

Student Assignment FAQ

DBMS/IDMS

What will go on with the special education program/classrooms? How would this effect those students with the transition?

Expectation is the transition would occur similar to the transition that occurs with the ending of one school year and the beginning of a new school year. There is always potential for staff changes with a new year and support will be provided as needed during the transition.

After listening to the plan for IDMS/DBMS, how will this plan benefit students? The travel distance is the same (as indicated during Monday's public forum). Though staffing costs and transportation costs would decrease, there was no mention of how this merge would directly positively impact students

More learning opportunities will be provided for Ireland Drive MS students. The Ireland Drive MS facility is small for a middle school and does not have some standard program space normally found in a middle school. Combining with Douglas Byrd MS will provide additional program space, provide flexibility to meet more of the needs of students, and improve the learning environment.

When will a decision be finalized? As a teacher, I would like to plan ahead on where I want to work in the fall in case I don't have a position at IDMS.

Decision would be made at either the March or April board meeting.

Lillian Black Plan A

What will the average class size be?

Average class size is not expected to significantly change higher or lower. Teacher allotments are earned by number of students. The allotment formula is the same for both schools.

Will the 5th graders at W.T. Brown that transferred from Lillian Black continue to Pine Forest Middle just as the 5th Graders from W.T. Brown?

Middle school assignments will remain the same as currently aligned for the neighborhoods included in this option.

Most individuals in Spring Lake do not have personal transportation and there is not public transportation available in Spring Lake. What choices for schools will parents in this community truly have?

The district school choice program is currently under review. We recognize that transportation limits access for families and are considering what can be done as we enhance the program.

How long will the bus routes be (in minutes, how early will students have to wake up for the bus, etc)?

Bus route times are expected to be similar to current times for this option.

What is the timeline for this school closing? Will it happen this year?

All options would start with the 2022-2023 school year.

Student Assignment FAQ

Will the community have a say in this matter or is this official?

The district is conducting community meetings in each potential reassignment area and providing access to feedback on the website. The community is asked to provide feedback via the website. The feedback will be shared with the Board of Education to help inform them for a decision.

I am not understanding why Manchester is being left open in this reassignment. WT Brown is within walking distance for many of our students and families, but yet you are only going to take a portion of our students, who notably are in a higher income area... and leave Manchester open. So you are going to strip away resources and money when we are probably one of the poorest schools in the county.

The option that includes reassignment of Manchester students is addressing an area that is currently surrounded by Lillian Black assigned areas and if Lillian Black is reassigned to W. T. Brown then the same area will again be surrounded by W.T. Brown assigned students. W.T. Brown does not have sufficient capacity to hold current W. T. Brown students, Lillian Black students, and Manchester students. The current students at W. T. Brown would have to be reassigned to free up space. Unfortunately, there is not sufficient capacity near these students to provide an opportunity to reassign them.

Lillian Black Plan B

The only right thing to do would be to merge Manchester and Lillian Black at WT Brown. This would unite the community and all of the resources can be joined together in one school. Spring Lake deserves more support and attention, not just when test scores come out.

See previous response about Manchester and available capacity.

I think that all students at Manchester should go to WT Brown. All students should be privy to 21st century education. The 270+ kids being left back at Manchester will be left behind and still will have the same education. Is there anything that Manchester will receive as far as resources for students not moving to the bigger better school?

The district is reviewing current school-level funding to address higher needs across the district.

Through funding for CCS' Extended Learning Initiative, the focus is to provide small group support through enrichment for K-5th grade students who are displaying difficulties in ELA and Math. The plan is to equip Manchester with additional support staff to serve in classrooms and provide tailored support.

*Manchester Elementary is also being provided after-school enrichment support through a non-profit community partnership through the **21st Century Grant Funded: After School Learning Center**. The purpose of this center is to provide tutoring, mentorship, homework help, and innovative learning activities. This is to better support families who need additional support in the evenings from 3-6 PM. This program currently will also be available in the summer.*

Lillian Black Plan C

This doesn't make sense. Why not just merge Lillian Black and Manchester at WT Brown and allow TC Berrien to disperse throughout Fayetteville.

See previous response about Manchester and available capacity.

Student Assignment FAQ

Questions asked during WTB meeting

Why has it gotten to this point if the building has gotten to such bad shape?

There is over \$500 M in facilities needs identified in the district. This is not just a local, or state issue. Insufficient investment in K-12 infrastructure is a national issue. Lillian Black is in the top 5 with a tight cluster of schools in the top 10-15

How do you plan to not let COVID-19 spread in schools with larger numbers of students? What is the protocol? What will be done adding more students to one space?

The classrooms in W. T. Brown are consistently 100 to 200 SF bigger than Lillian Black. The common areas that classrooms transition between such as multipurpose, media, etc. are larger in W. T. Brown than Lillian Black.

What were the key factors in putting Lillian Black so high on the list?

There are significant deficiencies and systems exceeding life expectancy in every category. Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, Roofing, Equipment, Site improvements, Finishes, etc.

There is mention of better programs & resources. What makes them better? Be specific.

The facility space provides the ability and flexibility to better serve a wide differentiation of students needs. The classrooms in W. T. Brown are consistently 100 to 200 SF bigger than Lillian Black. The common areas that classrooms transition between such as multipurpose, media, etc. are larger in W. T. Brown than Lillian Black. Lillian Black has very small or does not have rooms built to provide a multipurpose room, an EC self-contained classroom, pre-K, additional resource classrooms and support space for staff and storage.

What is the lifespan of a school building?

Individual systems within a facility have a wide variety of years of life. Most fall in the 5, 10, 15, and 20 year timeframe. For capital improvement planning purposes total facilities are targeted renewal at a 40 year mark. Renewal would be considered tearing down the inside to the structural levels and rearranging the floorplan to meet today's academic program needs.

If you move forward with a plan, what happens when we reach the capacity then? Split the kids up again?

A main criteria identifying target assignment areas includes evaluating any potential for significant membership changes in the future. The goal is to avoid reassignment for several years for the families included in this plan.

Will Pre-K students be included in the plans? Didn't see them included in the presentation.

Yes, capacity in facilities is set aside to continue existing Pre-K programs.

How long has this extra space been at W.T. Brown? What sparked this interest?

The utilization of space at W.T. Brown and the condition of Lillian Black has been a repetitive subject of discussion in previous years and draft assignment plans

Student Assignment FAQ

How did you arrive at the decision to close Lillian Black instead of Manchester? What is the deciding factor between the two schools if they are both declining?

A facility assessment was conducted for the entire district looking at 9 main categories and 43 different systems in the facilities to determine the condition of the system relative to the expected life of the system. Over 12,000 systems were assessed for the entire district. There is over \$500 M in facilities needs identified in the district. Lillian Black is in the top 5 with a tight cluster of schools in the top 10-15. Manchester is in the middle of the pack of all the schools. This is based on two approaches. One is only the facility condition. The second also provides weighting to the priority system by including status of academic performance and facility utilization.

Do you all plan to continue using Lillian Black?

The district will evaluate the academic and support needs of the district for a potential future use of Lillian Black.