Coppers Cove Rezoning FAQ’s

1. Why is CCISD rezoning? Why is it necessary?

The north side of the city of Copperas Cove is experiencing substantial growth. New housing areas are expected to continue to add new homes to the market and the campuses on that side of town do not have room for the anticipated student enrollment growth. The campuses most impacted by this growth are Halstead Elementary School, Williams/Ledger Elementary School and S.C. Lee Junior High School.

2. Where are the new housing areas located and where are students living in them currently zoned to attend?

Heartwood Park is located in the Williams/Ledger Elementary School attendance zone and the S.C. Lee Junior High School attendance zone. Phase I of this development has 229 total lots for homes and is substantially complete. Phase II has 148 total lots for homes which has approximately 120 homes built or under construction and is expected to be substantially complete by the end of 2019. Phase IV just received final approval from the Copperas Cove City Council and has 133 total lots for houses. The first homes in this area are expected to be available later this spring. Phase III, which has not received approval, will have an additional 150 +/- total lots for houses.

The new Creekside Hills neighborhood is located on Lutheran Church Road and the students moving into this neighborhood are zoned to attend Halstead Elementary School and S.C. Lee Junior High School. Phase I of Creekside Hills is currently under construction. This development has a total of 211 lots for homes. Phase II of Creekside Hills received final approval from the Copperas Cove City Council in July of 2018. Phase II adds another 93 lots for houses. According to the developer, the final build out will include approximately 1100 homes in this neighborhood.

3. What is the new boundary for students going to Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary School and S.C. Lee Junior High School?

Students who live south of FM 1113 who currently attend Williams/Ledger Elementary School or S.C. Lee Junior High School will be zoned to attend Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary School and Copperas Cove Junior High School.
4. **What elementary grade levels are impacted by this rezoning?**
   All elementary students at Williams Ledger Elementary School who live south of FM 1113 will be impacted. Students currently in Kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade and fourth grade will be moved to Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary School. Incoming Kindergarten students will begin at Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary School. Students currently in the fifth grade who promote to sixth grade will be moved to Copperas Cove Junior High School.

5. **What junior high grade levels are impacted by this rezoning?**
   Students currently in the sixth and seventh grade who live south of FM 1113 will be moved to Copperas Cove Junior High School.

6. **Will my student be allowed to remain on their current campus or must they move to their now zoned school?**
   CCISD realizes the attachment our students have to the campuses they attend. As a result, the district will permit students who currently attend Williams/Ledger Elementary School to remain on their current campus through the grandfather clause. A fifth grade student who currently attends Williams/Ledger Elementary School may attend S.C. Lee Junior High School through the grandfather clause. A sixth or seventh grade student who currently attends S.C. Lee Junior High School may continue at S.C. Lee Junior High School through the grandfather clause. Parents will need to complete a transfer form but students will be automatically admitted if they have attended Williams/Ledger Elementary School or S.C. Lee Junior High School during the 2018-2019 school year.

7. **Will transportation be provided for students who remain on their current campus under the grandfather clause?**
   No, students who choose to remain on their campus under the grandfather clause will be required to provide their own transportation. Students who attend the school to which they are newly zoned will receive transportation services through the CCISD Transportation Department.

8. **I have a student who is in the third grade at Williams/Ledger Elementary School and an incoming Kindergarten student. I want them both to attend Williams/Ledger Elementary School. Can they both be considered under the grandfather clause?**
   Yes, incoming Kindergarten students who have a sibling who currently attends Williams/Ledger Elementary School will have the option to apply for a transfer to Williams/Ledger Elementary School. However, admission decisions will be based on space availability and notification of acceptance will not occur until August.
9. If my student is accepted for a transfer under the grandfather clause for the 2019-2020 school year, is my student guaranteed to continue on the transfer for all future years?

Students who are accepted under the grandfather clause this year must maintain eligibility under the CCISD Transfer Agreement. Students are allowed no more than three (3) unexcused absences during the 2019-2020 school year and no more than one (1) office referral. If a student fails to maintain eligibility, they will be withdrawn from their current campus and enrolled at the campus assigned to their attendance zone. Assuming your student meets the above conditions for transfer, you may apply for a transfer under the grandfather clause for all future years. However, decisions to accept your student will be based on space availability and no guarantee can be made for future years at this time.

10. We currently live in the Skyline Flats area but plan to move to an area that is not in the Williams/Ledger Elementary School or S.C. Lee Junior High School attendance zone in December. Can my student transfer to either of these schools after we move?

No, in order to accommodate those students who take advantage of the grandfather clause, CCISD will not accept transfers into S.C. Lee Junior High School or Williams/Ledger Elementary School for any other students.

11. Has the district conducted a study to determine the impact of these developments?

CCISD contracted with a demographic firm in 2013. At the time of the study, final plats for these developments were not available. However, information gleaned from the study, including the average number of students per household, helped the district make the decision to rezone at this time. In addition, CCISD plans to complete another demographic study during the 2019-2020 school year to refresh the information from the 2013 study.

12. Why is the district not building a new school?

Currently, the district has capacity for students on elementary campuses located on the south side of FM 1113. Unfortunately the majority of the current growth is on the north side of FM 1113. In order to maximize capacity on our existing campuses, attendance zones need to be adjusted to move some of the students from the schools located on the north side of FM 1113 to schools that are on the south side of FM 1113. It would not be fiscally responsible to build a new campus when the district has room on existing campuses.
13. Is CCISD a growing district?  
Yes, CCISD has shown moderate growth since the 2014-2015 school year. The district has added 369 students since then and expects continued growth at a slightly more rapid pace due to the construction of new homes in the district.

14. How will this zone proposal be communicated?  
CCISD officials have scheduled a Public Hearing at the Williams/Ledger Elementary School cafeteria on April 15 at 6 pm and at the S.C. Lee Junior High School cafeteria on April 16 at 6 pm to discuss these changes and garner parent feedback.

15. Are the programs and curriculum the same on each elementary campus?  
What about the junior high campuses?  
Yes, CCISD has a curriculum that is used across the district in both elementary and junior high. Students should expect the same level of rigor and the same material to be covered on both campuses. While there may be some slight differences in after-school activities between the elementary campuses, students will find similar programs on each. Both campuses offer GT, PE and Music. At the junior high schools, both schools offer Choir, PE, GT, Band, and UIL athletics. Some differences occur between the clubs that are sponsored on each campus, but students should find a program they are interested in on their new campus.

16. My 5th grade student has already tried-out for and made the dance team at S.C. Lee Junior High School and I have already paid my deposit. Can my student stay at S.C. Lee next year?  
At this time, your student must attend Copperas Cove Junior High School, unless you apply for a transfer under the grandfather clause. However, CCJHS has a dance team and students who have already made the team at S.C. Lee will automatically make the team at CCJHS.

17. Will there be an orientation for students who are being affected by this zoning change?  
Yes, information regarding an orientation will be forthcoming from the student’s new campus. Both Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary School and Copperas Cove Junior High School will host an orientation and a tour of the school prior to school starting in August of 2019 for the students impacted by this change.
18. I see that Fairview Elementary School is under construction. Will that construction be completed prior to students starting school?
   Yes, substantial completion is expected to be July 1 on the Fairview side and August 1 on the Jewell side. While there may be some final adjustments being made after school starts, the construction process will have been concluded.

19. Has the district made final decisions on rezoning? Has the Board of Trustees approved this rezoning plan?
   The purpose of this hearing is to receive feedback from those impacted. Final recommendations will be made based on the information received tonight and tomorrow night. An updated Frequently Asked Questions will be posted to the district website at www.ccisd.com once the recommendations are finalized.

20. With the addition of students to Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary and Copperas Cove Junior High School, what, if any, changes to the amount of teachers or classrooms will be made?
   CCISD uses a staffing allocation formula to determine the number of staff needed each year for each campus. CCISD does anticipate adding teachers to accommodate the number of students being added to each campus.

21. When will transfer requests under the “Grandfather Clause” be made available?
   CCISD will notify each family that transfer requests are available after a final decision is made by the CCISD Board of Trustees. We anticipate sending documents to those affected on May 10, 2019.

22. May we tour the new campuses before making our decision?
   You may tour CCJHS anytime during normal business hours per Mrs. Crawley, the campus principal. Please call ahead to ensure someone is available to show you around. The Fairview side of Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary School is currently under construction and cannot be toured. Prior to school starting this summer, an opportunity to tour the facility will be made available.

23. Is CCISD planning to build a new high school or middle school?
   CCISD is engaged in conversations related to the best use of current facilities and the need for future facilities. A demographic study will be conducted in the fall of 2019 to assist the district in this process.
24. Are the bus routes going to take longer for students who will be attending a new school?

Exact bus routes have not been determined at this time. However, it is assumed that the bus ride to Copperas Cove Junior High School will take a little longer than the current bus ride to S.C. Lee Junior High School and the bus ride to Fairview/Miss Jewell Elementary School will take a little less time than the current ride to Williams/Ledger Elementary School. The CCISD Transportation Department will work on new bus routes once a final decision is made.

25. Will discipline expectations and academic expectations be similar to my student’s previous campus?

The discipline standards used throughout the district and the education quality are the same across all of our campuses. The atmosphere at each school may vary based on individual personalities, but the quality of our teachers across our campuses is consistent. Each campus follows the same Student Code of Conduct that is posted to the CCISD website annually.

26. In the transfer agreement, it states that students may have no more than three (3) unexcused absences. What is an unexcused absence?

An unexcused absence occurs when the district has no documentation for an absence. CCISD allows parents to excuse up to five absences with parent communication either through a phone call to the campus or a note to the campus explaining the absence. After the five parent excused absences are used, students must have a doctor’s note for each subsequent absence. All doctor visits are considered excused absences. If a parent has excused five absences and the student misses class again and no doctor’s note is provided, the student will have an unexcused absence.
27. How can I get an assurance that if I buy a house now that my kids won’t be rezoned in the future?

Unfortunately, CCISD cannot guarantee that attendance zones will not change again in the future. New housing developments can impact where new schools are built and attendance zones may change as a result.

28. What clubs are available on the campuses?

The following is a list of current clubs. Clubs could be changed based on student interest for next school year.


29. I want to apply for a transfer under the Grandfather Clause. How do I do this?

Grandfather Clause transfer paperwork was sent home through Skyward on May 8, 2019. A hard copy was mailed to the home address as well. Please follow the instructions in the letter that accompanied the transfer paperwork.
30. When is the Grandfather Clause transfer due to the district and where do I send it?

The transfer application and agreement under the Grandfather Clause are due back to the district no later than May 24, 2019. The district office is located at 408 S. Main Street, Copperas Cove, TX 76522. Or you can scan and email the completed documents to joycewilberg@ccisd.com.

31. My students will be attending their newly zoned campus. How do I register them?

Registration for returning students will be done on-line as it has been done in prior years. You do not need to do anything else.

32. When will orientations be held on the campuses?

Information about orientations will come from the campuses. If you plan to apply for the Grandfather Clause Transfer, your student will attend the S.C. Lee Junior High School orientation. If you do not intend to apply for the Grandfather Clause Transfer, your student will attend the Copperas Cove Junior High School orientation. For students who will attend Fairview/Miss Jewell for the first time, an orientation will occur before school starts in the summer as construction is ongoing on that campus.

As additional questions arise, we will update the FAQ with more content. Please continue to monitor the CCISD home page for further information.