

**Benton CSD
Enrollment Study on Elementary Sectioning
October 2011**

In the past 10 years the Benton CSD headcount enrollment has decreased by 175 students. The headcount in the fall of 2001 was 1651 students and the headcount in 2011 is 1476 students. Despite the decline in student enrollment during this time period, the district has maintained a system of delivery supporting 40-42 elementary sections, ranging from 5-6 sections at the upper elementary level to 6-7 sections at the lower elementary levels. The majority of grade levels during this time period have supported a six section format.

I have suggested that the Board of Education consider reducing the number of elementary sections for the 2012-13 school year in an effort to have the educational delivery system better reflect the current and projected student enrollment. There are several options to consider and I am providing 3 options for review and discussion, but there may be other options to consider as well.

The committee is charged with providing a recommendation to the Board of Education specific to elementary sectioning. Below is the initial list of options for consideration:

- Option #1: No significant adjustments in terms of attendance center sectioning. This option includes the recommendation to reduce one section of 4th grade at the Atkins Center. Total sections would be reduced from 41 to 40 sections.**

- Option #2: This plan would result in the reduction of five sections by transitioning students from the Blairstown area to the VH/Keystone Elementary Centers. This would result in single sections at the Norway Center in Grades K-3 and two sections in Grade 4 for the 2012-13 school year. Total sections would be reduced from 41 to 36 sections.**

- Option #3: This plan would result in the reduction of five sections and include grade level realignment as follows: Atkins Center K-3 (Three Sections per grade level); Keystone Center K-3 (Two Sections per grade level); Norway Center 4-6 (5 or 6 sections per grade level depending on enrollments); the VH Center would not be utilized for elementary programming. Total sections would be reduced from 41 to 36 sections.**