsible, it is a much more significant journey every day, especially during inclement weather. In fact, part of the allure of neighborhoods is to have schools close enough to attend through walking and biking. It is undoubted that this redistricting will increase vehicle travel and congestion in on our streets and at our schools at drop off and pick up times. Wouldn't it make more sense to maintain, or even create, boundaries that allow neighborhood students and families the reasonable opportunity to walk or bike? For the large portions of the city that are outside of walking/biking distance from an elementary school we should focus on busing students to an appropriate school since they are beyond walking/biking distance anyway.</p> <p>Again, lets give our youngest kids and their families the ability to walk or bike to the closest neighborhood school and focus on busing students that do not have that opportunity since they will require motor vehicles to get to school regardless of what district they are placed in.</p> |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Boulder Elementary, Lewis and Clark Middle School, West High School | Currently, both of my elementary students are enrolled in CARE Academy at Boulder Elementary. They would be required to attend Poly Drive school, which does not have CARE. What kind of before/after school care is available to parents of Poly kids? I am a teacher in the district and have relied on CARE for several years; it would be a huge loss to have it removed. |
| 11/27/2022 2 | Boulder Elementary, Senior High School, Will James Middle School | I oppose the plan to make Senior High the most overcrowded of the three schools by moving students from West. The answer is to add a wing on West to increase capacity then move students from Senior to get it within it's capacity. West has the land space to build on. |
| 11/30/2022 2 | Broadwater Elementary, Highland Elementary | Im curious as to how you would handle out of district transfers. This year, i was approved to have my child transfer to highland. He is dyslexic. As great as broadwater was, they didnt have extra help for him and werent very willing. He regressed from 3rd grade to 1st grade reading level. Some staffing issues too. Highland is close to us. They are our home for after school care too since kindergarten. Literally five minutes. Broadwaters classes were, yes huge, but they were very against his diagnosis from his pediatrician and tutoring company. Highland welcomed us with open arms and hes excelerated since. Im terrified as to what this means for us. |
| 12/9/2022 13 | Broadwater Elementary, Lewis and Clark Middle School, Senior High School | <p>My concern centers on student access and safe routes to schools. Families who choose to live near our public schools should not be pushed out of their neighborhood schools in order to accommodate those who choose to live far away from our city's resources. It should not be incumbent on our district to keep moving resources to the edges nor to "shuffle" students out of their neighborhood schools to make room for those who are further away.</p> <p>Families that live far from resources often have to be bused regardless of their school assignment. I wish you would consider simply taking kids who are already bussed and relocating them to lower enrollment schools in the city core. Please prioritize keeping our neighborhood schools in-tact (or in some cases, return them to the neighborhood -- Big Sky and Central Heights for example -- both have large neighborhoods within walking distance that are districted to other schools). No kid who lives within safe self-transport distance from one school should be forced to attend a school further away to accommodate the "shuffling-in" from the outskirts.</p> <p>This should also be considered at the middle and high school levels. For example, the new plan includes the relocation of McKinley students to Riverside. There is literally no safe way for a student to cross the railroad tracks and transport themselves to Riverside from the NW downtown corridor yet these kids can, and do, get themselves safely to L&C.</p> <p>I hope you are asking the harder questions as you move through this process. Which families are paying the highest toll with our current and proposed boundaries? Are the families who we know are already most burdened with access (on all levels... financial, housing instability, transportation, etc.) having their load lightened by our school redistricting plan? If not, is there a way we can change things to help better care for these families and students? Walkability seems like a good place to start.</p> |
| 11/23/2022 1 | Burlington Elementary | This would be ridiculous for my kids. We live on the 1800 block of Belvedere, and all the kids in our general neighborhood and who my child is friends with live in the Burlington district. It's closer to my house then Miles Elementary. I drive my son to school everyday and pick him up and it would be further to get him from Miles. It would hinder my child to send him to a different school then the one he has been going to since kindergarten. I purposely moved into my house because how close to Burlington and because that is the school we wanted our children to go to. Just like my husband did. I think you should reconsider and look at how this will affect the kids in this specific area. |

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| 11/29/2022 1 | Burlington Elementary | I want my child to stay at Burlington. I may not have the most up to date information but the student to teacher ratio is lower despite "overcrowding". The number of low income students is a little lower but these students are scoring higher than low income students at other schools, which says something about quality because these students often do not have additional resources to help them achieve improved scores. My child likes it. I bought my house in this neighborhood because I like the community and we are right next to Burlington where my child can walk when she gets old enough. I do not want her crossing Broadwater avenue. |
| 11/29/2022 1 | Burlington Elementary, Rose Park Elementary | My daughter currently attends Burlington and I work at Rose Park I am frustrated that her friends at Burlington would be changed to Miles as they all have siblings my youngest daughter already knows and is excited to attend Kindergarten with in a couple years. One friend lives only 2 blocks from the current eastern boundary for Burlington and will be changed to Miles. |
| 12/13/2022 8 | Burlington Elementary, West High School, Will James Middle School | What does the map mean? It is hard to figure out. |
| 12/11/2022 1 | Canyon Creek School District | My question is, is anyone taking into consideration the commute for these kids? We live in Canyon Creek area and I don't want to see my son drive all the way to senior high in the winter when road conditions are terrible. We would be taking him to and from west high ourselves everyday til he gets his license but senior? I don't think so. Now I know the buses are running out here for Senior high and that's just plain stupid. I can't believe this is even happening. I feel like I need to move just so he can go to west high, and I think a lot of the parents I talk with all feel the same way. These kids out here have all played in sports together and because of that they know each other. Now Elysian and Canyon Creek students get thrown into a school not knowing ANYONE!! At least going to west high together they could possibly know someone in each class. That's kind of what our small schools depend on! Please don't approve this. It's an absolute terrible idea. Thank you! |
| 12/15/2022 1 | Canyon Creek School District | The commute is going to be terrible, driving as a teenager is already at first. Everyone going to canyon creek usually knows everyone who goes to West High. They won't know anyone going to Senior. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Career Center, Rose Park Elementary, Senior High School | I live at Alderson. Luckily, I was able to have my three oldest children attend Senior High with out of area permission. I am puzzled as to why this area is NOT zoned for Senior. It is a straight shot down Grand Ave for us. Before my children were drivers, they had to walk a block to the corner of 18th and Grand to catch the bus that took them straight down to Senior - it was a 5 minute ride. Public transport to Weat would have involved transfers and a much longer ride. I would like to see the area between Grand and Lewis from 17th and 19th St W be included in Senior's boundary. |
| 11/23/2022 8 | Career Center, Senior High School | We live in Meadowlark manufactured home court it was redistricted to west the last time the boundaries were changed. There is a Bus that comes to the end of Jellison for a few Senior High students and a bus that goes out to Briarwood & gets the kids in the subdivision behind the gas station too, it makes sense to redistrict the trailer court back to Senior High. |
| 12/14/2022 2 | Career Center, Senior High School, Skyview High School, West High School, Independent School District, Blue Creek School District, Elysian School District, Canyon Creek School District, Elder Grover School District, Morin School District, Other/No Affiliation | <p>It appears that Ele schools have unused capacity for 1003 students; and Middle schools have unused capacity for 289 students; and High Schools are over capacity by 809 students (without Career Center space?). Can you run boundaries for 6-12 and 7-12 secondary schools using all 10 campus' with some or all 6th graders back to their neighborhood school where feasible?</p> <p>Please show the performance and safety improvements or costs along with transportation savings (district and family and MET).</p> <p>Please review and relate this to Dunbar and Kaiser school safety and performance studies along with the Masters Thesis that John D Halverson (West High 2010) completed with SD2 input — University of Texas Austin .</p> <p>Also do you have rural feeder elementaries in all the planning ?</p> <p>Thank you very much!</p> |

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| 11/23/2022 1 | Castle Rock Middle School | I currently live in the antelope hills subdivision. I would prefer the current district boundaries-which send my kids to castle rock middle school-stay in place. This is what we are accustomed to, and if the zoning changes, our daughter would be switching schools to have a new school 4 years in a row. (6th at independent, 7th at castle rock, 8th at medicine crow, 9th at skyview). That's insane for children that age, especially one who already has an IEP is is just settling into a place of comfort. Please leave the districts the way they are. Thank you for your time, and allowing an easy way to provide input. |
| 12/8/2022 18 | Castle Rock Middle School, Eagle Cliffs Elementary, Skyview High School | I plan to look at the interactive maps to get a better understanding. But yes, there are several school that are over flowing with kids and they need help. I think this could be beneficial to the entire district of done right. Thank you for making sure we as parents are informed and have a chance to have a say. |
| 12/17/2022 1 | Castle Rock Middle School, Independent School District | <p>Hello,</p> <p>As a parent of 4 children, currently aged 13, 11, 9 and 4, school consistency is critical for our relationships with other students, families, and educational staff. In 2017, prior to our oldest entering middle school, we were redistricted from Medicine Crow to Castle Rock. We are now being told we will be redistricted back to Medicine Crow just 5 years later. That original redistrict move was made out of fears of overcrowding Medicine Crow, which is now 200 students below capacity. If the same analytic methodology that was used in 2017 is being used here, I have to assume based on history we will change another 1-2 times before my children are all through middle school. This is the opposite of consistency and stability, which are absolutely essential for a flourishing educational environment. My wife and I are very intentional and supportive in our involvement with our schools and our children's teachers.</p> <p>My wife and I also have serious safety concerns with the proposed redistricting. We reside on Oxbow Circle, on the north side of Highway 312, which is within 3 miles of Medicine Crow. As a result of the 3 mile rule, we are not eligible for bussing. Consequently, walking to middle school would be an estimated 45 minute walk. 1.5 miles of that walk would be along Highway 312, which does not have any sidewalk or established/maintained walking paths. Effectively, they'd be walking on the highway shoulder/easement. Upon reaching the intersection of Highway 312, Highway 87, Main Street and Bench Boulevard, there are not signaled crosswalks for our children to reach school. There is one crosswalk signal, which is to cross Main Street, from the gas station to the businesses such as Bull Mountain Grille. But no crosswalk signal for them to get out of our quadrant of the intersection.</p> <p>If you choose to proceed with the redistricting, which I have no doubt you will, accommodations need to be made to allow bussing for those who are within 3 miles but across an unsidewalked, uncrosswalked highway from the school. Adding to our current bussing frustration is the fact our grade school bus drives directly past our street en route to pick up students farther north than us on the same road. If you choose not to make any such bussing accommodations, we will most likely have to decide which of our children will be late for school every day. Because we cannot get 4 kids to 3 different schools within the allowed drop-off times of said schools, and I refuse to send them walking 45 minutes along a highway, to have to run across that highway at a busy intersection, every day.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know of any questions or thoughts, or anything I can do to be of value in the decision making process.</p> |
| 12/1/2022 12 | Castle Rock Middle School, Sandstone Elementary | I feel redistricting hurts kids so badly. To have them have to move from the school they are already attending to a different school is absolutely traumatic. I wish the district would look at the trauma this will cause children. Find a different way do not rip children from schools they feel safe at and are comfortable with. |

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| 12/9/2022 12 | Castle Rock Middle School, Skyview High School | <p>My address is located in the Independent school boundaries, my children attend (or have attended) elementary school there. After elementary school my middle schoolers have been lucky enough to attend Castle Rock Middle School. I say "lucky enough" because this is the school closest to us. My children have been able to ride their bikes to school, or even walk if necessary. We enjoy carpooling with our neighbors, or those who even live a few blocks away. We are on the borders of the Independent boundaries, and if the proposed changes take affect, we will now be sent to Medicine Crow. Medicine Crow is not within walking or biking distance. Also, friends of ours who we often share rides with will still be going to Castle Rock. I have children at three schools currently. Spreading my kids across the schools from one end of the Heights all the way to the opposite side would be a great inconvenience. We live very near Skyview High School, which is why we feel that Medicine Crow is pulling us in a completely different direction. I feel it is important for my children to attend school with those who live near them, and who we have good relationships with and can help share the burden of driving kids to school. I'm not just writing to voice my complaints, I understand the job you are faced with. So, I would like to make a suggestion. Split the Independent school boundaries down Highway 87, east and west, to determine which Middle School the Independent kids would go to. Half of the Independent district lives on the east side of that Highway, and would probably feel it better for them to go to a closer school, Medicine Crow. While, the half of the kids that live on the west side of Highway 87 would most likely feel it beneficial to go to Castle Rock- which is closer to them, and the same school their neighbors are going to. I don't see the need to make kids have longer travel times to and from school. I appreciate your efforts in making our school systems work well. I do hope that you will take my plea into consideration, and know I am voicing the concerns of many parents in my same situation.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> |
| 12/17/2022 8 | Castle Rock Middle School, Skyview High School, Independent School District | <p>My daughter currently is enrolled at Independent school and we would be adversely affected by the redistricting for her to be sent to Medicine Crow. We would very much prefer her and her fellow students to be sent to Castle Rock as they currently are. Much of the reason we purchased our home was because of which schools she woyld attend. Please do not redistrict Independent School, thank you.</p> |
| 11/23/2022 2 | Elder Grover School District | <p>What school would you go to if you live on Hesper and 72nd, as if I look at the map there is a square that does not have any color in it.</p> |
| 11/23/2022 9 | Elysian School District | <p>Please keep Elysian going to West. It is much closer - Senior is too far from our neighborhood.</p> |
| 11/23/2022 1 | Elysian School District | <p>This would be so sad! Elysian kids love West High and it's so much closer to our neighborhood. They have friends and friends siblings that go to West. They also know kids from all the other county schools that they've played sports with throughout the years and they wouldn't get to go to high school with them or play sports with kids they've known for years. Please rethink this. Elysian kids would love to go to West High!!! We have an incoming freshman and she's been looking forward to high school and this will be really hard on her if she all of a sudden has to go to senior.</p> |
| 11/23/2022 1 | Elysian School District | <p>Please keep Josephine Crossing/Elysian students at West. Senior is a farther drive, which puts more stress on parents, kids, etc.</p> |
| 11/23/2022 1 | Elysian School District | <p>For the past 6 years, we have conditioned our children to become aquatinted with West High, as that was known to be our districted high school. My kids have attended camps, sporting events, met coaches, teachers and administrators from West High, all to help the awkward and difficult transition from middle school to high school easier. Now, I have an 8th grader, instead of being excited to start high school, having anxiety of what will come that first day of the 2023-2024 school year and the days too follow. I do not deny that both Senior and West are excellent high schools and my children have the ability to thrive in either one, however, it seems unfair to pull them from the high school they were anticipating to attend, just 8 months before the school year starts. Our neighborhood seems to be an easy target, as this also happened 6 years ago. Please consider extending your boundary lines so that the residents of Josephine Crossing do not have to go through this again.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> |
| 11/23/2022 1 | Elysian School District | <p>Hello. I am writing to oppose the new districting lines for high schools. The Josephine crossing neighborhood was switched last time several years ago. We have spent the last few years getting our kids familiar with the west high system of teachers music and athletics. I feel like sd2 is making these changes as a very short term fix with the end result of our neighborhood and others probably being switched again in a few years. The net gain the first year will only be just over 100 students. Population growth to the south is not the issue, it's the far west and north west areas.</p> |

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| 11/23/2022 1 | Elysian School District | <p>Dear School Board Members:</p> <p>When our family initially moved to Josephine Crossing in 2014, our kindergartner was to attend Billings Senior High School (BSHS). But in 2017, School District 2 redistricted our neighborhood to attend Billings West High School (BWHS). Accordingly, since third grade, we have been relying upon this master plan and preparing our student to attend BWHS. For example, we have enrolled our student in BWHS athletic camps and attended and supported BWHS functions and sporting events.</p> <p>Please note that we recognize that all three School District 2 high schools are great, but after 5 years of built-up pride and anticipation, we have a die-hard Golden Bear on our hands who is scheduled to attend BWHS in the Fall of 2023. Thus, recent news of the possibility of impromptu redistricting is highly distressing, especially due to the fact that our student will be parted from upper class friends attending BWHS who reside in our neighborhood.</p> <p>We sympathize with overcrowding, but we also expressed our preference that Josephine Crossing not be redistricted in 2017. Our voices went unheard. Now that we have spent the past 5 plus years re-directing our spirit and support for our 8th grader to attend BWHS, it seems an undue hardship that such a spontaneous redistricting should take place. Thus, we respectfully ask you, as parents yourselves, to sympathize and possibly empathize with the repercussions of such drastic change in high school venue and, instead, consider a more reasonably time-measured implementation of redistricting of 3-5 years.</p> <p>Very truly yours,</p> |
| 11/24/2022 1 | Elysian School District | <p>I recently moved to Billings. When choosing where to build I specifically built a house located in west school district. I live in Anafeld which is to be redistricted to senior. I do not want my kids traveling across Billings just to go to school every day. In the winter months I would argue that it is not safe. Also, if you redistrict your schools you should make sure they are of equal quality seniors graduation rate is significantly lower as is their college readiness scores. Not to mention senior is already at capacity isn't this just a very short term solution to a long term problem.</p> |
| 11/27/2022 1 | Highland Elementary | <p>Redistricting is a band aid fix. If the district and community really want to fix this issue an elementary school needs to be built on the far west end. Childhood obesity runs rampant in America and Billings and too few students currently walk or bike to school, taking the area directly north of Highland Elementary, between Virginia and 13th, prohibits these students from walking to school. If these students were to attempt to walk or bike to McKinley they would be forced to cross at least one of not two more busy streets. Furthermore, The beauty of Highland is the economic diversity of the school. Students learn to interact with people from all walks of life attending Highland. Changing this district effectively guts Highland of its diversity. Please leave the Poet and College Streets in their rightful place and allow these students to continue attending Highland.</p> |
| 11/30/2022 1 | Highland Elementary | <p>Our kids are currently at Highland elementary and because the block we are on, they will have to be bussed to another school when they can currently walk. I'm sure that this is the case with a good majority of kids and parents in the district. As a parent, this is incredibly inconvenient not to mention that they are established at a school that they love. The last 2.5 years have been a nightmare for our kids due to all of the changes and rules with covid so why don't we let our kids have some normalcy before uprooting and starting them over in a new place.</p> |
| 11/30/2022 1 | Highland Elementary | <p>I would really hate to lose all of the Highland students north of the ditch. Is there capacity to keep that boundary the same and still take on some of the rose park kids?</p> |
| 11/30/2022 2 | Highland Elementary | <p>I live in the neighborhood between Poly and Rimrock that currently goes to Highland and would be moved to McKinley. I have three kids currently attending Highland and one more yet to enter. Here are a couple thoughts:</p> <p>--the poet streets neighborhood has recently seen many families move in. In the last 3 years, the number of families with kids attending elementary school has more than doubled. As Highland is typically a smaller school, it's seemed really nice to have this boost in kids attending. Also, they are multi-kid families. It may offset some of the numbers if all those families are grandfathered in and then drop off. As Highland often has split classes and grades aren't able to fill full classes, would it be possible to maintain the upper boundary to rimrock and also absorb that new proposed boundary from the west?</p> <p>--On a very personal note, my kids enjoy riding their bikes to school and Highland is always encouraging this with "walk and ride" to school days. I know this is not realistic for every family in the district, but the new lines would make that impossible for my kids to do if at McKinley.</p> <p>Thank you</p> |

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| 12/1/2022 6:5 | Highland Elementary | I am against the proposed redistricting. Currently, our son attends Highland Elementary School. His current commute is a short walk through a quiet neighborhood consisting of only crossing 1 busy street. Moving our district to Mckinley will nearly triple the commute distance, adding at least 5 additional busy street crossings. When we bought our house 8 years ago, one of the deciding factors of our purchase was based on the school district and more importantly how close the elementary school was to our house. Further I feel that this would negatively affect the property value of our home due to the added distance. |
| 12/1/2022 7:0 | Highland Elementary | We are opposed to the rezoning of highland elementary. We bought our home on Poly drive 8 years ago with the intention of our children attending highland, which they love. Being moved to McKinley is upsetting to us on many levels. First of all there is a crisis center in very close proximity to the school, with homeless & drug abusers walking the area regularly. With a family member who works a block from McKinley, we have experienced those issues firsthand, and it is not something I'm willing to subject my child to. As far as our commute, our children now only have one busy street crossing, then through a residential neighborhood. If the proposed change takes place, our commute to school would triple in distance, and ad five busy intersections for our children to cross. As a parent I would not be comfortable with my elementary aged child making a commute like that, making it difficult for him to gain independence safely. If they were to attend McKinley, torn away from half their friends now, it would again happen in middle school when half his school would attend river side, and the other half Lewis and Clark. So we are 100% against this change. |
| 11/30/2022 1 | Highland Elementary, Lewis and Clark Middle School | While it appears that my children would be grandfathered in and be able to stay at Highland (hopefully that includes my next year kindergartner), I think the boundaries reset for Highland are a bit silly. Right now my child is able to ride his bike to and from Highland, safely. If he were to go to McKinley, that would be an unsafe and long route for him to take. I understand the need to accommodate growth on the west end, but messing with the when we live less than a mile from Highland, why would we be moved to McKinley? I hope the district has a more long term solution to the overcrowding on the west end. |
| 12/1/2022 17 | Highland Elementary, Lewis and Clark Middle School, Senior High School | We cannot keep changing boundaries in the core of town in ways that make it further for students to walk/bike to school. People who choose to live close to existing infrastructure should be able to go a school close to then. If you choose to move further than three miles from any existing schools, you will have yo be bussed to a school in the core of town where there is space. There should be a moratorium on reboundary and school closures in core. You could open back up eastern elementary, north park, Garfield and even Lincoln center as a middle school or put k-5 back in Rimrock if you need to free up space at schools on west end. You can't afford more teachers so how is building more schools going to solve anything? |
| 11/27/2022 1 | Highland Elementary, McKinley Elementary, Poly Drive Elementary, Rose Park Elementary | As an occupational therapy student I am against the redistricting map. It takes away from children and families to walk to school. With behaviors on the rise, preventing kids from walking to school decreases the physical work they get in a day. This decrease has a positive correlation with problem behaviors increasing. Additionally, obesity rates are on the rise. The lack of opportunity for exercise poses a threat to the health and wellbeing of children in the Billings community. |
| 11/23/2022 1 | Independent School District | I would like to reconsider Independent students going to Medicine Crow. It was only 4 years ago that they were switched from Medicine Crow to Castlerock. I think it should stay as Castlerock for this small group of students. I think it is important to keep them at Castlerock because they enter middle school as 7th graders and Castlerock has developed a plan to integrate these students into their school as 7th graders rather than 6th graders and it has been effective. Please just keep them at Castlerock. |
| 11/29/2022 1 | Independent School District | You need to keep in mind that some people buy houses in certain areas for schools. Also I think it's ridiculous if you move the independent kids for middle school they will have gone from Castlerock to Medicine Crow back to Castlerock and if this goes through back to Medicine Crow in 6 years. I'm sorry I understand overcrowding and moving but this is ridiculous. My daughter has been looking forward to going to Castlerock for years and I was told she could go get 6th grade year we just had to pay tuition. Well that didn't happen apparently it was the first year they said no. However they did let another 6th grader from Independent into Castlerock. I am beyond frustrated!! |
| 12/6/2022 20 | Independent School District | We live in Antelope Hills subdivision. We have already been re-zoned twice out here. My oldest is currently a sophomore and attended castle rock. My twins will head to 7th grade next year from Independent and I'd prefer to stick with castle rock. It's what we know from our oldest and it's familiar to us as parents. I'm happy to provide transportation and my oldest daughter will likely take them to school on her way to skyview. It's convenient for us as well. Thank you. |
| 12/15/2022 2 | Independent School District | I want to thank the board for considering re-zoning to even the population in our schools. The proposed change for my area makes much more sense geographically as well as an aid for student-teacher ratios. |

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| 12/16/2022 2 | Independent School District | My daughter is in 5th grade at Independent. She lives 50/50 between mom/dad with divorce. Her dad lives right by Independent School and I live by Castlerock. I use the extended day program offered at Independent on my days. (We both work full time) In 2019, I purposefully moved to a home that is 1/2 mile from Castlerock and Skyview to allow for my kids to walk to school since I work hours that surpass school hours - before and after. It has worked so perfectly for my son. Now- if Independent kiddos have to go to Medicine Crow it will not work out well. There is no transportation since I live 2.9 miles from that school. We don't have family in town. I work as a RN, full time single mom. If I use my address to go to Castlerock she is out of luck for a bus ride at her dad's. Plus, then she would be separated from all of her Independent School friends. I'm very frustrated. People make a lot of major life choices- including purchasing homes- to accommodate school/work schedules. A lot of kids live in 2 homes with both parents with full time careers. I can't understand why Independent kids just stay at Castlerock - it has worked well in the past. We have no control over how many people have moved in from out of state. However, we who have lived in this town for a lifetime should not be put in a position that potentially turns life upside down. Leave Independent at Castlerock - please reconsider. Thank you for listening. |
| 12/17/2022 1 | Independent School District | I live in the Independent School District. Though I'm not crazy about our kids being shifted back and forth between middle schools up here in the heights, I do understand the reasoning, and will be able to make my peace with the possibility of shifting schools and possibly back in a number of years again. My concern lies with the transportation available to Medicine Crow from my neighborhood. When our kids went to Castle Rock, they were all far enough away to receive free bus service to and from school. I am in/ near the Oxbow subdivision, north of Bitterroot, off of Hwy 312. The latest I am hearing with the redistricting is that Independent school district students *MAY* have bus service with a switch back to Medicine Crow, depending on their location. According to Google Maps, I live 2.2 miles away from the school. As I understand it, students living back in the Hidden Valley and Antelope Hills subdivisions would definitely be included on "free" bus service due to their distance being greater than 3 miles from the school. From my location, my home and many others around me would only be included IF there is room on the bus, OR if an additional bus was hired at an additional expense to us, no mention of that cost per family (and what if the family cannot afford the extra expense, what with cost of everything else increasing these days?). If the extra bus to transport ALL the students does not happen, I feel this is a HUGE safety concern, especially for those who may not have the option of getting a ride to or from school. There is NO SAFE way for students to transport themselves from my subdivision to or from school. Not only are there no sidewalks for safe walking or biking, but the students also need to go down at least a mile along a 4 lane highway and at some point try to cross it safely. There are ZERO crosswalks at the intersection of Hwy 312 and Roundup Road that would help to get students across safer. There are crosswalks at the intersection of Pemberton and Main Street/ Hwy 312, and on the south side of the intersection of Roundup Road and Main Street but nothing further north that students could cross from the West side of Hwy 312. That danger will only be compounded during the winter season when the sun doesn't come up until later and students would be out there in the dark, as there are no streetlights along the highway once you leave city limits. Is the cost of one student life really worth the savings to the district on getting a bus to service the whole neighborhood back here? My plea would be that if you decide to send Independent students to Medicine Crow, that you would also plan to include bus service for ALL students, at no cost to families, so the DANGEROUSLY and UNSAFE self-transportation route to school would not need to be taken. Thank you for your consideration of this safety matter. |
| 11/30/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School | My son guess to Lewis and Clark. His friends will be going to Senior. Because of our address he is set to do to West. If we, literally, lived across the street he'd be going to Senior. I know there had to be a line somewhere but do we have options for him to go to Senior? High school can be tough, together if you're not going with the friends you've gone to all your middle school with |
| 11/30/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School | Thank you for working so hard to make this work to the best of your ability. I know this can be a no win situation where there will always be someone complaining. |
| 12/1/2022 18 | Lewis and Clark Middle School | So, I currently go to Lewis and Clark and I'm in the district to go to west. All of my other friends are going to senior, and the new redistricting has made it one step further from going to high school with them. I live across the street from the senior district, which I don't understand why the west district was not shrunk all around and only in one spot. I would love to be able to go to school with my friends but its just not possible. |
| 12/6/2022 6:3 | Lewis and Clark Middle School | We live right on the line on 13th ST and my son is supposed to go to West High School. All of his friends are going to Senior High. This will be very stressful for him to have to start a new school without any of his friends. Please reconsider this |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary | My children are currently slated to attend Lewis and Clark for middle school and this proposal would have them attending Riverside instead. With the current districting, they could walk safely to a school that is much closer. With the redistricting they would not only have to walk across railroad tracks, but also through areas that I wouldn't want to walk through myself. Not only that, but either way we are within a radius of the school where we aren't eligible for bussing. So my kids would have to walk a mile farther through a much more dangerous route. Please do not consider this redistricting, it is not good for the kids or the families in our neighborhood. |

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| 11/23/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary | <p>I live at N 32nd St near McKinley School. We are significantly concerned about the shifting boundary for the small pocket west of N 27th St. (around McKinley and Pioneer Park) that is shifting from Lewis and Clark Middle School to Riverside. This will create many hardships on the neighborhood kids and seems to go directly against the "guiding principles" presented for re-districting.</p> <p>1. Minimize Impact on Students. This shift pulls our community of students significantly further from the middle school that is very close to our neighborhood, Lewis and Clark.</p> <p>2. Make all efforts to not split identifiable communities. Our neighborhood is bound by significant roadway and rail infrastructure at 27th St and the area around MT Ave / 1st Ave. These are notable infrastructure in our community and create natural boundaries for neighborhoods. While this change may look simple on map, the reality of the surrounding infrastructure makes this is considerable hardship for getting to school. Our neighborhood friends and community are literally split down the middle now between two middle schools. The previous boundary functions far better as it does not split neighbors who live across the street from one another. The McKinley (west of 27th St) and Broadwater neighbors are closely connected communities and therefore should attend the same middle school. Similarly, the Washington and Orchard communities are more closely connected and should also attend the same middle school, Riverside.</p> <p>3. Contiguous Boundaries. Most importantly, this hardship is unnecessary because the area south of Broadwater, near Washington Elem is much closer to Riverside. It makes more sense to move the neighborhood south of Broadwater and the small triangle area south of Central to Riverside as that is much closer. It also allows that neighborhood to use the underpass and be to Riverside in minutes. While this proposed shift in boundaries to add our neighborhood to Riverside is technically "contiguous", it is a pocket area that goes all the way around the Lewis and Clark boundary to connect to the Riverside one. It's very inefficient and completely disconnected from the Riverside district. This is unnecessary when there are other parts of the south end of the Lewis and Clark boundary that could shift to the Riverside district and be contiguous and more directly connected to it. The reality of transportation from south of Broadwater to Riverside would be significantly less impactful than pulling our neighborhood that far south.</p> <p>4. Maximize Transportation Efficiency and Walkability This change runs directly against all criteria for the nationally recognized "Safe Routes to Schools" plan. These changes, per the guiding principles, should maximize opportunities to be closer to a school whenever possible. This could work significantly better and increase proximity by taking part of the Washington Elem district, which is in the range of 6-12 blocks from Riverside, and moving them rather than our neighborhood which is approximately 2-3 miles away. When considering how one would drive from our neighborhood to Riverside, the route is approximately 3.5 miles, depending on where one lives within this area. The area south of Broadwater and Central, which is directly adjacent to Riverside, is approximately 1 mile (plus or minus). It's significantly closer and safer for students to get there.</p> <p>This is such a small neighborhood pocket that is being shifted. Because it's not a major new boundary line where entire areas are being changed, it's causing significant concerns for our neighborhood. This is small pocket of students is being detrimentally impacted by now being so far from our middle school. I completely understand the need to go through this process and appreciate the difficulty of this task. I would simply ask that you greatly consider trying to improve the proximity and safe routes to schools by having the neighborhood directly adjacent to Riverside (south of Broadwater and Central Ave) go to that school rather than pull our pocket clear around the Lewis and Clark boundary to attend a school far away in a completely different neighborhood.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> |

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| 11/23/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary | My kids currently go to McKinley Elementary, but my 5th grader will be going into middle school in the fall. We live in the tree streets. This new redistricting proposal will take my child from Lewis & Clark and put her in Riverside. This makes NO SENSE AT ALL! Logistically, these kids will not be able to ride their bikes to and from school. They will have to be bussed, making their day away from home, an hour longer. Not to mention the cost to the school district to have another bus route and trying to find bus drivers when there is already a bus driver shortage. There are other districts that are closer to Riverside that would make more sense than pulling kids from the tree streets/historical north side district. This decision can't JUST be about numbers of kids. This impacts entire families and their lives. Numbers might make sense on paper but the practical application of this proposal is lacking. This isn't the first time this administration has screwed up districts, taking kids from neighborhood schools they could walk to and placing them in schools that they have to be bussed or driven to. And then the school district wants to talk about how important it is for kids to get outside and exercise. I am VEHEMENTLY against this redistricting proposal and I expect this school board and administration to do better for the kids and their families. |
| 11/23/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary | My child goes to McKinley and we live on Spruce St. It is crazy to change the Middle school she would attend from Lewis and Clark to Riverside. Riverside is too far away and I do not support this proposal at all. I bought my house expecting Mckinley Lewis and Clark and Senior. Building new middle schools shouldn't change my kid to go to an old one farther away. |
| 11/24/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary | Our current 5th grade student would be impacted by the redistricting for the 2023-24 school year by changing his anticipated middle school from Lewis and Clark to Riverside. This would increase our commute time for dropping him off and picking him up from school by 20 minutes in the morning and evening, for a total of 40 minutes per day. Much of the reason we live in our neighborhood pertains to being close to where we work, and Lewis and Clark is much closer to our work at Rocky Mountain College than Riverside. Secondly, our daughter currently attends Lewis and Clark and our son would feel much more comfortable there since he has visited the school many times during her 6-8th grade years, and knows the layout of the school and many of the teachers. Thank you for NOT changing our son's middle school from Lewis and Clark to Riverside. We live on North 31st Street, just west of the hospital corridor. |
| 11/28/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary | <p>Hello, I would like to voice my opposition to moving the middle school district boundary from Lewis and Clark Middle School to Riverside Middle School for the Northern Elevation areas (i.e. west of N. 27th St. and around Pioneer Park). This move would create a number of problems for parents and kids, including the following:</p> <p>(1) Transportation Efficiency and Walkability - Having to walk through the downtown and cross railroad tracks is more dangerous for children, as well as for parents wanting to walk/bike with their kids. For parents that need to drive, adding more traffic to the early morning commute through downtown will slow things down for both them *and* for the workers in the downtown, which already sees a significant amount of traffic in the morning. This is further compounded by the need to stop for trains when crossing the tracks.</p> <p>Beyond that, there are still some families that utilize the city bus system. There is a direct bus to Lewis and Clark via Grand Ave, and the bus stop to catch the bus is much closer for the Northern Elevation area than the bus stop to catch a bus to the South Side where Riverside is located.</p> <p>(2) Travel Time - Taking into account traveling through the downtown corridor, the average distance and travel time for families living in the Pioneer Park area will be longer than if traveling to Lewis and Clark.</p> <p>(3) Distance - While the difference in physical distance is not huge, because of #1 and #2 above, it would be both quicker and easier for families around Broadwater Elementary School or Washington Elementary School to get to Riverside than the proposed redistricted area.</p> <p>(4) Impact on Students - Many families already have siblings at Lewis and Clark, as well as connections with teachers there. McKinley teachers are more familiar with teachers at Lewis and Clark, leading to an easier transition for students from McKinley to Lewis and Clark.</p> <p>(5) Space Utilization - Lewis and Clark is not currently using all their classroom space, so overcrowding is not an issue. Redistricting just to balance school populations should not outweigh the other downsides I've listed above.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> |
| 11/30/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary | My son is currently at 3rd grader at McKinley Elementary, and I see that the proposed redistricting has our address (Elm Street) attending Riverside Middle School rather than Lewis and Clark. I would like you to reconsider this, as Riverside is quite far out of our way and a 10 minute drive from our home. |

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| 12/8/2022 22 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary | <p>Please do not consider this proposal! My children currently attend McKinley Elementary and are supposed to attend Lewis and Clark Middle School, which is less that 1.5miles from our house. If the redistricting goes through, they will have to attend Riverside instead, which is 2.5miles from house, much farther but still within the 3 mile radius which means they won't be eligible for bussing. So if they needed to walk to school, they would have to go *almost* 3 miles, across train tracks and not through a safe part of town. Because this is not a safe route, the district would have to provide additional bussing, which would be additional costs for busses and bus drivers, when there already not enough drivers as is. Not only is this unsafe and terrible for our children, but we also live in the only historic district in Billings and this will drive down our property values. Please PLEASE do not consider this proposal.</p> |
| 12/15/2022 9 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary | <p>We are extremely concerned about the shifting boundary for the small pocket west of N 27th St. (around McKinley and Pioneer Park) that is shifting from Lewis and Clark Middle School to Riverside. This will create many hardships on the neighborhood kids and seems to go directly against the "guiding principles" presented for re-districting.</p> <p>1. Minimize Impact on Students. This shift pulls our community of students significantly further from the middle school that is very close to our neighborhood, Lewis and Clark.</p> <p>2. Make All Efforts to Not Split Identifiable Communities. Our neighborhood is bound by significant roadway and rail infrastructure at 27th St and the area around MT Ave / 1st Ave. These are notable infrastructure in our community and create natural boundaries for neighborhoods. While this change may look simple on map, the reality of the surrounding infrastructure makes this is considerable hardship for getting to school. Our neighborhood friends and community are literally split down the middle now between two middle schools. The previous boundary functions far better as it does not split neighbors who live across the street from one another. The McKinley (west of 27th St) and Broadwater neighbors are closely connected communities and therefore should attend the same middle school. Similarly, the Washington and Orchard communities are more closely connected and should also attend the same middle school, Riverside.</p> <p>3. Contiguous Boundaries. Most importantly, this hardship is unnecessary because the area south of Broadwater, near Washington Elem is much closer to Riverside. It makes more sense to move the neighborhood south of Broadwater and the small triangle area south of Central to Riverside as that is much closer. It also allows that neighborhood to use the underpass and be to Riverside in minutes. While this proposed shift in boundaries to add our neighborhood to Riverside is technically "contiguous", it is a pocket area that goes all the way around the Lewis and Clark boundary to connect to the Riverside one. It's very inefficient and completely disconnected from the Riverside district. This is unnecessary when there are other parts of the south end of the Lewis and Clark boundary that could shift to the Riverside district and be contiguous and more directly connected to it. The reality of transportation from south of Broadwater to Riverside would be significantly less impactful than pulling our neighborhood that far south.</p> <p>4. Maximize Transportation Efficiency and Walkability This change runs directly against all criteria for the nationally recognized "Safe Routes to Schools" plan. These changes, per the guiding principles, should maximize opportunities to be closer to a school whenever possible. This could work significantly better and increase proximity by taking part of the Washington Elem district, which is in the range of 6-12 blocks from Riverside, and moving them rather than our neighborhood which is approximately 2-3 miles away. When considering how one would drive from our neighborhood to Riverside, the route is approximately 4 miles, depending on where one lives within this area. The area south of Broadwater and Central, which is directly adjacent to Riverside, is approximately 1 mile (plus or minus). It's significantly closer and safer for students to get there. The district would have to provide bus transportation for our students to have a safe route to get to school.</p> <p>This is such a small neighborhood pocket that is being shifted. Because it's not a major new boundary line where entire areas are being changed, it's causing significant concerns for our neighborhood. This is small pocket of students is being detrimentally impacted by now being so far from our middle school. I completely understand the need to go through this process and appreciate the difficulty of this task. I would simply ask that you greatly consider trying to improve the proximity and safe routes to schools by having the neighborhood directly adjacent to Riverside (south of Broadwater and Central Ave) go to that school rather than pull our pocket clear around the Lewis and Clark boundary to attend a school far away in a completely different neighborhood.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> |

| Timestamp | With which school or schools are you affiliated? (Choose all that apply) | Please provide any feedback related to the 2022-2023 BPS Redistricting study. Thank you! |
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| 11/22/2022 2 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Morin School District | We live in the Pioneer McKinley Historic District and have a student in the fifth grade who will be attending middle school next year. This plan carves out the Pioneer McKinley Historic District from Lewis and Clark Middle School and puts us in the Riverside Middle School boundaries. This seems to violate one of the guiding principles/criteria for the zone changes: "maximize transportation efficiency and walkability whenever possible." Attending Riverside will require crossing more dangerous streets and railroad tracks than if we were to attend Lewis and Clark. The distance from our area to Riverside is 2.7 miles and falls just short of busing requirements. This puts all of those children in the Pioneer McKinley Historic District in a dangerous predicament if they walk or bike to school as they will be required to cross Grand, Broadwater, Lewis, and Montana Ave, something that would have been avoided if we were still zoned for Lewis and Clark Middle School. |
| 11/28/2022 9 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Riverside Middle School | <p>Hello, Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the new SD2 Redistricting. I understand this is a difficult process. I am writing with great concern of the new shifting of middle school boundaries for the kids that live around Pioneer Park and the Tree Streets area. The students in this area are going around the Lewis and Clark boundary to go a long ways south to Riverside. This is an difficult shift, considering there are other areas within the existing L&C boundary that are much closer to Riverside.</p> <p>While this may look simple on a map, getting to Riverside from Pioneer Park area is very difficult and time-consuming. I watched the presentation made at the board meeting for this initial work and this particular shift runs counter to the "guiding principles" that were presented. When considering how much one has to navigate to get a student from this area to Riverside, it's very difficult.</p> <p>It would make a lot more sense to shift the south end of the L&C boundary to Riverside, which is already directly adjacent to it, so the North end can stay in the L&C district. Geographically this makes more sense and provides both groups with a middle school closer to their home, which better aligns with the "guiding principles".</p> <p>As an example, the Washington Elem district would be a natural fit to shift south to Riverside Middle School. The reality of getting to Riverside from that area of town is significantly easier and faster than coming from Pioneer Park all the way to Riverside. This would be the best way to "Maximize transportation efficiency and walkability".</p> <p>Our neighbors implore you to please reconsider this boundary change. This will create a significant hardship for our kids in this entire area. When looking at all of the middle school boundaries, this appears to the be the one "pocket" that requires students to travel around a closer district to attend a much further one.</p> |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Senior High School | Please do not send students that live north and east of pioneer park to Riverside. It is not feasible for parents to have to drive across the train tracks and downtown to take their child to school. That is not a walkable distance for our students and places the burden on parents to drive an extra 30 minutes out of our way. The path to Lewis and Clark from our neighborhood only crosses one major intersection. Our children are not familiar with that neighborhood or part of town. You will have MANY upset families if this action is taken. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Senior High School | One of the goals stated in the presentation is "maximizing the safety of students by defining boundaries along major geographic features such a roads, rivers, and railroads." Redistricting the students north of McKinley to Riverside instead of Lewis does not align with that goal at all. |
| 11/23/2022 9 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Senior High School | We strongly oppose the change from Lewis & Clark to Riverside for our neighborhood. |
| 11/23/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Senior High School | Pushing kids from midtown, Pioneer Park and even North Park makes no geographical sense even if it statically it is a shorter distance. The trek from these neighborhoods requires crossing 5 major arterials, a state highway and the railroad tracks. Please balance out the attendance in district by adjusting boundaries if required so that families are not subjected on a daily basis to multiple major arterial streets and ground level railroad crossings. |
| 11/28/2022 9 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Senior High School | I oppose redistricting such that it would require students from our neighborhood to travel to Riverside Middle School instead of Lewis and Clark Middle School. Thank you. |

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| 11/29/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Senior High School | <p>As a parent in the district who has had three children attend McKinley elementary, Lewis and Clark middle school and Senior High, I was dismayed to read that the district is considering a boundary change for students in the North Elevation/Pioneer Park/Tree Streets neighborhood that would require that they attend Riverside middle school. The distance from McKinley to Riverside is much too far. Currently, students in these neighborhoods can ride their bikes or even walk to Lewis. There would be no option for these far healthier and sustainable transportation methods if the students were at Riverside. Further, this would place a huge burden on parents with students at multiple schools who drop off and pick up their children. I lived this. With students at McKinley, Lewis and Senior, I could easily get each of my children to school on time and still make it to work. This would not be possible if the neighborhood was zoned for Riverside. While I understand the need to balance enrollment across the schools in the district, this move goes against the guiding principles that are supposed to be used in the decision-making process. It would not minimize impacts for students (many of whom would now require busing, and probably before and after school care options), it would split an identifiable community and it would reduce transportation efficiency and walkability/bikeability. I strongly encourage you to rethink this proposal and develop a redistricting plan that aligns with your guiding principles.</p> |
| 11/29/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Senior High School | <p>We are significantly concerned about the shifting boundary for the small pocket west of N 27th St. (around McKinley and Pioneer Park) that is shifting from Lewis and Clark Middle School to Riverside. This will create many hardships on the neighborhood kids and seems to go directly against the "guiding principles" presented for re-districting.</p> <p>1. Minimize Impact on Students. This shift pulls our community of students significantly further from the middle school that is very close to our neighborhood, Lewis and Clark.</p> <p>2. Make All Efforts to Not Split Identifiable Communities. Our neighborhood is bound by significant roadway and rail infrastructure at 27th St and the area around MT Ave / 1st Ave. These are notable infrastructure in our community and create natural boundaries for neighborhoods. While this change may look simple on map, the reality of the surrounding infrastructure makes this is considerable hardship for getting to school. Our neighborhood friends and community are literally split down the middle now between two middle schools. The previous boundary functions far better as it does not split neighbors who live across the street from one another. The McKinley (west of 27th St) and Broadwater neighbors are closely connected communities and therefore should attend the same middle school. Similarly, the Washington and Orchard communities are more closely connected and should also attend the same middle school, Riverside.</p> <p>3. Contiguous Boundaries. Most importantly, this hardship is unnecessary because the area south of Broadwater, near Washington Elem is much closer to Riverside. It makes more sense to move the neighborhood south of Broadwater and the small triangle area south of Central to Riverside as that is much closer. It also allows that neighborhood to use the underpass and be to Riverside in minutes. While this proposed shift in boundaries to add our neighborhood to Riverside is technically "contiguous", it is a pocket area that goes all the way around the Lewis and Clark boundary to connect to the Riverside one. It's very inefficient and completely disconnected from the Riverside district. This is unnecessary when there are other parts of the south end of the Lewis and Clark boundary that could shift to the Riverside district and be contiguous and more directly connected to it. The reality of transportation from south of Broadwater to Riverside would be significantly less impactful than pulling our neighborhood that far south.</p> <p>4. Maximize Transportation Efficiency and Walkability This change runs directly against all criteria for the nationally recognized "Safe Routes to Schools" plan. These changes, per the guiding principles, should maximize opportunities to be closer to a school whenever possible. This could work significantly better and increase proximity by taking part of the Washington Elem district, which is in the range of 6-12 blocks from Riverside, and moving them rather than our neighborhood which is approximately 2-3 miles away. When considering how one would drive from our neighborhood to Riverside, the route is approximately 3.5 miles, depending on where one lives within this area. The area south of Broadwater and Central, which is directly adjacent to Riverside, is approximately 1 mile (plus or minus). It's significantly closer and safer for students to get there. This is such a small neighborhood pocket that is being shifted. Because it's not a major new boundary line where entire areas are being changed, it's causing significant concerns for our neighborhood. This is small pocket of students is being detrimentally impacted by now being so far from our middle school. I completely understand the need to go through this process and appreciate the difficulty of this task. I would simply ask that you greatly consider trying to improve the proximity and safe routes to schools by having the neighborhood directly adjacent to Riverside (south of Broadwater and Central Ave) go to that school rather than pull our pocket clear around the Lewis and Clark boundary to attend a school far away in a completely different neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration.</p> |

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| 11/30/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Senior High School | <p>We would be against the neighborhoods directly attached to McKinley elementary (North elevation and Tree Streets) to be moved entirely to Riverside. Your proposed new boundaries go against your own principals as outlined below:</p> <p>1. Minimize Impact on Students. This shift pulls our community of students significantly further from the middle school that is very close to our neighborhood, Lewis and Clark.</p> <p>2. Make All Efforts to Not Split Identifiable Communities. Our neighborhood is bound by significant roadway and rail infrastructure at 27th St and the area around MT Ave / 1st Ave. These are notable infrastructure in our community and create natural boundaries for neighborhoods. While this change may look simple on map, the reality of the surrounding infrastructure makes this is considerable hardship for getting to school. Our neighborhood friends and community are literally split down the middle now between two middle schools. The previous boundary functions far better as it does not split neighbors who live across the street from one another. The McKinley (west of 27th St) and Broadwater neighbors are closely connected communities and therefore should attend the same middle school. Similarly, the Washington and Orchard communities are more closely connected and should also attend the same middle school, Riverside.</p> <p>3. Contiguous Boundaries. Most importantly, this hardship is unnecessary because the area south of Broadwater, near Washington Elem is much closer to Riverside. It makes more sense to move the neighborhood south of Broadwater and the small triangle area south of Central to Riverside as that is much closer. It also allows that neighborhood to use the underpass and be to Riverside in minutes. While this proposed shift in boundaries to add our neighborhood to Riverside is technically "contiguous", it is a pocket area that goes all the way around the Lewis and Clark boundary to connect to the Riverside one. It's very inefficient and completely disconnected from the Riverside district. This is unnecessary when there are other parts of the south end of the Lewis and Clark boundary that could shift to the Riverside district and be contiguous and more directly connected to it. The reality of transportation from south of Broadwater to Riverside would be significantly less impactful than pulling our neighborhood that far south.</p> <p>4. Maximize Transportation Efficiency and Walkability This change runs directly against all criteria for the nationally recognized "Safe Routes to Schools" plan. These changes, per the guiding principles, should maximize opportunities to be closer to a school whenever possible. This could work significantly better and increase proximity by taking part of the Washington Elem district, which is in the range of 6-12 blocks from Riverside, and moving them rather than our neighborhood which is approximately 2-3 miles away. When considering how one would drive from our neighborhood to Riverside, the route is approximately 3.5 miles, depending on where one lives within this area. The area south of Broadwater and Central, which is directly adjacent to Riverside, is approximately 1 mile (plus or minus). It's significantly closer and safer for students to get there.</p> <p>This is such a small neighborhood pocket that is being shifted. Because it's not a major new boundary line where entire areas are being changed, it's causing significant concerns for our neighborhood. This is small pocket of students is being detrimentally impacted by now being so far from our middle school. I completely understand the need to go through this process and appreciate the difficulty of this task. I would simply ask that you greatly consider trying to improve the proximity and safe routes to schools by having the neighborhood directly adjacent to Riverside (south of Broadwater and Central Ave) go to that school rather than pull our pocket clear around the Lewis and Clark boundary to attend a school far away in a completely different neighborhood.</p> |
| 12/16/2022 9 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, McKinley Elementary, Senior High School | <p>The Lewis and Clark-to-Riverside proposal may aim at numerical balance but it ignores longstanding neighborhood roots and connections. It will make many people angry. The district should not risk creating yet another public relations disaster when taxpayer support for schools is as fragile as it is. Save money and shoot ourselves in the foot? Let's find another way.</p> |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, Riverside Middle School, Senior High School | <p>I have no opposition to the redistricting proposals. I it will bring balance to overcrowded schools.</p> |

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| 11/26/2022 9 | Lewis and Clark Middle School, Senior High School | <p>My kiddo is in the seventh grade at Lewis and Clark. He is diagnosed with Autism, ADHD, and Anxiety and he currently has a 504 plan at Lewis and Clark. I have worked closely with his counselors, teachers, and administrators over the last two years to ensure the academic success of my child after he struggled in core classes in his sixth-grade year.</p> <p>The proposed changes to school boundaries would change his last year of middle school to Riverside. This change would be very disruptive to a child who thrives on consistency and trust. To force him to start over at a brand new school in eighth grade only to start all over again at a brand new school in ninth grade would be devastating to his academic progress.</p> <p>Changes in routine and environment for my child take a lot of extra coaching and support and are emotionally exhausting to him. Overstimulation of his sensory system is particularly draining for him, so a new middle school environment would send his nervous system into overload and short-circuit any learning opportunities.</p> <p>While it is not easy for most children to abruptly change course during middle school, my child would require an extra amount of resources from a new school. I fear his needs would be minimized or unable to be met amongst the needs of all the other children who are experiencing a major life shift. Here, the best use of resources for the district when it comes to my child is to allow him to complete eighth grade in the 2023-24 school year at Lewis and Clark.</p> <p>I have reviewed the proposed redistricting plan. The "grandfather" option for my family is critical. I am asking that the district allow him to complete his middle school career at Lewis and Clark as part of the final redistricting decision.</p> |
| 11/23/2022 1 | McKinley Elementary | <p>I appreciate the challenges and the many competing criteria for successful redistricting. While "walkability" and transportation safety is listed as one of those criteria, it's hard to see where that was observed for what is probably the most critical population: elementary school students. We're a family that was looking forward to having our daughter attend an elementary school she could walk or bike to, but under the proposed plan, she'll have to take the bus to a school much farther away.</p> <p>While I haven't pulled out my GIS-analysis tools to test this, inspecting the proposed changes suggests that there are net-negative impacts to elementary school walkability and safety. The proposal "decompactifies" a number of elementary school boundaries and thus extends the total distances students have to travel. Worse still, contra to the proposed aims listed in the presentation, many of the proposed changes no longer respect major thoroughfares as natural boundaries and would require students to cross busy streets and highways. As an especially egregious case, the students newly assigned to Highland from Rose Park--some of whom are only two blocks from their old elementary school--would have to cross 13th street instead of being able to walk to the school in view of their front door. In our own case, our child being assigned to McKinley rather than Highlands entails a much longer commute over busier roads--meaning she will have to rely on bussing rather than being able to walk or bike. With very few exceptions, it appears almost every proposed change negatively impacts walkability, bikeability, and safety.</p> <p>There are of course tradeoffs for efforts like this, and some folks will wind up worse off than before. But I would hope the safety of elementary school students is the highest priority, including those who want to walk or bike to school. And I hope the board might request alternate proposals that achieve the aims of population balancing while prioritizing the safety of these children. Thank you.</p> |

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| 11/29/2022 9 | McKinley Elementary | <p>We are significantly concerned about the shifting boundary for the small pocket west of N 27th St. (around McKinley and Pioneer Park) that is shifting from Lewis and Clark Middle School to Riverside. This will create many hardships on the neighborhood kids and seems to go directly against the "guiding principles" presented for re-districting.</p> <p>1. Minimize Impact on Students. This shift pulls our community of students significantly further from the middle school that is very close to our neighborhood, Lewis and Clark.</p> <p>2. Make All Efforts to Not Split Identifiable Communities. Our neighborhood is bound by significant roadway and rail infrastructure at 27th St and the area around MT Ave / 1st Ave. These are notable infrastructure in our community and create natural boundaries for neighborhoods. While this change may look simple on map, the reality of the surrounding infrastructure makes this is considerable hardship for getting to school. Our neighborhood friends and community are literally split down the middle now between two middle schools. The previous boundary functions far better as it does not split neighbors who live across the street from one another. The McKinley (west of 27th St) and Broadwater neighbors are closely connected communities and therefore should attend the same middle school. Similarly, the Washington and Orchard communities are more closely connected and should also attend the same middle school, Riverside.</p> <p>3. Contiguous Boundaries. Most importantly, this hardship is unnecessary because the area south of Broadwater, near Washington Elem is much closer to Riverside. It makes more sense to move the neighborhood south of Broadwater and the small triangle area south of Central to Riverside as that is much closer. It also allows that neighborhood to use the underpass and be to Riverside in minutes. While this proposed shift in boundaries to add our neighborhood to Riverside is technically "contiguous", it is a pocket area that goes all the way around the Lewis and Clark boundary to connect to the Riverside one. It's very inefficient and completely disconnected from the Riverside district. This is unnecessary when there are other parts of the south end of the Lewis and Clark boundary that could shift to the Riverside district and be contiguous and more directly connected to it. The reality of transportation from south of Broadwater to Riverside would be significantly less impactful than pulling our neighborhood that far south.</p> <p>4. Maximize Transportation Efficiency and Walkability This change runs directly against all criteria for the nationally recognized "Safe Routes to Schools" plan. These changes, per the guiding principles, should maximize opportunities to be closer to a school whenever possible. This could work significantly better and increase proximity by taking part of the Washington Elem district, which is in the range of 6-12 blocks from Riverside, and moving them rather than our neighborhood which is approximately 2-3 miles away. When considering how one would drive from our neighborhood to Riverside, the route is approximately 3.5 miles, depending on where one lives within this area. The area south of Broadwater and Central, which is directly adjacent to Riverside, is approximately 1 mile (plus or minus). It's significantly closer and safer for students to get there. This is such a small neighborhood pocket that is being shifted. Because it's not a major new boundary line where entire areas are being changed, it's causing significant concerns for our neighborhood. This is small pocket of students is being detrimentally impacted by now being so far from our middle school. I completely understand the need to go through this process and appreciate the difficulty of this task. I would simply ask that you greatly consider trying to improve the proximity and safe routes to schools by having the neighborhood directly adjacent to Riverside (south of Broadwater and Central Ave) go to that school rather than pull our pocket clear around the Lewis and Clark boundary to attend a school far away in a completely different neighborhood.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> |

| Timestamp | With which school or schools are you affiliated? (Choose all that apply) | Please provide any feedback related to the 2022-2023 BPS Redistricting study. Thank you! |
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| 11/29/2022 1 | McKinley Elementary | <p>I am writing to express my concern with the proposed redistricting boundaries. The small neighborhood west of N 27th , around pioneer park and McKinley school, is being shifted from Lewis and Clark to Riverside This will pose a hardship for neighborhood kids and goes against the principles that guide redistricting for our schools.</p> <p>The impact on this neighborhood would be significant. They will be attending a school that is further away from the neighborhood middle school, Lewis and Clark</p> <p>This change also goes against the principles of redistricting in that we are an easily identifiable neighborhood. The natural boundaries for this neighborhood are North 27th st and the railroad tracks to the south (MT Ave and 1st ave south.). This change looks simple on a map but the reality of this infrastructure would make it very difficult to get to school. Our community is divided by North 27th, which is a major roadway. Those on the east side go to Riverside, while those west of 27 th go to Lewis and Clark. This is a natural boundary that doesn't split "across the street neighbors". The McKinley kids west of 27th and the Broadwater kids are closely connected and should go to the same middle school, Lewis and Clark.</p> <p>Contiguous boundaries is another consideration for redistricting. The area south of Broadwater Ave, near Washington elementary is much closer to Riverside. It makes more sense to move the neighborhood south of Broadwater and the small triangle area south of Central Ave to Riverside because it's much closer! The underpass is readily available to those neighborhoods and they can be there in minutes. It is very inefficient for our neighborhood. There are other parts of the south end of Lewis and Clark boundary that could shift to Riverside's district and be contiguous and more directly connected to it. Transportation from south of Broadwater Ave to Riverside would be less impactful than transportation from our neighborhood as we are significantly further away.</p> <p>Transportation efficiency and walkability would also disappear for our neighborhood. A part of the Washington school district could be moved to Riverside, as it would be within 6-12 blocks from Riverside. Moving the McKinley school district would mean we would be 2 or 3 miles from Riverside. Since we would drive about 3 miles to get to Riverside, and they would would drive only about 1 mile. It closer for them and safer for everyone to get there.</p> <p>The small number of students in this area would be attending a middle school that is far from our neighborhood. The areas south of Broadwater and Central Aves are closer and should be a part of Riversides district. Shifting our neighborhood would be a big move around the Lewis And Clark area, to get to Riverside area. Much bigger than shifting the other neighborhood.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my letter</p> |
| 12/14/2022 1 | McKinley Elementary | <p>I would like to register a formal objection to the redistricting of the North Elevation and Tree Street neighborhoods from Lewis and Clark Middle to Riverside Middle. It doesn't make sense for two reasons. First, given the area north of Rimrock is now redistricted to McKinley, these adjacent neighborhoods are now split for middle school. Second and most importantly, Riverside is twice as far from our address, 230 Avenue D, than Lewis and Clark doubling the amount of travel time for these children. This includes crossing the railroad track or using a tunnel that regularly floods in bad weather. The district should reconsider this map and redistrict students south of Broadwater from Lewis and Clark to Riverside instead; that makes more sense logistically and geographically.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> |

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| | | <p>I am a long-time resident of Billings, and have experienced several redistricting moves over the years. The current redistricting proposal imposes hardships on many of our youngest students, from Meadowlark students being moved to Miles Avenue school, which is out of neighborhood, to the proposal that will negatively impact my specific neighborhood: the Pioneer Park, Tree streets, letter streets and North Elevation. For many reasons, the proposal to move our middle school students from Lewis and Clark to Riverside makes no sense for our neighborhood.</p> <p>A. The proposed change forces our neighborhood students to be miles away from our middle school in a completely different neighborhood, travelling across dangerous infrastructure borders, with no opportunity to walk or bike to school.</p> <p>B. The proposed change is contrary to SD2’s Guiding Principles that were presented at a recent board meeting. Here are those principles:</p> <p>1. Minimize Impact on Students</p> <p>This proposed shift pulls our community of students significantly far away from their neighborhood, when Lewis & Clark is approximately 1.2 miles away. Students aren’t able to walk or ride bikes to their middle school.</p> <p>2. Make All Efforts to NOT split Identifiable Communities</p> <p>Our neighborhood is bound by significant roadway and rail infrastructure at N. 27th St. and Montana Avenue and 1st Avenue South. These are notable infrastructures in our community and create natural travel boundaries for neighborhoods. While this change may look simple on a GIS mapping system, the reality of the surrounding infrastructure makes this a considerable hardship for getting to school. Not the least hardship is the danger posed by these streets.</p> <p>With this proposal, our neighborhood friends and community are literally split down the middle now between two middle schools. (This seems to be the pattern for several areas in this proposal, with west-end exceptions.) The boundary currently in place functions far better, as it doesn’t split neighbors who live across the street from one another. The McKinley (west of N 27th St.) and Broadwater neighbors are closely connected communities and therefore should attend the same middle school. Similarly, Washington and Orchard communities are more closely connected and should also attend the same middle school, Riverside.</p> <p>3. Contiguous Boundaries</p> <p>Most important, the hardship imposed by this proposal is unnecessary because the area south of Broadwater, near Washington Elementary is much closer to Riverside. It makes more sense to move the neighborhood south of Broadwater and the small triangle area south of Central to Riverside, as that is much closer. It also allows that neighborhood to use the underpass and arrive at Riverside in minutes.</p> <p>The North Elevation, Pioneer Park and tree street area, however, is completely disconnected from the Riverside district and community. Shifting this pocket area is very inefficient for students, families, and the district and unnecessary when there are other parts of the south end of the Lewis and Clark boundary that could shift to the Riverside district and be contiguous and more directly connected to Riverside.</p> <p>The practical reality of transportation from south of Broadwater to Riverside would be significantly less impactful than pulling our neighborhood so far south. As currently proposed, our neighborhood students aren’t able to walk or ride bikes to their middle school. Parents must navigate heavy traffic and railroad schedules to deliver their students to Riverside.</p> <p>4. Maximize Transportation Efficiency and Walkability</p> <p>The proposed change runs directly against ALL criteria for the nationally recognized “Safe Routes to Schools” plan. This proposal, per the guiding principles, should maximize opportunities to be closer to a school whenever possible. The proposal would be more in line with this guidance by taking part of the Washington Elementary district, which is approximately 6 – 12 blocks from Riverside, and moving them to Riverside, rather than our neighborhood, which is between 2 and 3 miles away. When one considers how one would drive from our neighborhood to Riverside, the route is 3.5 miles, depending on where one lives within our area. Additionally, parents must navigate heavy commuter traffic and railroad schedules to deliver their students to Riverside.</p> <p>However, the area south of Broadwater and Central, which is directly adjacent to Riverside, is approximately 1 mile away from the middle school. It’s significantly closer and safer for students to get to school.</p> <p>5. Property Values and Revenue</p> <p>When new residents to Billings look at neighborhoods in which to settle, one of the most important criteria in choosing a neighborhood is proximity to schools. When the middle school for our neighborhood is now out of area, with a significant commute to another part of the city required to deliver students to school, the neighborhood becomes less desirable. Property becomes less desirable. Values decline. Property tax revenue declines, including the mills providing money to the school district. The proposed change could impact property values in our area. And while it isn’t the number one concern of our neighborhood, it is a possibility that is on our minds.</p> |

| Timestamp | With which school or schools are you affiliated? (Choose all that apply) | Please provide any feedback related to the 2022-2023 BPS Redistricting study. Thank you! |
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| 12/14/2022 1 | McKinley Elementary, Riverside Middle School | Riverside is much farther away from our house as we are right on Virginia lane. The kids directly across the street go to Lewis as we previously have. |
| 11/29/2022 1 | Meadowlark Elementary | We live off 52nd and are proposed to move from Meadowlark to Big Sky. We are not at all happy with this decision. We live West of Billings because we are 2 full time working parents that work in Laurel. We rely on bussing and a school that is near our home. This change would be reason for us to leave SD2 by choice completely, as private school or Laurel are both feasible options to us. I think a large part of Meadowlark's overflowing problem is students getting in that don't even live in the correct zone, my daughter has 2 friends I know of personally, that I can't help wonder how many more I'm not aware of. And then we're the honest one's living closest to the school getting rezoned out. |
| 12/1/2022 14 | Meadowlark Elementary | <p>Hello! I appreciate your work in trying to alleviate the overcrowding of schools. I do understand that this not an easy process and does take time and consideraton. I also understand you are not going to make everyone happy. With that, I do want to offer comment and constructive response to the proposed boundaries. I am currently in Granite Park subdivision, which is affected by the proposed changes. We are currently attending Meadowlark Elementary and are proposed to move to Big Sky. Many in our neighborhood are upset about the change (as I assume others are) for a variety of reasons.</p> <p>First, we have been affected in both changes. We were at Central Heights and were redistricted Meadowlark. Now, we are Meadowlark and will have to change again to Big Sky. This impacts many in our neighborhood. School is a community and it is hard to keep this community aspect when it has changed in the most recent redistricting. We are just now having kids go through the school, we have just now experienced a principal for a number of years, and just now are getting used to bus routes and other things. Changing all of that again is upsetting as now we will have to relearn policies, procedures and people.</p> <p>Next, our neighborhood is next to several other neighborhoods which are the kids that our kids know and play with on a daily basis. We bike to each other's neighborhoods, take family walks, and host soccer practices in these areas. Our kids are on the same teams in all aspects outside of school due to the closeness of these neighborhoods. To split this up, again, is losing the community that we have created.</p> <p>Last, we are worried about the value of our homes if our elementary changes. Although Big Sky is probably a great school, and I know has great teachers, admin, etc, the population of the school is drastically different than that of Meadowlark. Currently, we have several subdivisons that are focused on family, longevitiy in a home, and many of the same values that we share. The new community that Big Sky is adopting is not the same in any way. There are several large apartment complexes, low income housing, trailor parks, etc. This is a drastic socio-economic division that will not pair well with buyers of the homes in my area. This may sound petty and a bit entitled, but I would challenge you, as board members, to put yourself in the same situation. All of the apartment compelxes will have a transient population. They will have kids come and go. I believe it is fair to put these complexes together, as they have similar values. They may enjoy the apartment living, may be between jobs and planning to move out soon, but the value that they have is not the same as the neighborhood that we are currently in. This will be a problem to future homebuyers.</p> <p>My proposition is to move the boundary line to Monad (and an imaginary Monad from Shiloh to 56th), which is just 1/2 a mile south. It will onyl affect a small number of neighborhoods, and will keep our kids with the community we have grown to nuture and love. It will keep a high number of kids in the Big Sky district as well and create a like-minded community within that district.</p> <p>It does not seem fair to move us again. Please consider this solution.</p> |
| 12/4/2022 16 | Meadowlark Elementary | <p>Please do not switch the Granite Park subdivision to Big Sky Elementary school. You have already moved the kids in the neighbor hood from Central Heights to Meadowlark, and another change is just ridiculous. The change also makes no sense since you will still allow Black Rock subdivision to attend Meadowlark and they are directly across Central Ave. from us. Moving the line from Central to Monad makes more sense.</p> <p>My oldest attended Meadowlark and my youngest will be starting school next year and it is a wonderful school. I have heard nothing good about Big Sky and am very concerned about sending her there. Although the bussing is a huge help in our neighbor hood, I assume most of us would be okay without a bussing system as along as our kids didn't have to change schools. Please take into consideration the feelings of myself and fellow parents in our neighbor hood. Thank you.</p> |

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| 12/4/2022 18 | Meadowlark Elementary | <p>We live in the Granite Park subdivision off of Central and 52nd St. Our neighborhood was originally zoned to Central Heights but were moved to Meadowlark in 2017-2018. If this redistricting goes through as planned then this will be the third school in 6 years.</p> <p>An alternative proposal is to move the 35 kids that were going from Boulder to Meadowlark to Poly instead. They only show 85% utilization (281/329) after the proposed changes and can absorb that amount while remaining under 100% utilization (316/329). This will leave room for our neighborhood to remain at Meadowlark and still reduce the overall numbers as we only have about 20 kids. The cutline could then be drawn down 48th street from Central down to King with the zone west remaining at Meadowlark and the zone east moving to Big Sky. This would account for the increased growth from all the new multi-unit housing being built east of 48th to move to Big Sky.</p> <p>Another alternative is to just leave our neighborhood zoned to Meadowlark. We are an established neighborhood with no planned growth. We are surrounded by farmland with no developments in progress and no land for sale. We conducted an internal poll most all residents have said they will grandfather their kids to remain at Meadowlark. This would not alleviate any overpopulation at Meadowlark and instead make it worse with the added kids from Boulder.</p> |
| 12/7/2022 21 | Meadowlark Elementary | <p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>We live in Granite Park subdivision that is on the corner of 52nd Street and Central Ave. We are JUST south of Central, which is the cutoff boundary for next year’s redistricting plans. The proposal for 2023 will force us to switch elementary schools, once again. If this plan is approved, our neighborhood will have its 3rd elementary school enrollment in just 7 years.</p> <p>Now this may not seem like much to an outsider, but constantly uprooting our lives, routines and processes is of utmost concern to us.</p> <p>While we understand that the redistribution of students is essential in our areas, we respectfully ask that this specific boundary be reconsidered to spare us. We feel like the same population concerns could be addressed if the redistricting boundary were to instead be moved to 48th St W. The cutline could then be drawn down 48th Street from Central Ave to King Ave with the west zone remaining at Meadowlark and the east zone moving to Big Sky. Additionally, the 35 students that were slated to move from Boulder to Meadowlark could instead be moved to Poly. Poly only shows 85% utilization (281/329) after the proposed changes and can absorb those children easily, while still remaining under 100% utilization (316/329).</p> <p>If this is an unsatisfactory option, perhaps we could just be spared and be allowed to remain at Meadowlark. Our neighborhood is established and at capacity. There will be no more growth. We are a tight knit community of friends, classmates and teammates. Our families are invested in this school and involved. In fact, the entire Meadowlark PTA governance resides in our subdivision. This redistribution will affect not only our families, but all the Meadowlark School planning committees for years to come. These current (and future) plans have been established by families that committed to be involved in this school throughout their children’s elementary careers at Meadowlark.</p> <p>Additionally, I am an admin for our Granite Park Facebook page and I recently polled our neighborhood to investigate other household future plans. Data collected from that poll shows that not one family in our subdivision is planning to enroll their children in Big Sky. We have been told that we will lose bus access if we choose to stay grandfathered at Meadowlark—but yet every parent that responded plans to drive their children to and from Meadowlark instead of opting for a possible bus option to be added at Big Sky. This poll affected 35 children. This clearly will only add to the overcrowding issue at Meadowlark for years to come and, in the meantime, inconveniences our families in a massive way. However, this is an inconvenience that families are willing to take on —just to avoid uprooting our lives for the third time in 7 years.</p> <p>Thank you for hearing us. We realize that your job is often unrewarding and we are profoundly grateful for your reconsideration in this process.</p> |
| 12/8/2022 8:4 | Meadowlark Elementary | <p>Granite Peak subdivision will be sending a representative for our area being rezoned for a 3rd time in 10 years. She will speak on behalf of the 35+ future children of the subdivision. Look at the numbers but don’t treat the children like numbers again.</p> |

| Timestamp | With which school or schools are you affiliated? (Choose all that apply) | Please provide any feedback related to the 2022-2023 BPS Redistricting study. Thank you! |
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| 12/9/2022 9:54 | Meadowlark Elementary | <p>Hello. I would like to start by stating I appreciate your efforts in trying to reduce the overcrowding of schools. I understand this is not easy and thank you for looking at this matter.</p> <p>In looking at the proposed boundary this will now be our second change for our family. We were at Central Heights and got redistricted to Meadowlark. Now we would be moving again to Big Sky with this change. This impacts many families in the Granite Park Subdivision. Our school is a community that our kids have grown to love. Changing this again is upsetting as we would have to again learn the policies, procedures and people.</p> <p>Next our Granite park neighborhood is next to several more neighborhoods that we have grown to get close to. This change doesn't affect them and would put added stress on our neighborhood kids again. They love to play and go to these other neighborhoods. This reflects in the Meadowlark school as they are all friends.</p> <p>Lastly we are concerned with the value of our homes with this change. I do believe Big Sky is a good school but this re-district adds a lot of apartment housing to this change. All of these apartment complexes are a transient population. Granite Park has a long history and the families are well known throughout this area. This change does not seem fair for us to move again. Please consider the solution below.</p> <p>My proposition is to move the boundary line to Monad which is just 1/2 mile south. This boundary line only affects a small number of neighborhoods and will keep our current kids that reside in Granite Park subdivision with the community they have grown to love. It will also keep a high number of kids in the Big Sky district as well. This would create the same minded community with that district.</p> |
| 12/13/2022 1:11 | Meadowlark Elementary | I understand the need to redistrict to even out school populations. But when our neighborhood has been affected by these changes with 3 elementary schools over the last 7 years, it is very frustrating. Our neighborhood is fully developed, with no possibility of adding future phases like other neighborhoods around us that are constantly growing. Wouldn't it make more sense to keep a neighborhood that you know the numbers will change minimally, with families moving in/out, or siblings being the only new population? And the fact that almost every single family who is impacted plans to keep their kids at Meadowlark regardless of the bus situation. That will just add 35 extra families to the already congested drop off/pickup times at Meadowlark. I have spent the last 6 years as part of the PTA board at Meadowlark and that school is like family to us. There is no way we will finish our youngest child's last 2 years elsewhere, so regardless of what decision is made she will finish at Meadowlark, but as a household with one parent working in Laurel, not having bus transportation will make it very difficult on our family. I am begging you to keep Granite Park subdivision in the Meadowlark district. Thank you |
| 12/15/2022 1:11 | Meadowlark Elementary | It does not make sense that Granite Parks neighborhood (52nd / Central) be re-zoned to Big Sky. The neighborhood across the street will stay at Meadowlark. These kids have gone to school for years now, and are friends outside of school. |
| 11/22/2022 1:11 | Meadowlark Elementary, Elder Grover School District | Thank you for looking at the need to redistrict the boundaries. I live on 64th street W, we are within 2.5 miles of Elder Grove school, yet with our new neighborhood it's Meadowlark school district. Meadowlark is 4.7 miles from our house. We are in the county and would like the option to be within Elder Grove district. The bus from 88th and grand which is Elder Grove goes right by our neighborhood. |
| 11/29/2022 1:11 | Meadowlark Elementary, Miles Avenue Elementary | I live at Winchell Ln which would be rezoned to Miles Elementary from Meadowlark. We are incredible close to Meadowlark and I feel moving us to Miles is incredibly silly. We are no where near Miles. Our whole neighborhood looks like it was overlooked in this map. We arent even connected to the other Miles City zones. Please reconsider keeping us in the Meadowlark zone. Thank you! |
| 12/2/2022 15:15 | Meadowlark Elementary, Poly Drive Elementary | My kids love their school, they have the best teachers who know and understand their needs and the kids trust in he teachers they know. This is horrifying for such huge changes, kids are already struggling from all the covid issues, that they still haven't worked through. Now they have their worlds rocked by another massive change. My kids have have a rough couple years, I know I'm not alone. This really sucks, and it's going to hurt so many people we couldn't figure out how to make the changes over time, in order to get the same goal. |

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| 11/25/2022 1 | Meadowlark Elementary, West High School, Will James Middle School | <p>Hi, I am concerned about the proposed changes to the boundaries. 5 years ago the boundaries were changed when the new MS's were opened. At that time, Meadowlark and Ben Steele were both at full capacity. Why? The current map moves my family out of Meadowlark boundaries. We live between 32nd and Shiloh. This is considered a WALKING neighborhood, and I currently pay for my kids to ride the bus. Why take a WALKING neighborhood out of the school they attend and then have to BUS them 2.5 miles away? Several of my neighbors kids walk/ride bikes to school when it's nice. They can't walk to Miles Ave Elementary. That doesn't work! I assume there will be a bus, but what happens when a child misses the bus and no parent is home to take them? Right now, they can walk.</p> <p>*We need a long term fix, not another bandaid. Why can't we come up with a permanent solution to this problem. BUILD MORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS! If you visit any other state, when a new neighborhood is built, so are schools. They build COMMUNITIES!. Where are our schools? The amount of money that is wasted on busing kids all over the city is obscene. Build schools in the neighborhoods that need them.</p> <p>*My neighborhood has ALWAYS attended Meadowlark. There are multiple other neighborhoods that have not been in Meadowlark that long. Move those neighborhoods out.</p> <p>*I realize that I can grandfather my kids into Meadowlark, but I lose transportation. I am a working parent, just like everyone else. I rely on the bus to bring my kids home from school.</p> <p>*As I said above, Miles Ave Elementary is 2.5 miles away. In a different part of town.</p> <p>*Busing just keeps going up in cost. The more kids you move, more money is being spent on bussing. Let's spend that money somewhere else. BUILD SCHOOLS!</p> <p>*Meadowlark currently special permits in a TON of kids. Look at the records. Meadowlark's enrollment wouldn't be this high, if there were less special permits. I refuse to be kicked out of Meadowlark because others have received a permit to go there.</p> <p>*I purchased the house that I did because it was in Meadowlarks boundaries and had a bus. I didn't want to special permit, I wanted Meadowlark to be our school, and it is!</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time read through my concerns. All four of my kids have gone to Meadowlark. My youngest is in 1st grade this year. I don't want to send him to a different school, but I also cannot drive him to and from school everyday. If you need any further info, please let me know.</p> |

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| 12/7/2022 9:54 | Meadowlark Elementary, West High School, Will James Middle School | <p>This issue will never be solved by putting a bandaid on it. Build new elementary schools! This is the only place that we have lived where they do not build schools to match the growth of the city.</p> <p>Busing kids across town is not the answer. Huge amounts of money are wasted on busing kids from Cove Creek to Boulder Elementary. Same with the kids that are being bused from the West end to Meadowlark. Let's spend that money on building schools.</p> <p>The neighborhood that we live in is considered a 'walking' neighborhood. Many of our neighbors do not utilize the bus (that we have to pay for), instead they walk or ride bikes when the weather is nice. You are taking this option away from families.</p> <p>I am a working parent and rely on the bus. All four of my kids have been at Meadowlark. I will not take my youngest out of Meadowlark. This means I will have to drive him. I 100% need the bus to be able to work.</p> <p>Miles Ave Elementary is over 2.5 miles from our home.</p> <p>Meadowlark currently special permits in several families. Stop giving out special permits and let the people that actually live in the boundaries attend the school. I think you'd be surprised how many kids are at Meadowlark on a permit. Take these kids out of the school and give those spots to the people that live in in the boundaries.</p> <p>Please keep the neighborhood between 32nd and shiloh in meadowlark's boundaries.</p> |
| 12/7/2022 11:05 | Meadowlark Elementary, West High School, Will James Middle School | <p>These new bounderies are not going to fix the issue. Build new elementary schools!</p> <p>Busing kids across town is not the answer. Huge amounts of money are wasted on busing kids from Cove Creek to Boulder Elementary. Same with the kids that are being bused from the West end to Meadowlark. Let's spend that money on building schools.</p> <p>The neighborhood that we live in is considered a 'walking' neighborhood. Many of our neighbors do not utilize the bus (that we have to pay for), instead they walk or ride bikes when the weather is nice. You are taking this option away from families.</p> <p>I went to Meadowlark, and currently have younger siblings at Meadowlark. Taking away the option for them to be bused there makes it incredibly difficult for my parents, who are both working. If my younger siblings were to go to Miles Ave, which is over 2.5 miles from our home, one of my parents would likely have to adjust working hours to accomodate, and if they continued to attend Meadowlark but without the option of being bused in, the same thing would happen.</p> <p>Meadowlark currently special permits in several families. Stop giving out special permits and let the people that actually live in the boundaries attend the school. I think you'd be surprised how many kids are at Meadowlark on a permit. Take these kids out of the school and give those spots to the people that live in in the boundaries.</p> <p>Please keep the neighborhood between 32nd and shiloh in meadowlark's boundaries.</p> |
| 11/30/2022 1:01 | Meadowlark Elementary, Will James Middle School | <p>My neighborhood off 35th and Terry had quite a few kids that will be grandfathered into Meadowlark but u found out the school will no longer be offering bussing to the school and only to miles avenue. We already pay to have our kids bussed to Meadowlark and I know alot of families that want their children to continue at Meadowlark won't have any options to get their children back and forth to school now. I would like for their to be an option for these children who already attend this school and ride the bus to be able to continue to do so if they continue to pay for this.</p> |
| 11/23/2022 1:01 | Other/No Affiliation | <p>Please allow families to choose which school to send their children to, that is located closest to their residence. You currently have Indian Cliff subdivision located in Northwest Billings sending their children to schools ten miles away, twenty miles round trip, to schools in the heights creating a financial burden to families and tax payers. Thank you.</p> |

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| 11/28/2022 1 | Other/No Affiliation | Please reconsider the new proposed district lines. With current proposal, our students (living in Crytal Springs Subdivision 2 miles West of Zoo Dr exit), would be made to go across the opposite end of town to Senior High. This would mean either a 40min plus bus route, or a commute to the opposite end of town. We chose our location because of the school, as did many people in our surrounding area. It seems, from the map of proposed redistricting that there are many students in the midtown area (East of 24th street) that could instead go to Senior instead of making the far West End families do this. I am very concerned about these proposed changes. The lines make no logistical sense. Our school (256 students K-8) does not impact the over crowding of West to make such an impactful change to districting for us. Forward thinking would consider a different solution altogether to expand West High instead of this redistricting. At the very least, these lines need very serious reconsideration. |
| 11/28/2022 1 | Other/No Affiliation | My family has worked hard to make sure our kids will attend the best school we see fit. That meant moving out out town for them to attend canyon creek school and then move onto west high school. It certainly is not ok with us that now they will just have to be lumped in with senior high. |
| 11/27/2022 2 | Poly Drive Elementary | We do NOT like the proposed change for Poly. We live very close to Poly and would like for our children and the children in our neighborhood to continue to attend Poly. It is not convenient to get to Rose Park from our neighborhood. Our children could not safely bike or walk to Rose Park from our neighborhood. |
| 11/28/2022 1 | Poly Drive Elementary | <p>There are numerous educational studies that show switching from one school to another can have serious ramifications from poorer academic performance to dropping out of school altogether. The last redistricting affected my daughter. She had to transfer to Poly from Boulder for her 4th grade year. We live .4 miles from Boulder. Poly is 1 mile from our house. Still possible for her to walk home, although the distance is twice as far. Now, the district is discussing redistricting again. Now we will be in the Rose Park zone. Rose Park?! Are you kidding? This is 2 miles from our house. We have no after school care for my 2nd grade son. Once again, the distance has doubled. It is not safe for my 7 year old to walk or bike 2 miles home alone. It is absurd to imagine that he may not attend one of the two elementary schools within a mile of our house. Switching schools caused a lot of undue stress, which in turn caused my daughter to struggle academically. I do not want to cause my son the same issues.</p> <p>I understand the need for classroom space to accommodate the growth on the West end, however, continually moving the students further east is not a viable or practical option for many families. It is not solving the problem. It is creating new problems. Eventually, the original problems will come back and need to be handled appropriately. Thank you.</p> |
| 12/5/2022 13 | Poly Drive Elementary | I do not agree with the redistricting of our neighborhood. We live in Forest Park subdivision and are very close to Poly Drive school. We are being redistricted to Rose Park. It is not convenient to get to Rose Park from our house. There are currently many children that walk or ride bike to Poly from our neighborhood. It would not be safe or reasonable for them to walk or ride bike to Rose Park. Although it may appear close on a map, the streets do not connect and it is difficult to get to Rose Park from our neighborhood. This is absolutely not the right decision for our neighborhood and the families that live here. |
| 11/27/2022 1 | Poly Drive Elementary, Senior High School, Will James Middle School | I am not in favor of the redistricting proposal. Please do not do this. We bought a home based on schools our children would attend and this proposal changes that for us. Definitely not in favor of this. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Poly Drive Elementary, Will James Middle School | Families should stay together if at any point the kids will be at the same school. Change grandfathering rules to allow elementary students to join their siblings in the middle school their sibling is enrolled in. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | Riverside Middle School | It was a little confusing to understand what was proposed vs. what is, but , I figured it out. I live out in Meadowlark out by the landfill and I would prefer my child attend Senior instead of West for a variety of reasons. It's easier for transportation to extra curricular activities, I find the general "tone" of the school kids is more tolerant for kids that aren't able to afford the "in" clothes etc. It also provides extra special needs services to the kiddos. I know not all schools in the district provide those extra services ie. CSCT program. |
| 11/27/2022 9 | Riverside Middle School | Makes sense, thanks for your work on this. |
| 11/22/2022 2 | Sandstone Elementary | Students who are out of area who have been approved to attend the current school they are at should not be removed with this redistricting. Someone who has started with an elementary class should be able to stay with them until they finish elementary school. |
| 12/1/2022 21 | Senior High School, West High School | <p>Hello, one easy solution would be to allow/encourage students living in West High’s district to attend Senior High. For many students its actually an easier/safer commute since Both Senior and West High are so close to each other.</p> <p>Another thing is wait on the high school redraw because some of the West end non SD2 schools are planning a high school.</p> |

| Timestamp | With which school or schools are you affiliated? (Choose all that apply) | Please provide any feedback related to the 2022-2023 BPS Redistricting study. Thank you! |
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| 11/23/2022 1 | Senior High School, Will James Middle School | We live on Avenue F and want to keep our kids at Senior High School this is a great fit for our area |
| 11/28/2022 1 | Senior High School, Will James Middle School | Change is always difficult, but I understand the necessity of redistricting when populations change. The only concern I would have would be the option to grandfather students in middle & high schools. |
| 12/6/2022 9:2 | Skyview High School | I completely understand the need for redistricting with the growth. What doesn't make sense is that you are asking families who live almost to Laurel, to have their students go all the way into town at Senior High. There are many neighborhoods closer to Senior that would make more sense to move. You need to take into consideration that these are high school students that will be driving themselves to school and doubling their driving distance does not seem like a safe and responsible choice. |
| 12/8/2022 8:3 | Skyview High School | Thankfully, this will not have an effect on us. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | West High School | None |
| 11/22/2022 1 | West High School | For redistricting of West and Senior how come we can't do everything south of the interstate transfer to Senior? You're over populating Senior even more and lowering West's enrollment the most by 4%. Can we pay to keep our kids in the same HS that they've been attending? |
| 11/22/2022 1 | West High School | I'm glad that my area doesn't have any changes because my child has emotional and behavioral issues and a different high school would be a dramatic change for him! |
| 11/22/2022 1 | West High School | I think school should start around 815-820am as billings traffic has become so over saturated and the traffic going into west takes awhile to get in there. It's hard to fight the school/work traffic in the morning especially with snow conditions |
| 11/22/2022 1 | West High School | I can't figure out if this affects my son. |
| 11/23/2022 1 | West High School | I live in Josephine Crossing. This plan will place a hardship on my family. The cost of gas alone with cross-town trips does not make sense to me. Why not send all kids who live North of Grand to Senior to make room for students who live less than 3 miles from West High? This doesn't include the time I would have to miss work in order to provide this transport for my child, unless you intend to make bussing available, in which case you better budget HEAVILY for this additional cost. There are A LOT of students in the Elysian district who are currently slated to attend West High. Please rethink this portion of the proposal. Thank you! |
| 11/26/2022 1 | West High School | Just don't.....I have 2 special needs kids in West, and a change like this would traumatic for one of them ...if this redistricting is approved I will pull them from Billings and I will homeschool them for the rest of their schooling....this move is a BAD idea..... |
| 11/22/2022 1 | West High School, Canyon Creek School District | I live on the South side of the freeway in Crystal Springs. It doesn't make sense to make us drive to a school that much farther away to go to Senior. We already don't live in the city limits and to make the parents and student go even farther for school activities seems unfair. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | West High School, Elder Grover School District | I've heard that there are no plans to create another high school to accommodate the west-end growth, which is unfortunate. The county elementary and middle schools feed into SD2 which adds to the overcrowding issues. Some people have proposed merging the county schools so that we could then consider building a county high school. I'm wondering why SD2 wouldn't want a high school further west to accommodate the county schools who go into SD2. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | West High School, Elder Grover School District | After further looking into the map and recommendations, I don't understand why students from the extreme south of the frontage road would be routed to Senior High when homes between Rimrock and Grand wouldn't go to Senior west of Zimmerman. It seems to me some of those neighborhoods should go to Senior. I would hope that the district would keep in mind bus routes and length of ride, the socioeconomic status and mixture it creates when pulling students from a completely opposite side of town. Some people choose the location of their homes based on what schools their children will attend. |
| 11/22/2022 1 | West High School, Elysian School District | I think it's absolutely necessary to redraw the boundaries with the growth of the West End having a major impact on the west-side schools. As a resident of an outlying K-8 County school, I hope that the board takes the growth of Elysian, Canyon Creek, and Elder Grove especially into account when considering high school freshman enrollment rates. |
| 11/23/2022 1 | West High School, Elysian School District | We are looking forward to sending our 8th grader to West High School starting in 2023. We do not want to be redistricted to Senior High School. |

| Timestamp | With which school or schools are you affiliated? (Choose all that apply) | Please provide any feedback related to the 2022-2023 BPS Redistricting study. Thank you! |
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| 11/23/2022 1 | West High School, Elysian School District | <p>This is the 2nd time in 6 years our kids have be pulled from one school to another. My plans for where I built my house were highly dependent upon what school my children would attend. Now we are being told this is no longer an option. The school in my projected district would cause further distance issues than would the current district. I live in Josephine Crossing. Please do not change this again in such a short timeframe. This is becoming one of the most stressful things in our world as my 8th grader is moving to a new school that is much bigger. He was already taken on a tour of the school and is so excited. High school is such a tenuous time as it is, please don't continue to change the boundaries on our children.</p> <p>There is a very very poor group of families in our district that could be very affected by this redistricting due to distance. We support them highly via the Elysian School from school supplies to winter clothes to Thanksgiving meals. They do not have the means to continue to travel that distance all year long.</p> |
| 11/24/2022 1 | West High School, Elysian School District | <p>Talk openly with the students about drug use & drugs in our community and in the schools. It's a growing problem and doesn't do the students well to sugar coat or hide the real happenings in our schools and community. Be transparent and honest.</p> |
| 12/1/2022 11 | West High School, Elysian School District | <p>I am a mother of 3. We live in the Josephine Crossing. This redistricting from West HS to Senior HS would be devastating to my children. Not only is West closer to us in proximity- but with multiple children - parents want their kids to be in the same schools as they grow. Especially with regards to transportation for children. (ex. I want my 9th grader to be able to drive her younger sister to school with her in 1 year.) Many have moved to this area with expectation of knowing where their children are going to go to school. My current zone was just switched 6 years ago. I would never ever have thought the city would make us change again. This decision would cause undue anxiety, stress, burden to families for transportation of multiple children to multiple areas, and change friend dynamics that children rely on so heavily for social survival. Lastly, this is a temporary fix to a long term problem. Senior will become over populated as well and West will continue to grow - as will all the High schools. We need another high school - not to disrupt the lives of people that you just disrupted a few years ago. Please do not change the Josephine Crossing area. Thank you for your consideration.</p> |
| 11/22/2022 1 | West High School, Other/No Affiliation | <p>Currently our students attend a feeder school into the SD2 High Schools. After all of the reshuffling of the high school boundaries; Senior and West are still both projected to be over-crowded with Senior actually coming out even worse after the shift with a 1% increase in utilization. For such a significant impact to the community to switch projected high schools for the upcoming year there is very little utilization gain. Both Senior and West are over crowded; however West High has infrastructure that is 20 years or more newer than Senior High School. Given both being significantly overcrowded, I do not understand the push to move the heavier burden to the older facility. While I do understand the need to adjust boundaries from time-to-time as a reasonable approach - given the arguably negligible gain in improvement overall and the shift of the heavier burden to the older facility, I am not in favor of shifting the high school boundaries.</p> |
| 11/28/2022 1 | West High School, Other/No Affiliation | <p>Dear Board members and Superintendent Upham, I would encourage you to take another look at the school boundaries for redistribution of some of the kids from West to Senior. As of now the Canyon Creek School district students all go to West, but with this new designation you are looking at splitting those kids from Canyon Creek School up with half going to West and half going to Senior depending on where they live. I do not understand why you would send the students that live this far out all the way across town to another high school when they go right by West to get to Senior. There is also the safety issue of students being that much longer on the frontage road, which you know in the winter time is the worst road to drive on (which is much longer than any other season here in MT). I do not think that this would be in the best interest of the students of Canyon Creek School to be sent to Senior, we are talking about children who have been playing sports together for a long time and been in the same classes from K-8. I realize that you do not have children in this school district because we are an out district area but put yourself in the shoes of these parent and would you really want your child to have to be on the bus that long or would you really want your child to have to drive the frontage road everyday to get to school? Please reconsider the redistricting boundaries for the students of Canyon Creek School so they are able to stay at a school that is closer and one that they can keep the friends they have been with for so long together, it is traumatic enough going from 25 kids per grade to 200+ per grade don't split them up. Thank you a very concerned and worried parent.</p> |