

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 is projected to be significantly over utilized while others are not~~
A school building's projected enrollment is expected to be significantly over capacity across the projections.
- ~~Capital expansion of the school to relieve significant overcrowding is would not be possible at that site, would exceed the guideline size for schools at that level, or otherwise would not be 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.

Process

The Superintendent shall evaluate annually whether or not boundary changes are to be considered. Typically, this evaluation will take place within the context of the capital **and enrollment** planning process. ~~An analysis and discussion of the possible need for boundary changes will be included in the biennial Arlington Facilities and Student Accommodation Plan (AFSAP).~~

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** ~~an outline of the process to keep include~~ 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 ~~criteria~~ **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.

This policy is a living document with principles that guides decisions. It should be updated a minimum of every five years to support the needs of all students and to reflect changes or growth in APS.