



West Point Independent School District

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

About Merger with Hardin County School District

If funds are available to operate for another school year why is the school board discussing merger this year and not next year?

After the Kentucky Department of Education completed a management audit at West Point last July the commissioner recommended to the state board of education that West Point be placed under state management due to several deficiencies. In effect, he wanted to close the school immediately. The school board chose to fight this recommendation at that time and hired an attorney to advise them. Legal fees are costly and continuing this lawsuit would use up a large portion of the funds that are available in reserve. While nearly all of the deficiencies outlined in the audit have been corrected, the one finding that has not changed is the financial outlook for West Point. Despite new administration and a new state board of education the recommendation for state management still stands. With no change in the financial picture of the district, the chances of a positive outcome are extremely small. The school board will be discussing negotiating with Hardin County to advocate for what is best for our students and staff rather than those decisions being placed with the Kentucky Department of Education.

Where will students attend school if WPS merges with Hardin County Schools?

That will be up to the Hardin County Board of Education but the WPS Board of Education will request that WPS students attend Vine Grove Elementary, James T. Alton Middle School and North Hardin High School. All three of these schools are “3-Star Schools” (out of possible 5 Stars) according to the rating by the Kentucky Department of Education.

When would a proposed merger take place?

The likely date would be July 1, 2020 with students beginning in their new schools in August.

Will students have access to daily healthcare?

All Hardin County Schools have a nurse or nurse practitioner on site.

What will happen to the West Point School building?

The building and all contents will become the property of Hardin County Schools but many of the teaching materials and Chromebooks would follow our students to their prospective schools.

Will high school students currently enrolled in Elizabethtown High School be allowed to continue there?

Yes, as long as they can provide their own transportation. Currently Hardin County has agreements in place with Elizabethtown Independent and Meade County. Students would have to be approved by both superintendents to attend high schools outside of their attendance zones. Hardin County and Elizabethtown Independent both have a 200 student cap on the number of students who can attend these schools. If more than 200 apply, a draw determines who attends. Any student not selected would have to pay tuition.

Will the West Point community have access to the Summer Feeding Program?

That will be up to the Hardin County Board of Education but the WPS Board of Education will request that location(s) be identified that are accessible to families in West Point.

Where would students attend Preschool?

North Park Elementary houses preschool and kindergarten classes for all of the possible elementary schools that West Point students could attend if a merger takes place. West Point preschool students would attend North Park if they qualify. All day and half-day options are both available depending on the child's needs. Any child who qualifies may attend. Qualification for preschool depends on income limitations and/or an identified learning disability/speech delay. There is not a limit to the number of spots available.

Will this change my taxes?

The current tax rate levied by the Hardin County Board of Education is 63.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. West Point's current tax rate is \$1.07 per \$100 of assessed value.