

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Board Members
FROM: Dr. Patrick Murphy
SUBJECT: High School Boundary Refinement Recommendations

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board select and approve high school attendance zone boundary refinements to balance enrollment among the three comprehensive high schools. The decisions should move Washington-Lee planning units to Wakefield and Yorktown and provide sibling preferences.

Background

The FY2017-26 CIP (adopted June 2016) charged staff to develop high school boundary refinements to address the immediate issue of overcrowding at Washington-Lee High School. The refinements are needed to balance enrollment at all three of the comprehensive high schools and to better utilize available and planned instructional spaces.

If no changes are made, enrollment projections indicate that Washington-Lee High School will be more than 400 students over capacity by September 2020 while Wakefield and Yorktown High Schools are each projected to have approximately 150 seats available at that time. Moving approximately 400 students out of the Washington-Lee attendance zone to either Wakefield or Yorktown would balance enrollment.

To gather input, staff utilized multiple methods to engage the community. Four “Getting Started” meetings, conducted in English and Spanish, were held to educate residents on the process and need for boundary refinements. Multiple additional meetings were held with civic associations, PTAs, and community groups. An online boundary tool was also developed to allow the community to submit possible boundary scenarios. A dedicated website, email, and phone number were established to keep the community informed and as an additional avenue to gather feedback.

The boundary refinements will take effect in September 2017. The changes will not affect any current high school students and will apply to current eighth students who will be freshmen in September 2017, and to future incoming freshman classes.

These recommendations conform to School Board Policy *30-2.2 Boundaries* and include provisions for sibling preference and transportation. The options provide a variety of planning unit combinations, and each reflects the boundaries criteria in different ways. [Each of the options includes approximately 200 students plus additional students so that we take into account sibling preferences.](#) While we included input from the community, particularly in the options that emphasize proximity, staff was careful to

continue to remind the community throughout the process that the feedback sources would inform the recommendations but did not constitute a vote for any option.

While the School Board will ultimately make final decisions regarding the refinements, the Board tasked staff with gathering community feedback and developing recommendations on:

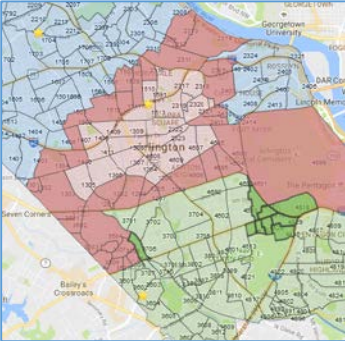
- Reassigning students to Yorktown
- Reassigning students to Wakefield
- Sibling preference

Superintendent’s Recommendation Planning Unit Moves

The following planning unit moves are presented for your review. The highlighted planning units reflect the new attendance zones that would result from these moves. Bearing in mind the charge, consideration was given to the criteria set (see attached) in School Board policy *30-2.2 Boundaries* as closely as possible.

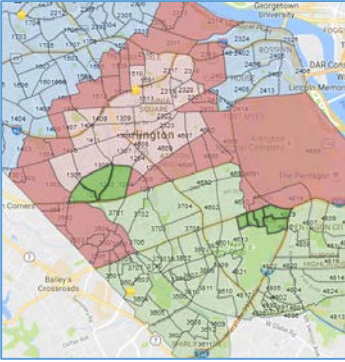
Wakefield Refinement Option A

Move planning units 3706, 4611, 4612, 4614, 4691, 4815, 4816, 4818, 4828, 4829 from Washington-Lee to Wakefield (215 students including 37 siblings).



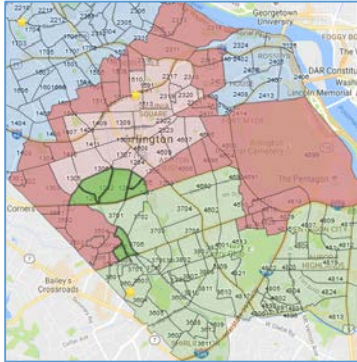
Wakefield Refinement Option B

Move planning units 1201, 1202, 1203, 4612, 4614, 4815, 4828, 4829 from Washington-Lee to Wakefield (242 students including 59 siblings).



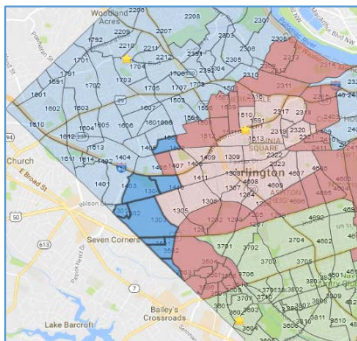
Wakefield Refinement Option C

Move planning units 1201, 1202, 1203, 1205, 1207, 3510, 3706 from Washington Lee to Wakefield (245 students including 70 siblings).



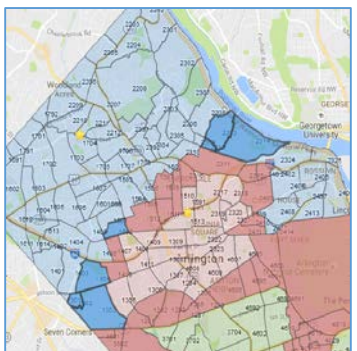
Yorktown Refinement Option A

Move planning units 1302, 1303, 1304, 1410, 1502, 3501, 3502, 3503 from Washington-Lee to Yorktown (229 students including 62 siblings).



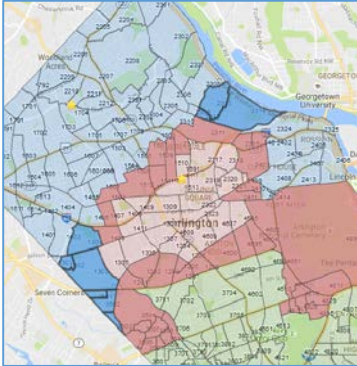
Yorktown Refinement Option B

Move planning units 1302, 1302, 1304, 1502, 2312, 2313, 2314 from Washington-Lee to Yorktown (241 students including 53 siblings).



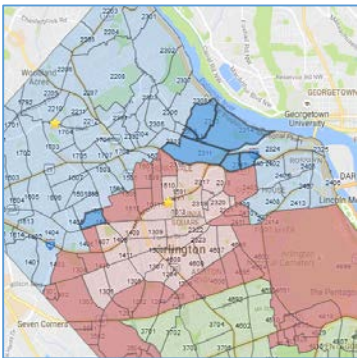
Yorktown Refinement Option C

Move planning units 1302, 1303, 1304, 2312, 2313, 2314, 3501, 3502, 3503 (235 students including 54 siblings) from Washington-Lee to Wakefield.



Yorktown Refinement Option D

Move planning units 1502, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2401 from Washington-Lee to Wakefield (231 students plus 47 siblings).



Summary

The seven proposed boundary refinement options include three options that move combinations of 16 planning units to Wakefield from Washington-Lee, and four options that move combinations of 14 planning units to Yorktown from Washington-Lee.

ATTACHMENT – School Board Boundary Policy (30-2.2) Criteria

Criteria

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, consideration of the following criteria:

- 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, 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 the criteria listed above, and will make the report available to the public as part of the community engagement process as adopted by the School Board.