



Ashland Independent School District

"A standard for excellence in Kentucky and the nation"

TOP 10 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why is the district considering a Preschool/Kindergarten Center?
 - Per 702 KAR 4:180 the district is required to develop a facilities plan every 4 years. In 2002, the district embarked on a long range facilities plan that would better meet the needs of students and ensure success throughout the district. The plan included:
 - ✓ Per KDE's recommendation, close 1 elementary school (Hatcher)
 - ✓ House 6th, 7th, 8th grade students in one building
 - ✓ Create a Pre-K/K Center at Crabbe Elementary
 - ✓ Move District Central Office due to building conditions (Hatcher)
2. What are the benefits of a Preschool/Kindergarten Center?
 - Consistent structural routine and focus on needs of early education and academics
 - Consistent developmentally appropriate instructional practices with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy
 - Ashland Independent offers free preschool for all 4yr olds in the community, with the combined center it will provide a seamless transition from preschool to kindergarten
3. Why was Crabbe Elementary chosen?
 - Currently, Crabbe has two - 4yr old preschool classes with a compliant playground on site
 - The facility is equipped to house both preschool and kindergarten classes
 - The location of Crabbe as a downtown school, is an ideal location for a site to serve the entire District
4. What is the cost?
 - Estimated cost to the district approximately \$20,000
 - Age appropriate fixtures and increased transportation expense
5. What is the make-up of the Preschool/Kindergarten Center?
 - Currently, the District estimates a minimum of eleven (11) Kindergarten classes and eight (8) 4yr old Preschool classes with room to grow at the Crabbe location.
6. How is the District going to address Transportation needs/Parent Drop-Off/Pick-Up with students attending multiple locations?
 - Staggered Start/End times across the District
 - A Drop-Off/Pick Up Plan will be announced and made available prior to start of school.
 - A bus schedule will be provided prior to the start of school.

7. How will this impact co-curricular/extra-curricular activities across the District?
 - All current offerings remain the same, but will be expanded to accommodate additional students.
 - Transportation for school related extracurricular activities will be provided, if necessary.
8. Will my child receive the same support and services they are currently receiving at Crabbe Elementary? (i.e. interventions, special education, therapy, social services)
 - All the services currently available to Crabbe students are being provided throughout the District, including Free Breakfast/Lunch.
9. Will my child be safe?
 - The district currently has students attending Crabbe who are safe.
 - School Resource Officers are utilized districtwide.
 - The District intends to take additional measures to install playground fencing.
10. What will be the name of the Preschool/Kindergarten Center?
 - This is a Board of Education decision.

QUESTIONS ASKED ONLINE

Will a playground be fenced in for these students?

- *Yes*

Since Crabbe is an older, two story building, will there be any fire code violations into having it house preschool-kindergarten students?

- *No. Fire Marshall has looked at this and states this is not an issue.*

What ramification will this have on the school property taxes?

- *None*

How will this change benefit my child?

- *Successful coordination between pre-school and kindergarten helps to lay the groundwork for a child's positive P-20 school experiences. By aligning standards and implementing developmentally appropriate instructional practices between preschool and kindergarten, students will experience a seamless pathway that sets the stage for future success. This collaboration establishes a clear focus on literacy (reading and writing), numeracy, science and learning through discovery and intentional play throughout the entire building.*

Why do this? We bought our house in the school district we wanted our children to go to grade school in. If this happens, my child will go to private school. Not for this.

- *Parents have school choice regarding their child's education; Students would attend the school within the boundary in which they live for grades 1-5.*

What will become of the old Head Start building at HATCHER?

- *Will continue to house 3 year old Preschool/Head Start as well as District Central Office. Possible other uses could be District Daycare.*

Why was the proposition for the pre-k/kindergarten consolidation not put on the ballot for the people of Ashland to vote on? Also what benefits does the consolidation have for my children? All we keep hearing about is money.

- *This is not a ballot item for the citizens of Ashland to decide on but rather a decision to be made by the Ashland Independent School District Board of Education members who are elected by the citizens of Ashland.*

Will the K teachers be current experienced K teachers?

- *That is the expectation*

Why is there such a rush to implement this next school year without looking into it more? The cost, the building, the location and most of all the effect it will have on the children and families. It is not in the best interest of Crabbe children!!!!

- *Ultimately this is a Board Decision but this is something that has been extensively researched internally over the last 20 years with multiple discussions with school and district level stakeholders.*

What happened to the idea of having preschool classrooms in each building so the children can be at their home schools?

- *There has not been much, if any, discussion of this especially with the expansion of our pre-school program over the past few years. Lack of available space in a few of our buildings as well as the cost to meet preschool requirements do not make this a feasible option.*

Why is it necessary for the schools to change for the kindergarteners?

- *A preschool kindergarten center will match the needs of the young child's brain. Brain development is highest during the first five years of life. In addition, structure and routine is vital to the young child's brain development.*

How do I schedule pickup for kindergarten child and elementary child at different schools?

- *Staggered start/end times for this school along with our Elementary, Middle, and High Schools*

How will this change effect preschoolers and kindergarteners with special needs/disabilities and Autism?

- *All students with disabilities will continue receiving the full continuum of services they currently do. Decisions for individual children will be made based on THAT child's needs during the IEP process.*

Is it true that Charles Russell is getting 50 Crabbe kids and the rest going to Oakview, with Hager and Poage getting zero?

- *No; all 4 schools would be receiving students from Crabbe as part of redrawing Crabbe's attendance zone.*

Why can we not move the school Board out of the preschool and keep the preschool where it is?

- *LPC decision that previously closed Hatcher and relocated Central Office to this facility along with Pre-school. It would cost the district quite a bit more cost to move the District offices to a different location compared to the proposed move.*

If there is a new K school being created, shouldn't that school have the right to choose it's administrator, like every other school in the state of Kentucky does? This could be a great place for our students starting their education IF there is a principal that has a track record of primary experience that understands the needs of that client base.

- *Per discussion with the state's SBDM consultant, the superintendent hires the principal for a new school.*

How much longer will the average child in the district be on the school bus during the day?

- *Possibly additional 10-15 minutes maximum*

Will the younger children be required to catch their bus earlier than the high school students? Who will be taken home first/last?

- *Start/End times for PS/K Early Center would have them starting and ending earlier than our current elementary, middle, and high schools.*

Choosing the only two story building in the district seems like a blatant safety hazard that I haven't seen addressed. As well as the fact that almost every classroom on the first floor has doors that lead directly outside, and if what info that is going around is accurate, Super Attendant Howard was completely unaware of this. This entire plan seems to not care about the well-being of the students who will lose their school as well as the younger children coming there.

- *Fire Marshall has looked at this and states this is not an issue. Currently, we have other elementary schools whose classrooms open to the outside and this has not been an issue for those students currently and previously attending Crabbe.*

How is the preschool center going to help our kindergarten students prepare for 1st grade? Seems like a lot of transitions between preschool and first grade

- *A child's early education lays the foundation for all that is to come. Researchers have learned that the brain develops the vast majority of neurons and is most receptive to learning between birth to 5.*

Crabbe seems best able to address lower income children at this school for the neighborhood. How will it be decided where the current Crabbe students will attend 1st-5th grades

- *District boundaries will be redrawn to incorporate the Crabbe attendance zone. All of our schools are well equipped to assist low income families as they do so every day within every classroom.*

How is this going to be better for my elementary aged child? No one has answered this question to date.

- *Better early childhood learning experience will provide better preparedness for elementary grades.*

How will this effect class size at the other elementary schools and how will this be addressed?

- *Only Oakview and Crabbe would see increased enrollments based on the resulting district restructure. Average class size will change very little than what it currently is (will vary more by building depending on that grade level enrollment vs how many teachers per grade)*

Will there be redistricting for all elementary schools? Will students not in our district be sent back to their home district?

- *Very limited redistricting will occur and no current students will be asked to return to their home school. Current out-of-district students will continue to be welcomed at all of our schools based upon available space.*

Why not move the Early Learning Academy to Hatcher since it is a newer facility? This keeps all schools about the same age and same look. More parking, etc. What will you do when children are ill and the parent doesn't have transportation to this school?

- *The Local Planning Committee chose the former Hatcher Elementary building as the location for Central Offices based on size in comparison to other facilities. The Family Resource/Youth Service Centers will continue to work with families across the district to meet individual needs including local transportation to school.*

Why are we the only school locally making this change? I haven't heard of any other schools combining Head Start and kindergarteners together.

- *Regionally we have not seen this done but there are other districts in the state who use this model.*

Has the board decided if they will combine all the kindergarten classes to Crabbe?

- *No Board Decision has occurred. Public Forum is the first step in the process for the Board.*