

## Redistricting Questions & Answers Regarding the Transition of the International School at Rogers Magnet to the Environmental Interdistrict Magnet School

A Presentation of Redistricting Scenarios by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua Starr will take place at the Tuesday, August 26, 2008 Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., 888 Washington Boulevard, 5<sup>th</sup> floor.

In July 2008, the Stamford Board of Education voted to transition the International School at Rogers Magnet to the new Environmental Interdistrict Magnet School (EMS), scheduled to open in the Cove area in September 2009. Under this plan, Rogers' current facility on Lockwood Avenue would no longer be used as a K-5 school. The following Questions and Answer sheet has been prepared to address inquiries about the transition process:

1. When will the Environmental Interdistrict Magnet School enroll its first students and will all current Rogers students be able to move into the EMS building?

Pursuant to State approval, the Environmental Interdistrict Magnet School will open grades K-1 in September 2009. While the interdistrict school is phased in, current Rogers students in who are enrolled in grades 2 – 5 during 2008-2009 will relocate to the new EMS building. Rogers students who will enter grade 1 in 2009 must live in the Rogers attendance zone in order to be given preference status in the lottery drawing for the new interdistrict school. At this time, it has not been determined if there will be room in the new EMS building for lottery students enrolled in kindergarten at Rogers during 2008-2009.

2. Will all students who are currently eligible to attend Rogers be able to attend the new EMS?

Pursuant to State approval and Board of Education approval of the redistricting plan, all students in the current Rogers attendance zone will be awarded preference status in the lottery for the EMS. If fewer students are recruited from out-of-district than are needed to maintain the school's required 70% in-district / 30% out-of-district population, it is possible that some students in the Rogers district will not be admitted to the EMS through the lottery. In that case, those students will be assigned to their district school (to be assigned through the redistricting process).

3. What is involved in the approval process?

The Operations Plan must first be approved by Stamford's partner districts, which must confirm their interest in sending students from their communities to this interdistrict school. The Board of Education must revise and resubmit the Operations Plan to the Bureau of Choice Programs Office at the State of Connecticut to obtain approval.

4. Could the Rogers attendance zone change as part of redistricting?

The Board of Education has directed the Superintendent to prepare redistricting options that keep the current Rogers attendance zone intact. Therefore, no redistricting options will alter the Rogers attendance zone.

5. Will the EMS program serve students in grades K-8 from 6 AM to 6 PM?

Pursuant to State approval, the EMS will serve students in grades K-8, with before and after school opportunities from 6 AM to 6 PM. The opportunity for Rogers students enrolled in grades 2-5 during 2008-2009 to participate in those before and after school EMS programs during the 2009-2010 school year will depend upon the availability of State and outside funding.

6. What is the role of the teachers' union in this proposal?

The Superintendent will work with the Stamford Education Association to address issues related to the transition of staff from Rogers to the new EMS building.

7. How does this plan impact students living in the Cove area?

As part of Stamford's district wide redistricting plan, some students in the Cove area who live outside of the Rogers attendance zone will likely be redistricted to other schools in order to meet balance and capacity criteria determined by the Board of Education. As part of the overall redistricting process, some students from throughout Stamford, not just from the Cove area, will be redistricted to new schools.

8. How does this plan impact students living in the Shippan area?

Pursuant to State approval, students in the current Rogers attendance zone in Shippan will be given preference status in the lottery for the EMS (also refer to question 2).

9. Will students at the current Rogers school be able to attend middle school at the new EMS?

The Board of Education approved the Working Group's proposal to allow middle school students from Rogers to remain at the EMS through grade 8, if they so choose. It is likely that the interdistrict middle school at the EMS will not open until all current Rogers students have graduated. Therefore, State funding for these grades will not be available until 2014-2015 when an interdistrict grade 6 class can be enrolled.

11. Will the International Baccalaureate (IB) program still be offered at Rippowam Middle School, in light of the Board's decision to offer grades 6-8 at the EMS?

Yes, the IB program will be offered at Rippowam Middle School. Students from Rogers and from other schools will have the opportunity to enroll in this middle school IB program.