

October 24, 2005

K-8 Exploration Update from McKell Withers, Superintendent

I would like to thank everyone for the honest and focused investigation and discussions relative to the consideration of having K-8 schools as a choice for our students and families. We have one goal and one purpose: Student Learning ([Student Achievement Plan](#)). There are several Salt Lake City School District elementary schools currently exploring the K-8 school concept. A website has been designed to help school level teams investigate and study K-8 models, inform the public about this exploration, and to provide updates that may be helpful for all concerned (<http://www.slc.k12.ut.us/schools/k8/>). The following points are provided to keep everyone up-to-date.

- **No decision has been made about any schools adopting the K-8 model:** Communities are being asked to research, discuss, and prepare a school team recommendation for the Board of Education. At this time, Clayton and Hillside middle schools are still scheduled to be re-built.
- **Hillside and its feeder schools:** School teams are well under way in their community discussions regarding K-8 schools. School teams have been meeting, researching, and discussing their findings. School teams will be preparing to write their recommendations for the Board of Education concerning whether or not they feel that the K-8 option might work for their school communities.
- **Clayton and its feeder schools:** School teams are entering the active phase of their discussions. As school teams are formed, faculties are receiving initial presentations and community meetings will be scheduled over the next several weeks. These teams will write their recommendations for the Board of Education by the end of January 2006.
- **School Recommendations:** If a current K-6 elementary school recommends becoming a K-8 school in the future and if the Board of Education approves this option, a time line would be established to develop the model, make any renovations necessary, and transition the students. *The earliest date that 6th graders could possibly stay in their neighborhood school would be the fall of 2007.*
- **Current Rebuilding Plans:** If the creation of any K-8 school requires a review of the current rebuilding plans for Hillside and/or Clayton, a public process will be used to study and recommend viable alternatives for the Board of Education to consider.

While this current exploration is only focused on the consideration of having one or more K-8 schools in the District, we welcome thoughtful suggestions and alternatives to enhance our services at any level.