



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Goose Creek CISD to restrict enrollment at Walker Elementary

Citing concerns about overcrowding, the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees on Monday, May 24 voted to restrict some new student enrollment at Victoria Walker Elementary School, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year and subsequent school years.

The restriction does not affect existing students, pre-kindergarten or kindergarten students in the current Walker school zone.

Furthermore, siblings of students enrolled at Walker will be allowed to join their brothers and sisters at the school.

Simply put, the restriction bars all new enrollment for 2010-2011 of first-through fifth-graders who do not live in the Eastpoint subdivision. Those students will be assigned to another school.

Here's the challenge: When Victoria Walker Elementary School opened its doors at 4711 Seabird for the 2007-2008 school year, the building was designed for 850 students.

The current enrollment at Walker is 1,024, and the projection for the fall of 2010 is 1,049.

The area north of Interstate 10 has seen explosive growth in home-building. The addition of several subdivisions surrounding Walker Elementary School has exceeded student enrollment projections by the demographer hired by the district.

After an assessment of the school, Goose Creek CISD employees have determined that the infrastructure will accommodate approximately 1,050 students — that includes the addition of five double-wide portable buildings.

"We have an immediate challenge, and it has to be solved," said Goose Creek CISD Superintendent Dr. Toby York. "We want to make the transition as painless as possible for our families."

"These adjustments will give us some relief until plans can be made for a new elementary school," York said. "Our issue now is how we can make the best of this situation."

Elementary schools with 1,000 students are uncommon in Goose Creek CISD. After Walker, elementary schools with the highest enrollments are Travis (935), Carver (879), and Austin (874).

Goose Creek CISD administrators have determined that continuing to enroll students at Walker Elementary or the 2010-2011 school year may cause safety concerns. Therefore, the following adjustments were also made for next school year:

- Enroll all pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students as well as walk-zone students (Eastpoint subdivision) only.
- Enroll siblings of newly enrolled pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.
- Continue to provide GATE and special education services.
- Bilingual students will remain at Highlands/Hopper or Crockett upon exiting the program.

All other newly enrolled students will attend another elementary school in Goose Creek CISD as determined by home address. The plan creates three new attendance areas where students will attend Highlands, Crockett or Alamo elementary schools.

These adjustments will help alleviate high enrollment at Victoria Walker Elementary.

With an additional assistant principal and other support staff, Walker Principal Suzanne Keith believes that this plan will accommodate her concerns for safety, security, and instruction.

Keith wants to make sure that parents realize that the decisions were made in the best interests of students.

"If we turn students away, it is not because we don't want them, but because we want to keep our numbers reasonable," she said.

Despite the crowding problem, Keith is confident that she can maintain the school's excellent reputation.

"We're a wonderful school, we'll manage," said Keith.

"The teachers and children are doing very well because our teachers worked so hard at making their environment welcoming and child-friendly," she said. "Our teachers can rise to the occasion and do what they need to do for the benefit of the kids."

If you have any questions about the Walker Elementary adjustments, please call the Student Services office at 281-420-4861.

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