

# Sumter County School District



## FAQs Kinterbish Jr. High and York West End Consolidation

### **Why is school consolidation necessary?**

Much like school districts across the nation, Sumter County Schools has and continues to experience a decline in enrollment. The primary causes of declining enrollment are decreasing birth rates, overall decline in population, and economic circumstances. The decline in student enrollment reduces the funds allocated to the system from the state and federal sources in proportion to the number of students lost. In the past 10 years, the system has lost students. Various forms of data were gathered and evaluated to make an informed decision on school consolidation. Factors and criteria included: enrollment, capacity, availability and transfer of special programs, pupil needs, physical conditions of the school facility, transportation, balance of demographics, operating costs, and district funding. To provide the best services, learning experiences, and programs for our students and staff, we need to consolidate our facilities and programs to best meet the needs of our students.

### **What will happen to teachers from Kinterbish? Will they follow the students?**

Yes. York West End and Kinterbish will become one school, one staff, and one student body. SCSS will work closely with the teachers and staff at both schools to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible. All full-time employees will transfer with the students to York West End Junior High School. Students that attended Kinterbish Junior High School will remain with their original teacher. However, for the sake of equality, there may be some students to transfer into those classes from the original YWE population.

### **Will there be a change in the bus schedule? Will students ride the same bus?**

No, there will not be a change in the bus schedule. Students will ride the same bus.

### **Will students have to purchase new uniforms?**

The district has some shirts available that will be given first come, first serve. In the event you do not receive one, students will **NOT** have to purchase new school shirts.

### **What happens to the buildings and facilities of the closed schools?**

The building will remain open to accommodate HeadStart for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

### **How does school consolidation affect the district budget and resources?**

The Board of Education wants to ensure district resources are allocated in a most beneficial way. The district aims to continue fostering high-quality academic and extracurricular programs for all students in facilities that are safe and conducive to learning. Through the process of consolidating schools, the district can right-size the number of facilities in operation to match

the overall student population and available funding. This allows the district more resources to be distributed to the remaining schools to upgrade and maintain facilities. Funds will be strategically allocated to ensure robust programs remain available at all sites to provide quality services to students.

**How will the district keep the parent community informed?**

The district will share additional information as it is available. Please look for regular updates via the school and district websites, social media, and schedule board meetings.