



EPS' Student Enrollment Prompts New Policy

*Dr. Scott V. Nicol, Superintendent
Winter 2018*

At the September 27, 2017 Ellington Board of Education meeting the Board unanimously approved Policy 5117 School Enrollment Zones. The policy was publically discussed at four meetings including three full Board of Education meetings July through September 2017. The policy went into effect on January 1, 2018.

The new policy does not impact students enrolled in the Ellington Schools prior to January 1, 2018.

Why a new enrollment zones policy?

The Town of Ellington is growing. In August 2017, the Connecticut State Data Center reports that Ellington's population is projected to increase from approximately 16,000 residents in 2017 to 22,000 residents in 2040. From 2007 - 2017 the Ellington Public Schools has had its student population increase approximately 4.5% whereas surrounding area school systems have witnessed a decline – approximately -17% in South Windsor and Somers, and -20% in Tolland. Since 1999, the Ellington Schools have seen its student enrollment increase approximately 24%.

The Ellington Schools requested its annual school enrollment projection report from the New England School Development Council (NESDEC). The report projects a rise from the current (as of January 2018) student enrollment of approximately 2700 to 2900 in 2027.

Should the Ellington Schools' student enrollment continue to grow it will be increasingly difficult to balance our class sizes and provide equitable learning opportunities for students at Windermere, Center, and Crystal Lake Elementary Schools.

What is Policy 5117 School Enrollment Zones?

The policy allows the school administration to determine the best school placement for new students at one of Ellington's three elementary schools regardless of which enrollment zone the student's primary residence is located.

What is an enrollment zone?

Ellington Schools' enrollment zones have been in place for over ten years. The policy doesn't change the established enrollment zones. Each Ellington residence falls within one of the three enrollment zones attributed to our three elementary schools.

Which families will be affected by the policy?

The policy will primarily impact a small number of students entering kindergarten or newly enrolled in the district.

If my family already has a child enrolled in an elementary school, could the sibling be assigned to a different elementary school?

No, students with a sibling enrolled in an elementary school will be assigned to the same school as their sibling.

How may a parent learn more about the policy?

- Access the full policy and frequently asked questions (FAQ) by visiting the school district's website at www.ellingtonpublicschools.org and navigating to the *Parent* section.
- Attend an information session on February 28th and March 28th at 5:30 PM at the Ellington Board of Education offices.
- Contact Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, at snicol@ellingtonschools.net or 860-896-2300.