

Middle School Attendance Zoning: Enrollment Considerations

Potential Impact	Campus implications when enrollment exceeds functional capacity	Potential campus/district response
Academic Teaming	Adjustment to academic teams based on building design of three academic teams per grade level (including science labs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additional enrollment would result in the creative use of classroom/portable spaces, which could result in teachers on academic teams being separated around the building. ● The master schedule will need to ensure all students have access to a science lab. With a large number of students, this may impact the ability to structure academic teams.
Athletics/Fine Arts	Increased competition in specific programs requiring student auditions/tryouts, such as basketball, volleyball, band, choir, one-act play, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sports that do cut, such as volleyball and basketball, could run C teams to include more student-athletes. This would require additional coaches. ● Because not all middle schools would have a C team, filling a C team schedule could be difficult, resulting in fewer games. ● Adding C team games will result in later game nights for athletes due to an extra game being played that night. ● Additional teams would require an increased budget to cover additional staffing, equipment and officials. ● Performance groups that require a tryout will end up cutting more students through the tryout process.
Building/classroom capacity	Additional portable classrooms to accommodate students and staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Campuses would need to add portable classrooms to accommodate students, resulting in additional expenses to relocate and/or purchase portable buildings. ● The capacity of portable classrooms is less than traditional classrooms (23.5 students) and cannot hold a minimum middle school class load of 27–30 students. ● Portable classrooms might need to be converted for specific courses, such as science classes or electives. ● When converting a classroom or portable for the purpose of a science lab, safety and appropriate lab space for experiments must be considered.

This chart was created through collaboration with Leander ISD area superintendents and campus principals. This detailed list may not include all impacts of schools with enrollments exceeding functional capacity.

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Fine Arts	More students in programs that require the use of large spaces (gyms) to accommodate their large class sizes, such as dance, band, choir and cheerleading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campuses may need to adjust master schedules to ensure adequate space is available to these specific programs. • Designing master schedules to accommodate facility usage could impact the ability to build collaborative PLC time for teachers to plan with their colleagues.
Lunch Periods	Additional lunch periods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campuses will need to run more than three lunch periods, which could result in mixed-grade lunches such as 6th-grade students eating lunch with 8th-grade students. Students are currently separated by grade level for lunches. • More than three lunches could impact the ability to design a master schedule that supports academic teaming in middle school. • Additional lunch periods require administrative supervision.
Safety	Adjustment of current campus processes to maintain safety for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campuses may need to adjust traffic patterns for drop off/pick up and update safety protocols to accommodate additional students and staff. • As the campus numbers continue to grow, so does the challenge of having a safe and efficient process for parent pick up/drop off. • Start and end times of the school day may need to be adjusted to allow for the creation of a three-tiered bus system. This would address increased traffic congestion, especially when in close proximity to a high school campus.
Staffing	Staffing adjustment to align with Leander ISD middle school staffing guidelines when exceeding designated enrollment numbers to provide additional staff for student safety and operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment of 1,500 students would require an additional assistant principal, counselor and clerical staff member to remain within staffing guidelines, resulting in approximately an additional \$150,000 per middle school campus with an enrollment of 1,500 students. • Additional staff may be required for increased enrollment in athletics, fine arts and CTE programs.

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