

The Arlington School Board has established, and may change, school attendance boundaries to govern school assignments based on student residence both to advance the educational mission of the system and to contribute to the efficiency of the school division. The Board structures boundaries with the goal that students may attend school in an appropriate, instructional environment, and to make cost-efficient use of capital assets and instructional resources. Before the School Board changes school attendance boundaries, affected communities shall have opportunities for review and comment.

Boundary changes may be considered upon the recommendation of the Superintendent when the Superintendent determines that one or more of the following conditions is met and other measures are less feasible or less desirable:

- A school building's projected enrollment is expected to be significantly over capacity across the projections.
- Capital expansion to relieve overcrowding is not feasible and would not address the needs.
- An insufficient number of students is enrolled or projected to be enrolled to allow cost effective operation of a school.
- A new school building is planned for construction.
- There are other administrative, cost-efficiency or service advantages to making such a change.

At a minimum, there will be a systematic review of boundaries every five years.

Process

The Superintendent shall evaluate annually whether boundary changes are to be considered. Typically, this evaluation will take place within the context of the capital and enrollment planning process. The superintendent will notify the School Board about possible boundary changes, as part of the annual update, prescribed in School Board Policy 25-2.2, Options and Transfer.

When the Superintendent has determined that one or more of the conditions above exists and that boundary changes should be considered, the Superintendent shall recommend to the School Board the process for consideration of boundary changes. The recommended framework shall include:

- the proposed schedule for the boundary change process,
- identification of the schools and communities to be affected, and
- A community engagement plan and process to keep affected schools and communities informed throughout the consideration of boundary changes.

The School Board shall act on the recommendation.

For boundary changes that require students to change schools in the following school year, the Superintendent shall make a recommendation to the School Board on or before the first School Board meeting in March. On or before the first School Board meeting in April, the School Board shall adopt any such boundary changes. Prior to adopting any boundary changes, the School Board shall hold a public hearing, not less than ten (10) days after reasonable notice to the public.

Considerations

The Superintendent’s recommended boundary changes (and grandfathering provisions, if any) and the School Board’s review of these proposed changes shall include, but not be limited to the following considerations:

- Efficiency – minimizing future capital and operating costs.
- Proximity – encouraging the relationship between schools and the community by keeping students close to the schools that they attend so that they can walk safely to school or, if they are eligible for bus service, so that bus ride times are minimized.
- Stability – minimizing the number of times that boundary changes affect an individual student who has continued to reside in a particular attendance area, and minimizing the number of students moved to a different school, within a school level, while achieving the objective of the boundary change.
- Alignment – minimizing separation of small groups of students from their classmates when moving between school levels.
- Demographics – promoting demographic diversity.
- Contiguity – maintaining attendance zones that are contiguous and contain the school to which students are assigned.

Staff shall prepare a report of boundary change options, which includes a discussion of how each option addresses, at a minimum, the considerations listed above, and will make the report available to the public as part of the community engagement process as adopted by the School Board.

