



District Restructuring Options



Responsibility of District Leadership

- Consistent Audit of District Operations and Programming
 - Appropriate Student Services
 - Appropriate Use of Resources
 - Best Outcome for All

Essential Questions Related to Pleasant Valley

What are the benefits and/or concerns connected to reorganizing Pleasant Valley Elementary?

Beacon Autism Center

- Beacon Autism Center is operated by the Beacon consortium which is made up of 13 local school districts.
- BAC rents Carthage facilities for the general operational costs.
- Beacon invoices each district for their share of the resources.
- Current facility is at capacity and meets the minimum space resources to conduct the program.

Beacon Autism Center (BAC) - Is It Really Needed?

- Beacon Autism Center has a waiting list nearly double its current capacity.
- The high needs State School in Joplin is closing at the end of the year and will likely increase the waiting list.
- Current facility is at capacity and meets the minimum space requirements for the program.
- Very limited outdoor space and no large room activity space.

BAC - Why Pleasant Valley?

- Pleasant Valley is already a school. Changes would require minimal cost.
- Pleasant Valley continues to decrease in K-3 student population.
- BAC serves area school districts, making the outside of town location ideal.
- Pleasant Valley is small, but big enough to allow for program growth.

BAC - Where Are We Now?

- The Beacon board has not voted on the expansion. However, in preliminary meetings, the board expressed excitement about moving forward.
- If the program moved to the Pleasant Valley campus, the campus will continue to be referred to as Pleasant Valley.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: Will Pleasant Valley still be part of the Carthage School District?
 - A: *Yes. Pleasant Valley will continue to be owned and maintained by the Carthage School District.*
- Q: What if the district needs PV to function as an elementary school again in the future?
 - A: *If there are needs in the future, Carthage retains the right to use Pleasant Valley as needed.*

Frequently Asked Questions - Faculty and Staff

- **Q: What's going to happen to Pleasant Valley faculty and staff?**
 - All faculty and staff will retain their employment with Carthage School if a change is made.

Frequently Asked Questions - Students

- **Q: Where will Pleasant Valley Students go? And is there room there?**
 - Current student enrollment at Pleasant for the 2026-2027 school year is projected to 68 students. Subtracting boundary transfers, that number is around 59.
 - PV students will attend Steadley Elementary - space exists.

PV Student Population

- Current estimates for the 2026-27 School Year.

Grade	Resident	Boundary Transfer	Total
K	11	0	11
1	23	2	25
2	11	4	15
3	14	3	17
Total	59	9	68

Frequently Asked Questions - Class Sizes

- **Q: But won't moving students into Steadley increase class sizes?**
 - Actually, class sizes is one of the arguments for change.
 - PV as a single grade level creates equity issues with class sizes across the district.
 - PV classes may have higher numbers of students than the rest of the district due to not having another classroom to share the load.
 - Other times, PV may have far lower numbers of students than other classes across the district

Frequently Asked Questions - Preschool

- Q: There are 5 preschool classes at currently at PV. What's happening with those classes if a move takes place?
 - A: Most of these students do not reside in the PV boundaries. Parents have requested a more central location and the ability to choose a $\frac{1}{2}$ day option.
 - Three full-day classes will be moved to Steadley Elementary; two half-day classes will be at Mark Twain.
 - Both buildings can accommodate these additions.

Frequently Asked Questions - Transportation

- Q: How will this impact transportation services?
 - A: K-3 students in the PV boundary will experience approximately 8 extra minutes on their daily bus ride to and from school.
 - 4-12 grade students should not experience much change.
 - Transportation routes will possibly improve with one less elementary hub.



Teacher Collaboration

- As a Professional Learning Community school district, the collaboration of grade level teachers is highly valued.
- PV teachers have not been able to access this collaborative benefit to learn and share with other grade level teachers.



Traveling Staff

- Specials teachers, counselor, special education teacher, all speech pathologist travel to PV daily to provide supports.
- There will still be some traveling by some positions, but the amount will decrease drastically.

Are there other areas in the district that could be used to expand the Autism Center?

- This is the only space in the district that could be expanded without major expense in renovation.
- There will be little work done to utilize Pleasant Valley as an Autism School. The district will not support large scale modification.

In Conclusion,

Are there tangible benefits for reorganizing Pleasant Valley Elementary to provide a location for the area Beacon Autism Center at Pleasant Valley?

- Steadley is a great school for PV students and has the room.
- Good stewardship of resources.
- Benefits for transportation, class size equity, teacher collaboration.
- Explanation of Beacon Autism Program to a real school.