

# Iowa School Redistricting FAQ

## What is redistricting and is it required?

Redistricting is the process of redrawing electoral districts to equalize population between districts and is required by Iowa law following each decennial Census. If existing school director districts meet the standards in Code and the 2020 population between director districts is still within the required parameters, existing districts can remain in place - though do still need to be recertified by the Iowa Secretary of State (SOS). The SOS will reject any director district plan with a greater than 1.1% overall population deviation between districts.

## What is required in school redistricting?

[Iowa Code 275.23a](#) details the standards to follow in school redistricting. To summarize:

- Director districts must follow Census geography and use decennial Census population
- Director districts must be nearly equal as practicable to the ideal population (total district population divided by number of director districts = ideal population)
- Director districts must follow precinct boundaries whenever possible
- Director districts must not divide a city unless the population of the city is greater than the ideal size of a director district
- Director districts must be contiguous and compact in form
- No consideration shall be given to the address of incumbent officeholders, political affiliations of registered voters, previous election results, or any demographic information other than population headcounts
- A map/GIS file representing the redrawn director districts; a written description of the director districts; and certified total 2020 populations of each director district is required to complete reporting of approved districts with the SOS