# Community Engagement and the Redistricting Process



# **FALL 2023/WINTER 2024**

# SOUTH FULTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

As promised by the one-penny sales tax for education (ESPLOST), a new S.L. Lewis Elementary School is being built to replace its aging facility. The future opening of this school provides an opportunity to balance enrollments among South Fulton elementary schools through redistricting and/or consolidation.

A successful redistricting effort not only involves the community but also helps stakeholders understand why and how decisions are made. During several upcoming forums in October and November, participants will review the School Board's redistricting criteria outlined below and can comment on these and other issues relevant to the criteria used for redrawing attendance lines.

# School Board-Approved Criteria for Developing Redistricting Proposals

Excerpt from Fulton County School Board Policy AD: "School Attendance Zones"

# PRIMARY CRITERIA

# **Geographic Proximity**

Distance traveled using available routes of transportation.

# **Instructional Capacity**

Number of students who can be accommodated at the school, taking into account the number of classrooms and rooms needed for art, music, labs, ESOL, special education, and Talented and Gifted (TAG) programs.

## **Projected Enrollment**

Number of students assigned to a school, taking into account the future projected enrollment.

# **SECONDARY CRITERIA**

When primary criteria indicate more than one option, options are evaluated on:

# **Traffic Patterns**

Factors impacting accessibility of the school from all portions of the attendance zone, including travel time, traffic flow in the area, safe operation of school buses, and other safety considerations.

# **Previous Rezoning**

The school system seeks to avoid rezoning neighborhoods more than once during a 3-year period if facility sizes and geographic distribution of student populations allow.

# **Special Programs**

Special programs are those serving children with special needs that require use of additional space over and above a regular classroom. Where possible, the district avoids setting attendance zones that would place a disproportionate number of special programs at a school.

# **School Feeder Alignment**

Where possible, consideration is given to the alignment of elementary, middle and high school attendance boundaries.

# www.fultonschools.org/redistricting

Fulton County Schools values and encourages public input regarding new school attendance zones. In addition to feedback gathered at these community forums, comments can be mailed and/or emailed to:

Fulton County Schools c/o Operational Planning Department 6201 Powers Ferry Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30339 planning@fultonschools.org



# **Microsoft Teams**

October 2 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting link posted on www.fultonschools.org/ redistricting.

# No maps presented.

- FCS staff will lead virtual meetings to explain the redistricting process, including population trends throughout Fulton County, data, and the School Board's criteria used to create new attendance zone boundaries.
- These meetings are designed to help parents understand the process and the criteria before the forums begin in October.

# In-Person Meeting

October 11 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

# **Deadline for Online**

McNair Middle School

# Comments

October 15

- No maps presented.
- These forums gather community input so it can be used to create attendance zone proposals.
- FCS staff will outline the process and rules for participation.
- Participants then move to small-group sessions. Facilitators will gather input so every voice is heard.
- Afterwards, FCS staff will review the comments and how they relate to School Board-approved redistricting criteria.
- Using the input, FCS staff will create map proposals to present at the next forums.

# **In-Person Meeting**

November 2 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. McNair Middle School

### **Deadline for Online** Comments

November 6

the first time.

Maps presented for

Like Round One, community members will divide into facilitated small groups to give input on the strengths and weaknesses of each

map proposal.

Before the next community forum, FCS staff will condense the number of attendance zone alternatives based on public input.

# **In-Person Meeting**

November 30 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. McNair Middle School

### **Deadline for Online Comments**

December 3

presented.

discussions.

# A revised, condensed

set of maps will be

Like Rounds One and Two, participants will review the proposals and provide input in facilitated, small-group

After the meeting, FCS staff will use the comments to develop a final recommendation for presenting to the School Board.

### **Presentation to FCS School Board**

### **First Read**

• January 9

# **Final Action**

February 13

- "First Read" means the maps will be received for informational purposes, with a vote taken a month later. This allows School Board Members to hear from the community before taking a vote.
- "Final Action" means the School Board will vote on the proposed maps.

# www.fultonschools.org/redistricting