

Responses to SFPS FAQ's

Is Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS) closing the Turquoise Trail Charter School?

- The Board is not closing the Charter in three years. The Board does not have the authority to close the Charter.
 - This is True

Is SFPS evicting the Turquoise Trail Charter School?

- The Board is not evicting the Charter; The Charter has a lease with the District which includes terms and conditions; this lease expires in June of 2021.
 - As previously stated, the lease was created in 2009 as a result of a legislative change, which allowed charter schools to receive a lease allocation which it could then pay to the district. TTCS has received ~\$320,000.00 per year since 2009, all of which has been paid to SFPS. There was never any intention that the lease would serve to determine whether the school could remain in the facility – this is obvious, as TTCS had been serving students at the facility for more than 15 years prior to the lease.

Why did SFPS decide to not renew the Turquoise Trail Charter School lease?

- The decision to not renew the Charter lease stems from the need to use our facility, which is currently occupied by the Charter, to address increasing enrollment on the southside of the District, as well as continued and projected growth and housing development near the Amy Biehl Community School.
 - As previously stated almost all of the students at TTCS live within the SFPS district boundaries. If the students at TTCS were not at TTCS, they would have to be enrolled at Amy Biehl, Pinon, or another one of the southside district schools. This would make the overcrowding situation significantly worse.

What has caused the overcrowding at Amy Biehl Community School?

- The overcrowding at Amy Biehl is due, in part, to the fact that well over 150 Santa Fe Public School students currently living in the Charter area are burdened with being transported out of their neighborhood to the Amy Biehl Community School because they either were not accepted in the Charter lottery or chose not to attend the Charter.
 - As stated in the previous response nearly all of the 500 students at TTCS are SFPS students. Displacing 500 students because 150 are not able to enroll at TTCS will not help this situation. We do recognize that there is a

burden for students living in the TTCS community that are unable to attend because of the lottery requirements. This is the reason that TTCS has reached out to SFPS superintendents and Board Members several times over the last 15 years to discuss a collaborative solution. Unfortunately we have not received responses to any of our numerous requests.

What impact has the overcrowding at Amy Biehl had on the students and families?

- To remedy the overcrowding at Amy Biehl Community School, the Board recently created a secondary boundary for Amy Biehl students and capped enrollment at that school. We now have students, who may actually live within walking distance of the school, bussed out of their neighborhood to Pinon Elementary School.
 - No comment
- This has led the Board to direct the Superintendent to conduct a more in-depth study with the help of consultant demographers to assess the best course of action as it pertains to Amy Biehl, the south-side population, our aging schools, boundaries and possible re-zoning.
 - No Comment

Will the Turquoise Trail Charter School close if their lease is not renewed?

- The Charter is not constrained by boundaries. They will be able to continue operations in any approved facility, and because we care about all of the children and families in our community, an invitation was made to the Charter principal and governance president to be included in our facilities and boundary study currently being conducted, in hopes of helping them locate an alternative facility.
 - While we appreciate this, TTCS has been serving the Southside Santa Fe Community of Turquoise Trail at its current facility for over 20 years, and the community firmly expects that TTCS will continue to do so.

Why has the SFPS Board of Education chosen to notify Turquoise Trail Charter School now that their lease will not be renewed when it doesn't expire until June of 2021?

- The Board felt that even though the lease was not due to expire until June of 2021, we wanted to provide the Charter community ample time to work out the logistics necessary to move into an alternative facility without any disruption in the programming they provide their families.
 - No Comment

Will the current Turquoise Trail Charter School students be allowed to remain enrolled in school at the current facility once the facility is reverted back to the District?

- Current Charter students who live in the neighborhood near the facility, and would like to continue attending their neighborhood school once the facility is reverted back to the district, will be given that opportunity.
 - Based on several meetings with families and community members, as well as surveys of the TTCS community it is clear that the expectation is that the students will continue to be served at the current facility by TTCS.
- The Board also responded to the Charter request to present to the Board. They have been invited to speak at the Board meeting on February 20, 2018.
 - We appreciate this opportunity, Floyd J. Trujillo will present at this meeting.

Bottom line, we want the Charter to continue to thrive, and we wish to work with them to identify a facility that meets their needs, so they can continue to provide programming for their students and families. We hope that the Charter administration will work together with us to accomplish this in the best interest of all students, both Turquoise Trail Charter students as well as SFPS students.