

# How are attendance boundaries are determined?

## Board Policy AD—School Attendance Zones

### Primary Criteria

- \* Geographic proximity, capacity and projected enrollment

### Secondary Criteria

- \* Traffic patterns, frequency of neighborhood rezonings, school feeder alignment, balancing of special programs (i.e., TAG, ESOL, Special Needs)
- \* Defines a process for establishing / modifying
- \* Used in planning/opening 24 new schools

## FAQ's

Question	Answer
Will there be a division of communities or will the entire community go to one school?	When developing recommendations for school attendance boundaries, staff attempts to keep subdivisions together. In rare circumstances very large subdivisions are split because their student population exceeds that of a school.
Is there any logical criteria for busing students away from a school in proximity of a community in which students live?	Primary criteria (geographic proximity, capacity, and projected enrollment) are considered first when establishing attendance boundaries. In areas that must fill from the county boundary, schools may reach capacity before neighboring subdivisions are assigned. In this instance, neighborhoods will sometimes have to be assigned to a school less proximate.
What will the anticipated enrollment be when the new school opens?	Projected enrollment will be included in the materials shared with the community throughout the redistricting process.
Why are attendance boundaries changed?	Attendance zones are changed under the following circumstances: 1) A new school is being opened, 2) an existing school is being closed or 3) adjustments need to be made to balance out enrollment at neighboring schools.
Is there full transparency in the redistricting process? Are private meetings with communities allowed and if so, what are the results of those meetings?	The Operational Planning office does not meet with private interest groups or community associations during rezonings. Once the process is underway, staff is unable to attend such meetings. This prevents perceptions of support or bias towards a particular community and also allows transparency to all interested community members.
Will students be allowed to stay at their current school? Will hardships be granted for siblings?	Redistricted rising 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> graders will be given the option to remain at their current schools if they can provide their own transportation. This option does not apply to younger siblings. The Board of Education has approved criteria for hardship transfer requests. Depending on the younger siblings grade level, specific criteria would need to be met for a hardship transfer to be granted. You may contact the Student Assignment office at 470-254-5540.
Can we stay with the school in the city where we pay taxes?	Fulton County Schools serves students within the county, with the exception of the City of Atlanta. School attendance zones are based on the Board-approved criteria and not municipal boundaries.
Are you going to redistrict middle school zones during this process for the new high school?	The current process will focus primarily on high school attendance boundaries. Middle school boundaries may be slightly adjusted. No changes at the elementary school boundaries are planned.
When will the attendance boundary changes go into effect?	The Board will likely vote on the attendance zone boundaries in December and the new attendance boundaries will go into affect in August 2023.
How is the Principal chosen for a new school?	The Principal will be directly appointed by the Superintendent and recommended to the School Board for approval.
Where are the maps?	Maps will be made available online the same day as the third meeting on October 18th and 20th.