



Kentucky Department of Education  
300 Sower Blvd  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear KDE Representatives,

The Estill County School Board hereby certifies in writing that all reasonable sites within the approvable area for the construction of our new middle school have been thoroughly reviewed. After careful consideration, the local board has decided not to pursue acquisition or use of the alternative sites evaluated. Below is a list of the sites reviewed, along with the reasons they were deemed unacceptable, followed by our rationale for selecting the preferred site on the same campus as Estill County High School.

#### **Sites Reviewed:**

1. **Property Next to the Waste Management Landfill**
  - **Reason for Rejection:** This site was deemed unacceptable due to its close proximity to the landfill. The potential for odors, environmental concerns, and health risks to students and staff made it an unsuitable location for a school. Additionally, the site's location could negatively impact community perception and property values in the area.
2. **Campus of Estill County High School (Alternative Configurations)**
  - **Reason for Review:** While various configurations on the high school campus were considered, the board concluded that the optimal site within this campus best meets our needs (see rationale below). Other configurations were rejected due to insufficient space for future expansion or logistical challenges with traffic flow and access.

#### **Decision and Rationale for Preferred Site:**

The Estill County School Board has determined that constructing the new middle school on the same campus as Estill County High School is the most suitable option. This decision is based on the following reasons:

- **Distance from Landfill:** Unlike the property adjacent to the landfill, the high school campus is located farther away, minimizing exposure to potential environmental hazards and ensuring a healthier learning environment.
- **Enhanced Safety:** Keeping middle school students on the same campus as the high school improves safety, as many middle school students travel to the high school and the Area Technology Center (ATC) for shared programs. A single campus reduces transportation risks and exposure to external threats.



# Estill County Schools

*Engineering Success*

- **Accessibility of School Resource Officer (SRO):** Having both schools on the same campus allows our SRO's to efficiently monitor and respond to incidents at both facilities, enhancing security.
- **Shared Programs and Resources:** Co-locating the schools facilitates seamless access to shared programs, such as advanced courses, extracurricular activities, and facilities like the gymnasium or library, fostering collaboration and efficiency.
- **Simplified Transportation:** A single campus reduces bussing complexity, lowers transportation costs, and minimizes travel time for students and staff.
- **Community Cohesion:** Keeping students on one campus strengthens the sense of unity within our district and simplifies logistics for parents with children at both schools.
- **Future Scalability:** The high school campus offers sufficient space for potential expansion, ensuring the middle school can grow with our district's needs over time.

We believe this decision aligns with the best interests of our students, staff, and community. Should you require additional information or wish to conduct a site visit to review our selected location, please contact Mr. Brock at (606) 717-0222 or via email at [charlie.brock@estill.kyschools.us](mailto:charlie.brock@estill.kyschools.us). We look forward to your guidance and approval as we proceed with this project.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Charlie Brock  
Superintendent  
Estill County Schools

Office of the Superintendent