

**1. What is whole grade sharing?**

- Whole grade sharing is the process of sharing students with another school district.

**2. What causes schools to look at whole grade sharing?**

- Many school districts send specific grade levels (such as HS students) to another district to reduce financial costs or to provide additional academic opportunities.

**3. Why did Collins-Maxwell explore whole grade sharing with Baxter?**

- Collins-Maxwell is NOT in financial distress or struggling. CM and Baxter began whole grade sharing talks to see if there would be benefits for our students - such as more academic offerings, a unified student body with strong school spirit, etc. Yes, Baxter did have some personnel and budget cuts in the 2012-2013 school year.
- Initially, there was some concern that the state would pass new laws and regulations that would require districts to be at a larger number of students. Rumors were that districts would need to have at least 700 students to be considered viable by the state. If Collins-Maxwell and Baxter shared students, the districts would have over 900 students combined.
- At this time, there is no state law or regulation requiring districts to be a certain size in student enrollment.

**4. How do schools determine which school to whole grade share with?**

- There is no set process for determining with which school district to whole grade share students. There are resources by the Department of Education and the Iowa Association of School Boards that help determine a process. If we were to share with a district, we would need to make sure it is a good partner for us, academically, financially, and geographically.

**5. Does Collins-Maxwell need to whole grade share today?**

- Financially, NO.
- To meet state curriculum requirements, NO.

**6. Where does the Collins-Maxwell board stand on this?**

- The board, collectively, has agreed to look at data prepared by the administration about the benefits and costs associated with whole grade sharing. So far, the board has looked at potential additional academic offerings and transportation costs. There are many steps before a decision can be reached. The board has not agreed to take any further step at this point.

**7. What are the board's priorities for the 2014-15 school year?**

- First, the board is committed to quality facilities for its students. It is currently reviewing needs assessments to improve the middle school-high school building in Maxwell. They want to make sure improvements are made.
- The board has not listed all of its goals or priorities for the new school year yet.

**8. There are two gyms in Baxter, so isn't it a given that the high school will be in Baxter?**

- No, it is not a given. It is not required that a high school have two full-purpose gyms.

**9. Will we lose open enrolled in students who may not want the extra travel to school in Baxter?**

- It is possible that could occur. There is no way of knowing without surveying them.
- It is also possible that resident students may open enroll out of the district to a closer school than attend Baxter.

**10. If we don't whole grade share or combine with another district, will the state eventually come in and slice up our district and send students to Nevada, Ballard, Bondurant, etc.?**

- There is no guarantee of that. Right now, districts are fine to be any size they want as long as they meet financial and curriculum requirements. Collins-Maxwell does meet both sets of requirements right now.

**11. When would whole grade sharing with Baxter start?**

- No time line has been set, nor has any direction been set. Currently, the board is just gaining and reviewing information about whole grade sharing.

**12. How will I be informed if and when the board will make a final decision on whole grade sharing?**

- The board will make sure it is clearly stated on the board agenda, which are posted in both towns as well as the schools. Further, we will continue to share out information via the district newsletter, email to parents via our student information system, and to the communities through the town's digital signs. If a decision were being considered, we would also look at special district mailings to make sure information is timely and accurate.