

# DeKalb County School District Learning Boundaries

**1/15/25**

Presented by: Student Assignment and  
Planning Department



**DeKalb County**  
School District



# ● Agenda

- ✓ Welcome and housekeeping
- ✓ Understand the vision and outcome
- ✓ Learn DCSD boundaries
- ✓ Understand the difference between redistricting and reimagining
- ✓ Explore opportunities and challenges related to boundaries
- ✓ Spend time with DCSD maps
- ✓ Share out
- ✓ What's next
- ✓ Complete exit ticket

# Today's Working Session Schedule

Agenda Item	Resources	Time Allotment
Welcome and housekeeping	Name tags at team's table	
Sessions visions and outcome	Slides	6:35 – 6:40 p.m.
<b>Learn DCSD boundaries</b>	Slide	6:40 – 7:00 p.m.
<b>Understand the difference between redistricting and reimagining</b>	Slides	7:00 – 7:05 p.m.
<b>Explore opportunities and challenges related to boundaries</b>	Slides	7:05 – 7:15 p.m.
Team working sessions	Maps and Worksheets	7:15 – 8:15 p.m.
Share out	Team 1; Team 5; Team 2; Team 4, Team 3 (2 min each)	8:15 – 8:25 p.m.
What's next	Slide	8:25 – 8:30 p.m.
Exit ticket	Slide	8:30 p.m.

# Mini Teams - Central

## Team 1

Keydrick Barlow  
Maria Damian  
Martha Donovan  
Dana Lee  
Charlie McAdoo  
Martina Stanley  
Sonja Szubski  
Melanie Wilder

## Team 2

Stephanie Bialek  
Tarnisha Dent  
Emily Halevy  
Maronda Hastie  
Chantel Luncheon  
Eric Parker  
Staci Taylor

## Team 3

Syrenthia Bines-  
Truitt  
Jim Donofrio  
Roger Henry  
Kirk Lunde  
Zack Phillips  
Margaret  
Redmond  
Donna Troka

## Team 4

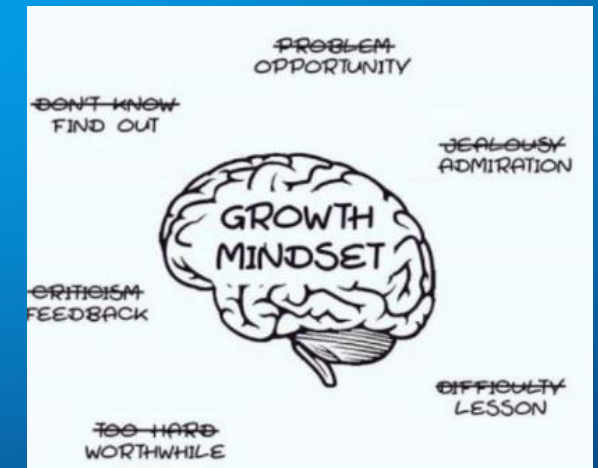
Barbara  
Christiansen  
Elena Holland  
Teresa Massey  
Renee Prevallet  
Vickie Severcool  
Malaika  
Washington

## Team 5

David Cruz Vega  
Carolina  
Fernandez  
Maxine Jenkins  
Cedric Matheny  
Alastair Pullen  
Jeff Rader  
Marion Reeves  
Dee Dee  
Westbrook



# Meeting Norms



# Advisory Purpose and Non-Purpose

## Purpose

- **Serve as a critical thought partner in assessing systems related to buildings, boundaries, and programs.**
- Serve as a critical thought partner in assessing DCSD's current student assignment procedures and policies.
- Provide impartial recommendations suited to dismantling structural inequities.
- **Use data to make informed decisions and recommendations.**
- Recommend ways for DCSD to become fiscally efficient.
- Review and recommend ways to **reimagine** DCSD programs and offerings so all students have a quality education.
- Recommend boundaries, buildings, and programs suited for the current and projected enrollment.

## Non-Purpose of the Advisory

- To make **final decisions** regarding policy or standard operating procedures related to DCSD.
- **To determine the daily operations of schools or programs.**
- To direct DCSD to make specific changes within the purview of the Board of Education.
- **To make decisions that only impact your children or your community.**



# Vision and Outcome

## Vision

To reimagine DCSD by considering **programs**, **boundaries**, and **buildings holistically**, using data, and reviewing every 5 years to align with E-SPLOST.

This comprehensive planning process will help position **ALL** of our students upon graduation to **E**nroll, **E**mploy, engage in **E**ntrepreneurship, and **E**nlist.

## Outcome (this session)

To understand DCSD boundaries and the difference between redistricting and *reimagining* (Student Assignment).



# What Are Boundaries and Attendance Zones

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# Some Things to Ponder:

Almost all public school systems use geographic boundaries to assign students to school.

If boundaries are how we assign students to schools, there is a responsibility to review those often because families, communities, and needs change often.



## What is Redistricting?

Re-assignment of addresses from one attendance area to another to satisfy district goals according to Board Policy AD: School Attendance Areas



# Why Redistricting?

- Maximize the efficient use of facilities
- Avoid long-term use of portable classrooms
- Temporary relief for population bubbles or renovation/construction projects
- Tension towards primary criteria
- Why am I not assigned my closest school? The answer may be that your nearest school was overcrowded 15 years ago but is now way under capacity.
- New facilities or facility additions
- Minimize travel distance for students, and maximize opportunities to walk
- Equity

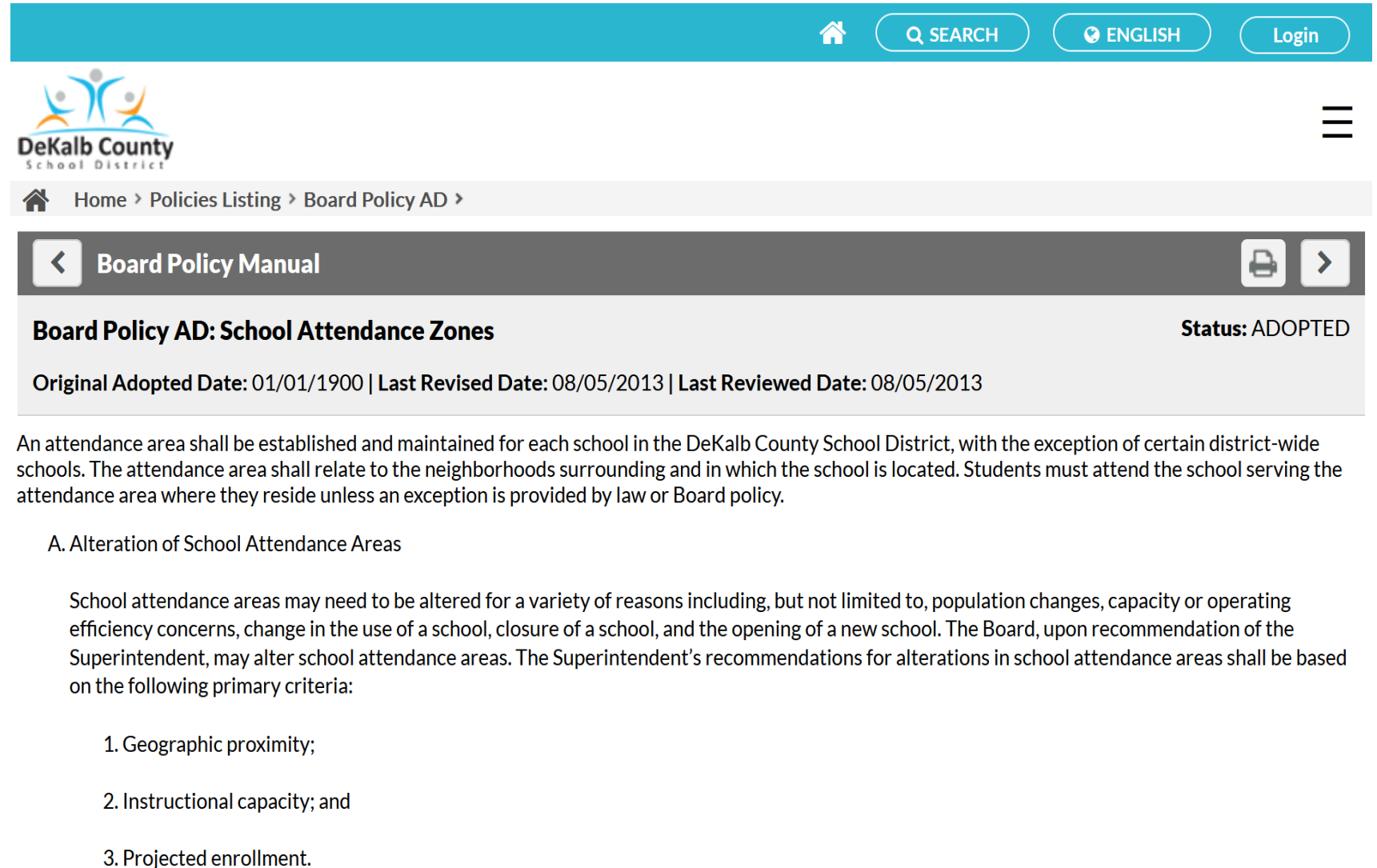
DCDS has also created redistricting alternatives such as programs, busing, and school choice.

# DCSD Redistricting Policy and Process

## Primary Criteria

- Proximity
- Capacity
- Enrollment

<https://shorturl.at/q26Nw>



The screenshot displays the DeKalb County School District website. At the top, there is a teal navigation bar with a home icon, a search bar labeled 'SEARCH', a language selector for 'ENGLISH', and a 'Login' button. Below this is the DeKalb County School District logo. A breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Policies Listing > Board Policy AD >'. The main content area has a dark grey header with a back arrow, the text 'Board Policy Manual', a print icon, and a forward arrow. The title of the policy is 'Board Policy AD: School Attendance Zones' with a status of 'ADOPTED'. Below the title, it lists 'Original Adopted Date: 01/01/1900 | Last Revised Date: 08/05/2013 | Last Reviewed Date: 08/05/2013'. The policy text states that an attendance area shall be established for each school, relating to the neighborhoods surrounding the school. It then lists 'A. Alteration of School Attendance Areas' and explains that these areas may be altered for various reasons. Finally, it lists three primary criteria: 1. Geographic proximity; 2. Instructional capacity; and 3. Projected enrollment.

Home > Policies Listing > Board Policy AD >

Board Policy Manual

**Board Policy AD: School Attendance Zones** **Status:** ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 01/01/1900 | Last Revised Date: 08/05/2013 | Last Reviewed Date: 08/05/2013

An attendance area shall be established and maintained for each school in the DeKalb County School District, with the exception of certain district-wide schools. The attendance area shall relate to the neighborhoods surrounding and in which the school is located. Students must attend the school serving the attendance area where they reside unless an exception is provided by law or Board policy.

A. Alteration of School Attendance Areas

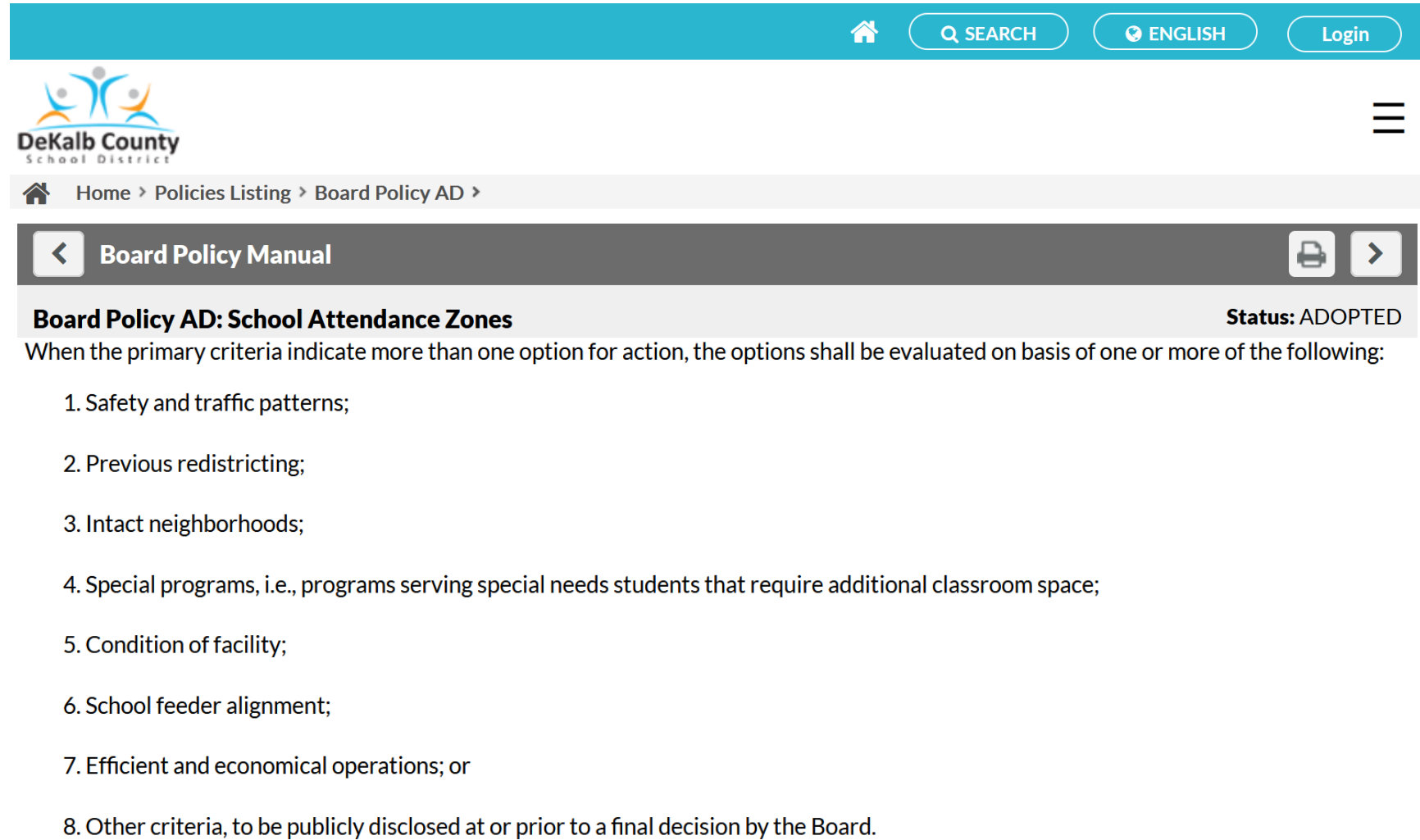
School attendance areas may need to be altered for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to, population changes, capacity or operating efficiency concerns, change in the use of a school, closure of a school, and the opening of a new school. The Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, may alter school attendance areas. The Superintendent's recommendations for alterations in school attendance areas shall be based on the following primary criteria:

1. Geographic proximity;
2. Instructional capacity; and
3. Projected enrollment.

# DCSD Redistricting Policy and Process

## Other Criteria

*apply only when  
the primary  
criteria point to  
multiple options*



The screenshot shows the DeKalb County School District website. The header includes a home icon, a search bar, an English language selector, and a login button. The main content area is titled "Board Policy Manual" and includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Policies Listing > Board Policy AD >. The specific policy is "Board Policy AD: School Attendance Zones" with a status of "ADOPTED". The policy text states: "When the primary criteria indicate more than one option for action, the options shall be evaluated on basis of one or more of the following:" followed by a numbered list of eight criteria.

DeKalb County School District

Home > Policies Listing > Board Policy AD >

Board Policy Manual

**Board Policy AD: School Attendance Zones** **Status:** ADOPTED

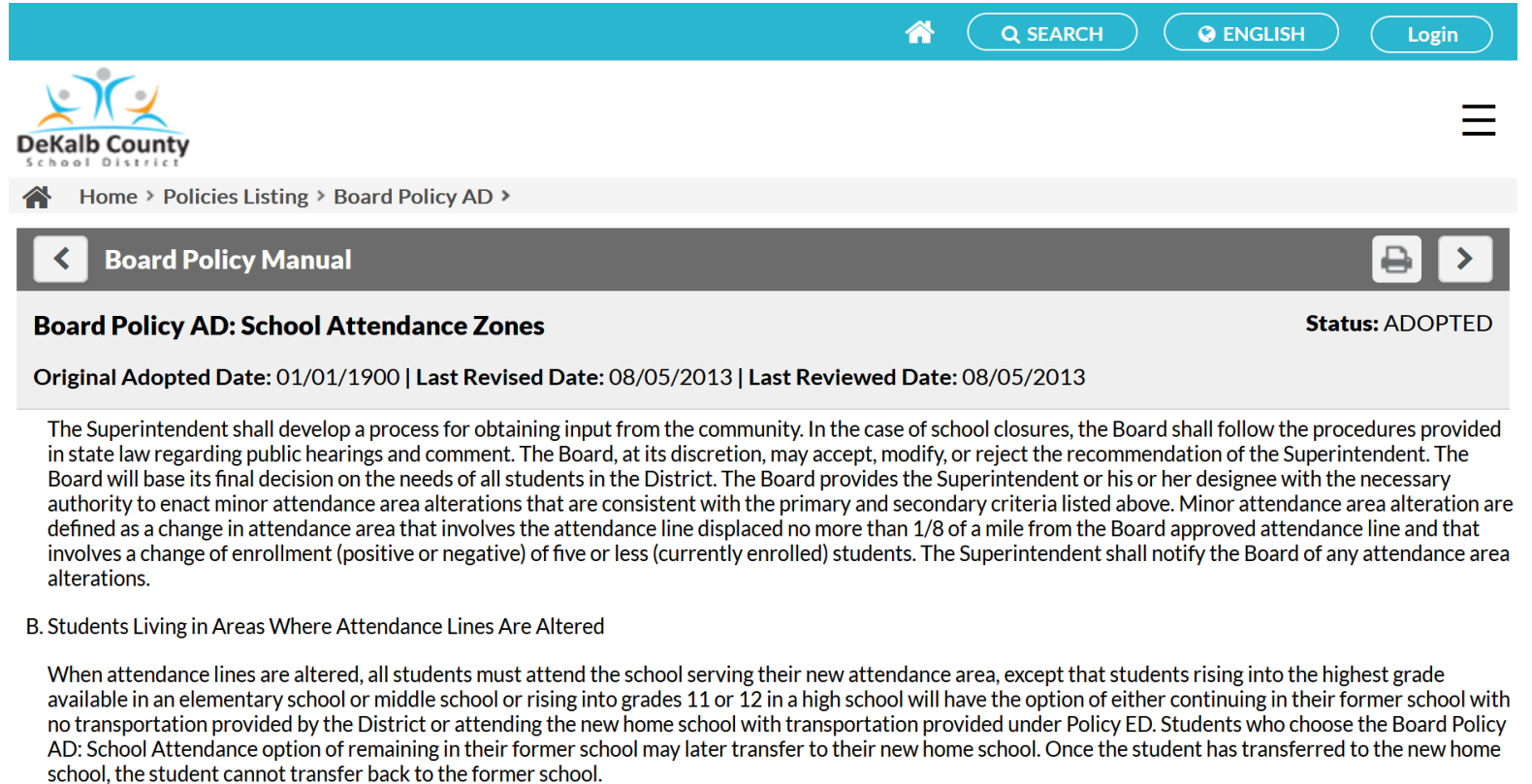
When the primary criteria indicate more than one option for action, the options shall be evaluated on basis of one or more of the following:

1. Safety and traffic patterns;
2. Previous redistricting;
3. Intact neighborhoods;
4. Special programs, i.e., programs serving special needs students that require additional classroom space;
5. Condition of facility;
6. School feeder alignment;
7. Efficient and economical operations; or
8. Other criteria, to be publicly disclosed at or prior to a final decision by the Board.

# DCSD Redistricting Policy and Process

## Choose to Remain

- ✓ *Rising, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the option to remain.*
- ✓ *However, no transportation will be provided.*



The screenshot shows the DeKalb County School District website. The header includes a home icon, a search bar with 'Q SEARCH', an 'ENGLISH' button, and a 'Login' button. The DeKalb County School District logo is on the left, and a hamburger menu icon is on the right. The breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Policies Listing > Board Policy AD >'. Below this is a dark grey bar with a left arrow, the text 'Board Policy Manual', a print icon, and a right arrow. The main content area has a title 'Board Policy AD: School Attendance Zones' and a status 'Status: ADOPTED'. Below the title is the text 'Original Adopted Date: 01/01/1900 | Last Revised Date: 08/05/2013 | Last Reviewed Date: 08/05/2013'. The main text of the policy states: 'The Superintendent shall develop a process for obtaining input from the community. In the case of school closures, the Board shall follow the procedures provided in state law regarding public hearings and comment. The Board, at its discretion, may accept, modify, or reject the recommendation of the Superintendent. The Board will base its final decision on the needs of all students in the District. The Board provides the Superintendent or his or her designee with the necessary authority to enact minor attendance area alterations that are consistent with the primary and secondary criteria listed above. Minor attendance area alteration are defined as a change in attendance area that involves the attendance line displaced no more than 1/8 of a mile from the Board approved attendance line and that involves a change of enrollment (positive or negative) of five or less (currently enrolled) students. The Superintendent shall notify the Board of any attendance area alterations.'

B. Students Living in Areas Where Attendance Lines Are Altered

When attendance lines are altered, all students must attend the school serving their new attendance area, except that students rising into the highest grade available in an elementary school or middle school or rising into grades 11 or 12 in a high school will have the option of either continuing in their former school with no transportation provided by the District or attending the new home school with transportation provided under Policy ED. Students who choose the Board Policy AD: School Attendance option of remaining in their former school may later transfer to their new home school. Once the student has transferred to the new home school, the student cannot transfer back to the former school.

<https://shorturl.at/q26Nw>

# 2000s DCSD Redistricting Timeline

Year	Description
2004	New Oak View ES & New Miller Grove HS
2007	New Flat Rock ES & New Princeton ES
2008	New Dunwoody ES & McNair DLA, Closed Nancy Creek ES, Forrest Hills ES, Leslie Steele ES, Terry Mill ES, Tilson ES, Wadsworth ES
2011 *	Districtwide Consolidation & Balancing: Closed Avondale HS, Avondale MS, Atherton ES, Glen Haven ES, Gresham Park ES, Medlock ES, Peachcrest ES, Sky Haven ES

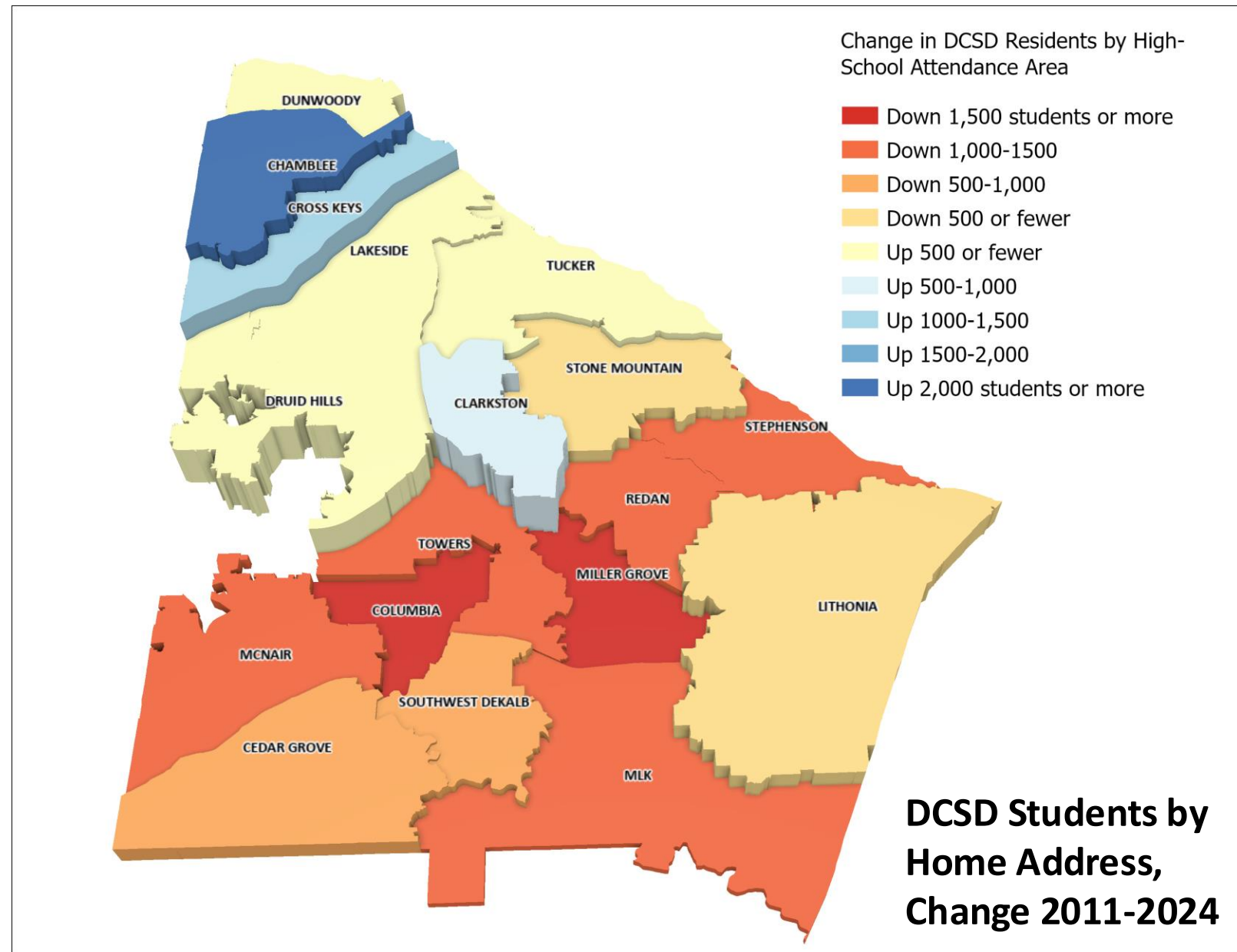
Year	Description
2014	New Peachcrest ES
2016	New Barack Obama EMST
2017	New Temp John Lewis ES & Cross Keys Cluster Over-crowding
2018	New Rockbridge ES & Clarkston Cluster Over-Crowding
2019	New John Lewis ES
2020	New Austin ES & New Doraville ES
2022	Cary Reynolds ES

*Not an exhaustive list of changes*

# The Current Need

Since 2011... There have been major changes on where students live

- Some clusters are sending many more students to DCSD schools.
- Some clusters are sending many fewer students to DCSD schools.
- Very few clusters have minor boundary changes.





# Redistricting to *Reimagining*

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## Some Things to Ponder:

DCSD redistricting efforts have often been in response to localized challenges and in a reactionary way.

If we redistrict more often as communities change, we will have fewer major shifts overall.



# What is The Difference Between Redistricting and Reimagining

## Redistricting

The process by which boundaries are redrawn in a school district.

- Enrollment trends (2-3 years in the future)
- Boundary lines
- Balancing enrollment
- Geographic proximity (transportation)

## *Reimagining*

The process by which boundaries, program, and buildings are rethought, reconsidered, and reconceived with stakeholders.

- Enrollment trends (2-3 years in the future)
- Boundary lines
- Balancing enrollment
- Geographic proximity
- Program review and locations
- Stakeholder and community voice and guidance
- Consolidation (impact on community)
- Triangulation of data, values, and impact

# Current Opportunities and Challenges

# Current Boundaries Opportunities

We are empowered to imagine DeKalb County School District as a new ecosystem, on the cutting edge of districts across the nation.

1. Reimagine grade bands in schools
2. Reimagine how we create boundaries (clusters vs. closest proximity schools)
3. School choice options for all (no boundaries)
4. Area boundaries (apply to schools within a specific area)

Since we have not completed a district-wide redistricting in almost 15 years, this provides us with a great opportunity to reimagine all of DCSD!

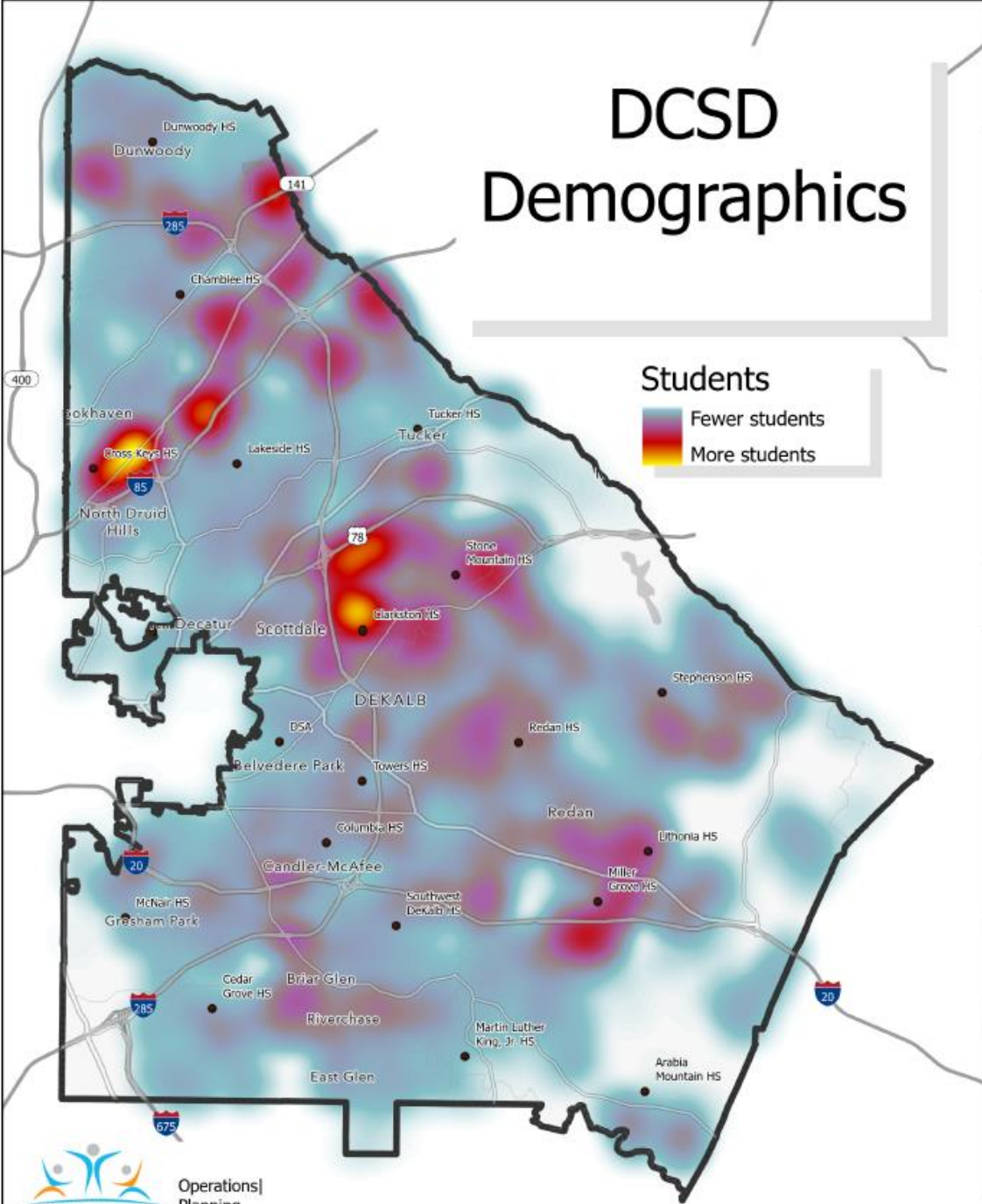
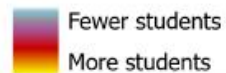
# Current Boundaries Challenges

If we organize geographically, we will consistently need to review and change our boundaries.

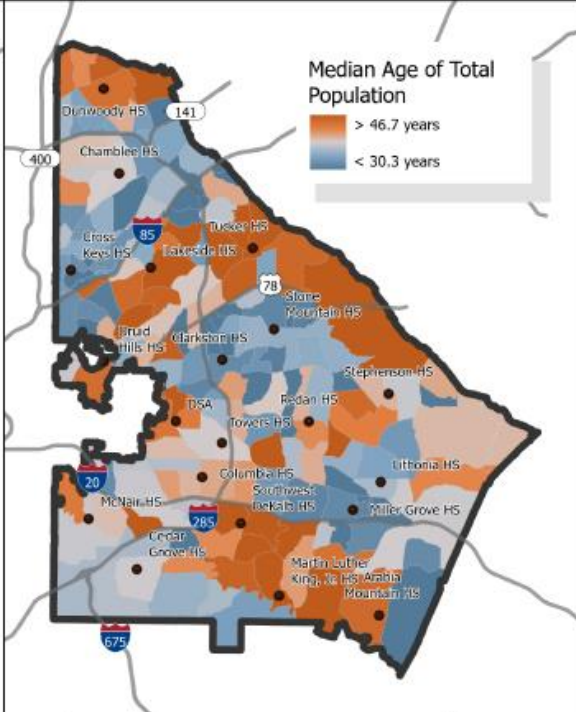
1. ~ 10K fewer students are currently enrolled (when we were at our peak)
  - If we were at our peak today, we would still have additional seats available
  - Last school year, we had ~20,000 open seats (~10K ES, ~5K MS, ~5K HS)
2. Clusters of overcrowded schools and clusters of underutilized schools
3. Projections not trending up for younger grades that will eventually become middle and high school students
4. DCSD has not done a holistic review of our boundaries in well over a decade
5. Inefficient attendance areas because they have always been that way, and we have not addressed it

# DCSD Demographics

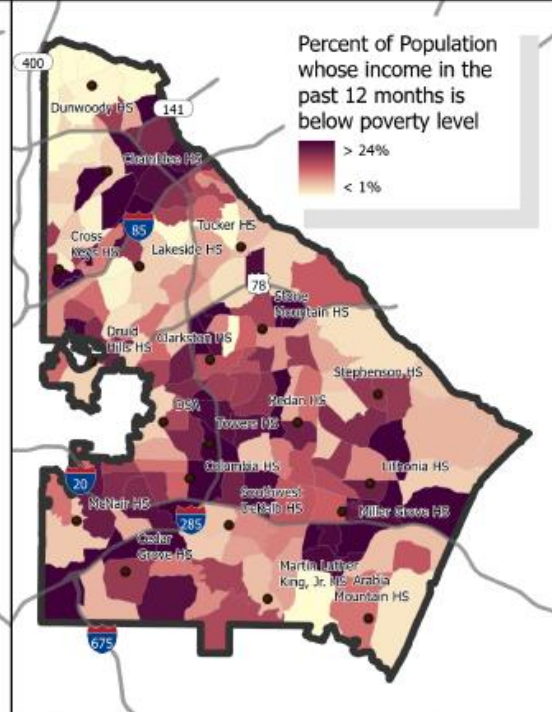
## Students



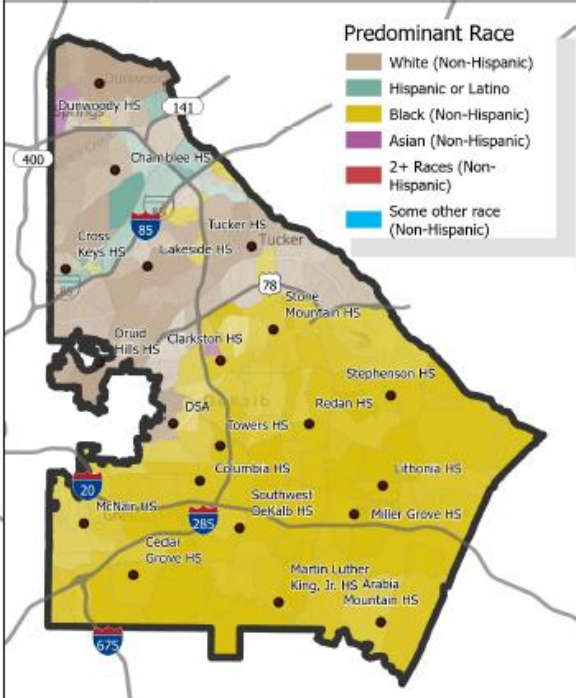
## Median Age of Total Population



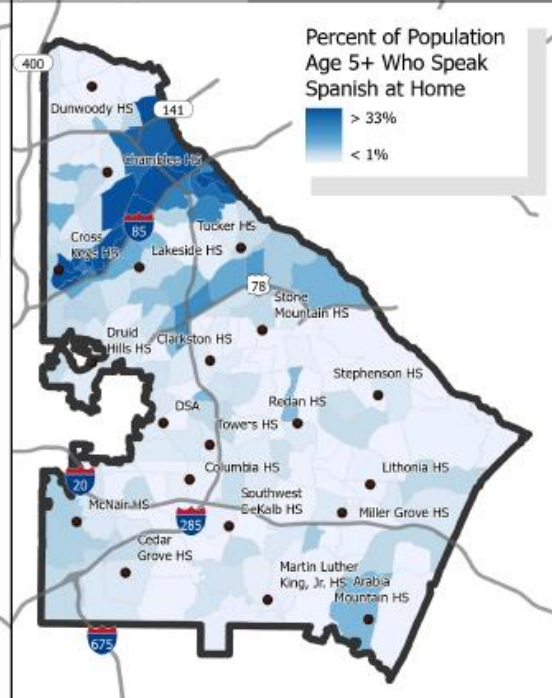
## Percent of Population whose income in the past 12 months is below poverty level



## Predominant Race



## Percent of Population Age 5+ Who Speak Spanish at Home



# Current Maps

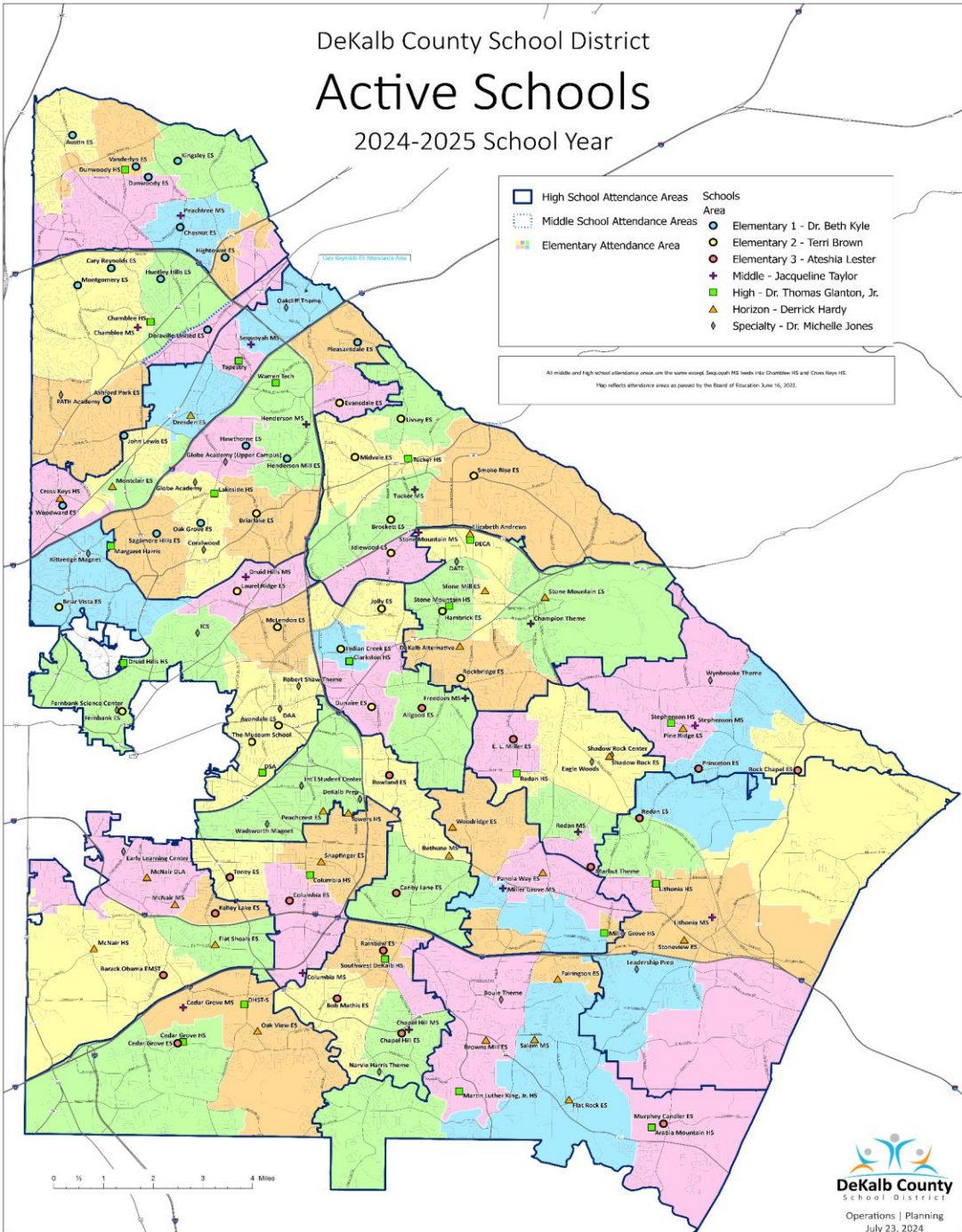
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# Current Attendance Area Map

Here is the active map of schools.

We have printed a map packet for each team to review.



# Feeders List



Full list of feeder schools [here](#)

The District has traditionally utilized one-to-one feeder schools.

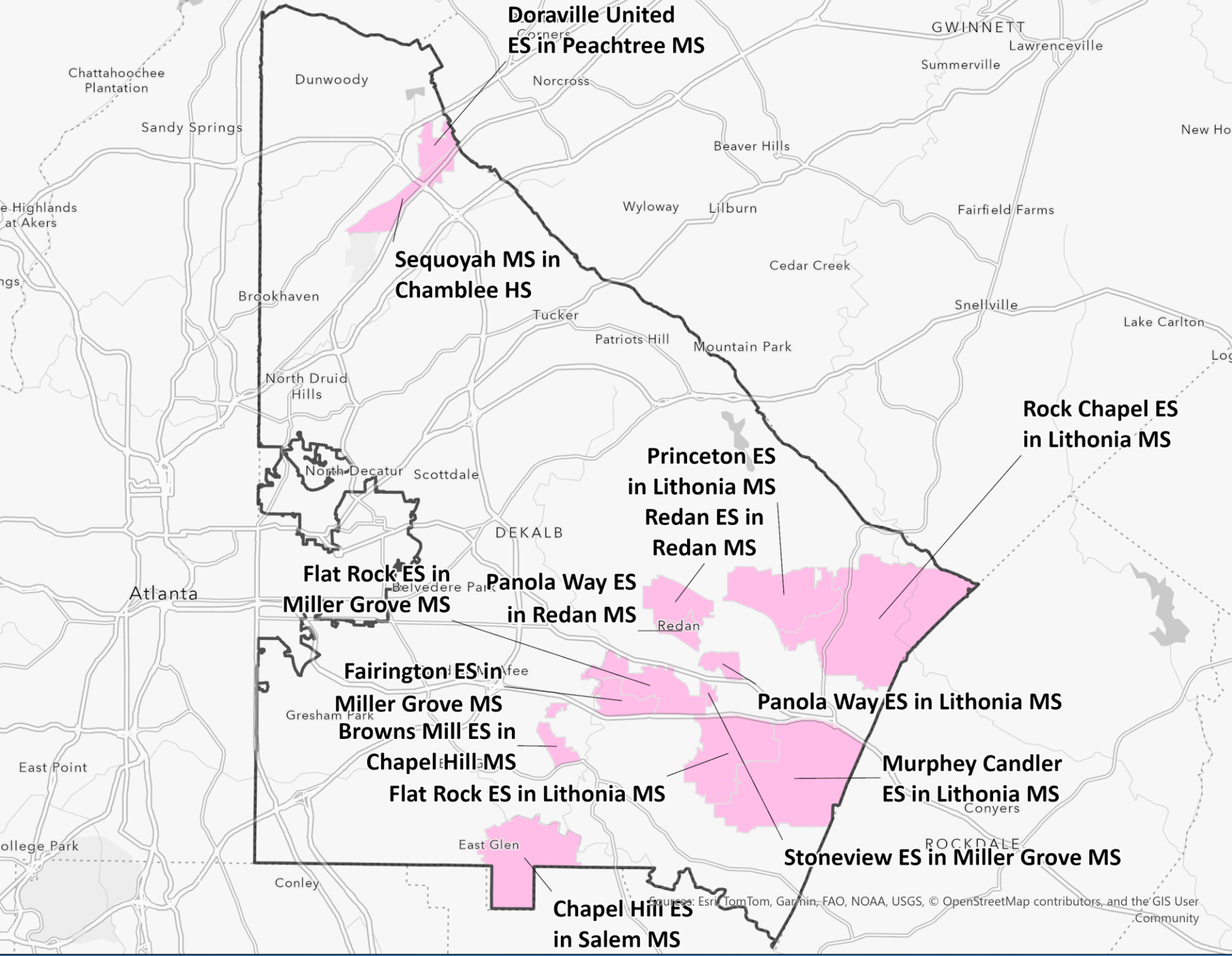
This preference has been applied in most areas; however, there is a clear difference in where split feeders are throughout the school district.

High School	Middle School	Elementary Schools
Cedar Grove HS	Cedar Grove MS	Cedar Grove ES
		Oak View ES
Chamblee HS	Chamblee MS	Ashford Park ES
	Sequoyah MS (split)	Huntley Hills ES
Clarkston HS	Freedom MS	Montgomery ES
		Doraville United ES (split)
		Allgood ES
		Dunaire ES
Columbia HS	Columbia MS	Indian Creek ES
		Jolly ES
		Columbia ES
Cross Keys HS	Sequoyah MS (split)	Snapfinger ES
		Toney ES
		Cary Reynolds ES
		Dresden ES
		John Lewis ES
Druid Hills HS	Druid Hills MS	Montclair ES
		Woodward ES
		Avondale ES
		Briar Vista ES
		Fernbank ES
Dunwoody HS	Peachtree MS	Laurel Ridge ES
		McLendon ES
		Austin ES
		Chesnut ES
		Doraville United ES (split)
		Dunwoody ES
		Hightower ES
Kingsley ES		
Lakeside HS	Henderson MS	Vanderlyn ES
		Briarlake ES
		Evansdale ES
		Hawthorne ES
		Henderson Mill ES
		Oak Grove ES
Lithonia HS	Lithonia MS	Pleasantdale ES
		Sagamore Hills ES
		Flat Rock ES (split)
		Murphey Candler ES (split)
		Panola Way ES (split)
		Princeton ES (split)
		Redan ES (split)
Rock Chapel ES (split)		
Stoneview ES (split)		

# Clusters and Feeder Patterns Cont.

The District has traditionally preferred one-to-one feeder schools.

This preference has been applied in most areas; however, there is a clear difference in where split feeders are throughout the school district.



# Boundary Reimagining Questions

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What are advantages and disadvantages of 1) one-to-one clusters with defined feeder school patterns and 2) no clusters with split feeders?

Imagine a district with no boundaries. What are the possibilities? What are the challenges? How would it work?

How can we support families in a reimagining process that feels supportive and maintains high education standards?

Feedback on the opportunities on slide 24?



# Values, Priorities, and Considerations

Determining our guiding principles and priorities will be one of the most important parts of this project. Once we do so, everything we recommend will be measured against them.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A few things to consider when developing guiding principles and priorities

- Historical context
- What is important
- Who is impacted
- Who loses
- Who gains
- DeKalb's Miracles Framework
- DeKalb's vision and mission



# Glossary

## **Boundaries or Attendance Zones**

The geographically defined areas that determine which public school a student must attend based on their home address.

## **Clusters**

A group of schools that work together for educational or administrative purposes

## **Feeder Patterns**

The flow of schools that the students take as they progress through their education

## **Grade Bands**

A grouping of grades in a school—(example: K-5, 6-8, 9-12)

## **Projections**

Predictions of how many students a school district will have in the future





# Glossary

## **Redistricting**

The process by which boundaries are redrawn in a school districts.

## **Reimagining**

The process by which boundaries, program, and buildings are rethought, reconsidered, and reconceived with stakeholders.

## **School Choice**

School choice in the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) allows students to attend schools outside of their zoned district in which they enter a lottery based on qualifications.

## **Split Feeders**

Grouping of schools that transition to the next grade band in split cohorts.

## **Student Assignment**

Student Assignment is a process that aligns the values of the community and district to assign students to schools and programs, review boundary lines, and determine school opening or closing.



# What's Next?

## 1. Homework

- Check out DCSD's boundaries and maps [here](#).
- Begin thinking about guiding principles and priorities.

## 2. Next meetings

- Committee meeting of the whole is Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at AIC.



Connect with SAP and Ms. Smith  
[sap@dekalbschoolsga.org](mailto:sap@dekalbschoolsga.org)

Scan the QR or use link  
join



<https://forms.office.com/r/GzKx4MYN9h>

# EXIT Ticket

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# QUESTIONS

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