



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

Wellston/Normandy Merger Frequently Asked Questions

In an attempt to be responsive to stakeholder questions, this document has been developed and will be updated as necessary to ensure widespread dissemination of information. The document will be revised regularly and made available on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website at <http://dese.mo.gov>, the Wellston website at <http://www.wellston.k12.mo.us>, and the Normandy website at <http://www.normandy.k12.mo.us>. Copies are also available upon request at both district offices or by calling Wellston at (314) 290-7900 or Normandy at (314) 493-0400.

1. What about the history of Wellston School District?

The Normandy School District board and administration are extremely sensitive to the rich history of the Wellston School District and will make every possible effort to honor this history in the future. NSD will work with community members and others to develop plans to preserve the history of accomplishment of current and former Wellston students.

2. What will happen to the Wellston School District buildings, equipment and other capital assets?

All assets will be formally transferred to the Normandy School District.

3. Will Wellston schools remain open?

Normandy School District will study all Wellston facilities considering usage in conjunction with other district buildings and student needs. NSD administration will make decisions about which Wellston schools will remain in use.

4. Will Wellston students be able to participate in NSD's co-curricular activities, including sports?

Yes. Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) bylaws provide for students who have been assigned to another district by the Commissioner to be eligible for participation in the assigned district without a waiting period. All current Wellston students will be eligible to participate in Normandy activities – including sports – effective July 1, 2010.

5. What graduation standards will apply to Wellston students?

Wellston students currently in their freshman year or later will continue to meet and graduate under Wellston requirements. Ninth-graders will begin to meet Normandy graduation standards with the 2010-11 school year.

6. If Wellston schools are closed, what NSD school will my child attend?

NSD is currently reviewing and redrawing attendance boundaries. Wellston students will be considered as part of this redistricting process. The NSD will involve all members of the community – including Wellston parents and community members – in this process.

7. What is the financial impact to the Normandy School District and its residents?

The Department will work closely with the NSD to minimize any negative impact on NSD finances. The facts are as follows:

- *The Wellston School District (WSD) has no outstanding bonds.*
- *WSD has approximately \$500,000 of outstanding tuition payments to other districts. This amount is scheduled to be repaid prior to July 1, 2010.*
- *WSD has approximately \$19 million in assessed valuation. This will be added to the assessed valuation of NSD, thereby increasing the bonding capacity of the NSD and its ability to finance future capital improvements.*
- *NSD will receive state and federal funding for all additional students.*
- *A final audit of WSD finances will be conducted and provided to the NSD.*

8. What will happen to Wellston School District student/employee records?

All student and employee records will be transferred to the NSD.

9. What will happen to Wellston employees?

All employee contracts will end on June 30, 2010. The NSD will consider the applications of Wellston employees as positions become available.

10. What will happen to the post-retirement insurance benefits of current and previous Wellston retirees?

Former WSD employees will be eligible to participate in NSD insurance programs effective July 1, 2010. There will be no change in post-retirement benefits for Wellston retirees. Retirees will continue to receive benefits from the Public School Retirement System. Additional information will be forthcoming from the NSD.

	Wellston	Normandy
Student Enrollment K-12	510	4,947
Total Budget (rounded)	\$8 million	\$66 million
Per Pupil Expenditure	\$15,490	\$11,778
Square Miles	0.94	9.69
Buildings (includes early childcare facilities)	5	11
Professional Staff	73	330
Administrators	15	20
Support Staff	49	400