

# Fulton County Schools Redistricting FAQ

Question	Answer
What is redistricting?	Redistricting in Fulton County Schools is the process of changing of school attendance boundaries/zones. Redistricting has been used in the opening of more than 30 new schools and the closing of three (3) schools since the policy was adopted in September 2000
Why are attendance boundaries changed?	Attendance boundaries are changed under the following circumstances: 1) A new school is being opened, 2) An existing school is being closed, 3) School additions or major renovations open or 4) Adjustments need to be made to balance enrollment between neighboring schools.
What School Board policy deals with school redistricting?	The redistricting process is covered in detail in Board Policy and Procedures 'AD - School Attendance Zones'
What factors and criteria can be considered during redistricting?	The three Primary criteria identified by the Board are: 1) Geographic proximity, 2) School capacity and 3) Projected student enrollment Secondary criteria include: 1) Traffic patterns, 2) Frequency of previous rezonings, 3) School feeder alignment and 4) Balancing of special programs (i.e., TAG, ESOL, Special Needs)
Is there any logical criteria for busing students away from a school in proximity of a community in which students live?	Primary criteria 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.
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
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 department does not meet with private interest groups or community associations during redistrictings once the redistricting process is underway. This prevents perceptions of support or bias towards a particular community and allows transparency to all interested community members.
Will students be allowed to stay at their current school? Will hardships be granted for siblings?	Per Board policy, "(S)tudents in grades 5, 8, 10, 11 and 12 who are affected by rezoning to another school will be given the option of remaining at their present school provided their parents agree to be responsible for their transportation." This option does not apply to younger siblings. Younger siblings wishing to stay at the affected school may want to look into the hardship transfer process or the Open Enrollment process by contacting the office of Student Assignment 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 except those who reside in the City of Atlanta. School attendance zones are based on the Board-approved criteria and not municipal boundaries.
What schools are going to be affected by this redistricting?	A list of potentially impacted schools can be found on the Redistricting website.
When will the attendance boundary changes go into effect?	For elementary and middle schools, proposed changes typically go into effect in the upcoming school year. For high schools the changes usually go into effect in 1-1/2 to 2 years.
Where are the maps?	Maps will be made available online the same day as the second and third community meetings and can be found on the Redistricting website.