



Charles County Public Schools • January 2006

# Redistricting Fact Sheet #1

Elementary & Middle School Zoning Changes

## Redistricting Overview

Elementary and middle school boundaries will change over the next two years as Charles County Public Schools prepares to open an elementary school in 2006 and a middle school in 2007. Redistricting is necessary to create attendance zones for the new schools as well as to relieve overcrowding at J.C. Parks Elementary School and at Mattawoman, Milton Somers and Matthew Henson middle schools.

In October, a redistricting committee began developing proposals to create attendance zones for William A. Diggs Elementary School and Theodore G. Davis Middle School. Both schools are being built on the North Point High School for Science, Technology and Industry campus located on Davis Road in Waldorf. Diggs opens in August 2006 and Davis is expected to open in August 2007. The committee will submit two rezoning alternatives for each school and the community will have opportunities to comment on the proposals.

## Elementary School Impact

The committee plans to present two redistricting alternatives for the elementary school. Attendance zones for the following elementary schools could change with the opening of Diggs: J.C. Parks, Gale-Bailey, Arthur Middleton, Dr. James Craik, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Berry and Indian Head.

Elementary school students will change schools in August 2006. Parents will be notified shortly after the Board makes a final decision in April.

## Middle School Impact

At the middle school level, attendance zones may change at Milton M. Somers, General Smallwood, Matthew Henson, Mattawoman, John Hanson and Benjamin Stoddert.

Parents will be notified following the Board's decision in April 2006; however, the middle school redistricting will be delayed until the opening of Davis in August 2007.

## Timeline

### Redistricting Committee

The redistricting committee is meeting from October to January to develop proposals for both the elementary and middle school zone changes.

### Public Presentation of Proposals

February 14, 2006

### Public Hearings on Proposals

*Elementary school level*

February 28, 2006, 7 p.m.

Westlake High School Auditorium

*Middle school level*

March 1, 2006, 7 p.m.

Westlake High School Auditorium

### Superintendent's Recommendations to the Board

March 14, 2006

### Public Hearings on Recommendations

*Elementary school level*

March 28, 2006, 7 p.m.

North Point High School

*Middle school level*

March 29, 2006, 7 p.m.

North Point High School

### Final Decision by Board

April 2006

### First Students Redistricted

*Elementary school - August 2006*

*Middle school - August 2007*

Get the latest redistricting information at  
[www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com)

## Why Redistrict?

Charles County is one of the fastest growing counties in Maryland. Growth presents challenges. Building new schools and redistricting are part of the solution to relieve overcrowding caused by growth. The addition of two schools on the west side of U.S. 301 will reduce overcrowding, particularly at J.C. Parks Elementary and several middle schools. While creating an attendance zone for Diggs, students may be rezoned to and from a number of schools, freeing up seats and allowing for better distribution of the elementary school population. The addition of Davis Middle School allows for the reduction and redistribution of the student population at most middle schools.

## Redistricting Overview

There are a number of ways parents can keep up-to-date on redistricting. All information will be posted on the school system's web site, [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com). Information flyers will be sent home with elementary students and mailed to middle school parents. The school system is planning to air the information on its television station, Channel 96. Information will also be forwarded to the local newspapers and provided to the public libraries.

## How are Redistricting Decisions Made?

A redistricting committee is developing proposals for consideration by the Superintendent of Schools. The committee is scheduled to present its proposals to the Superintendent and the Board of Education on Feb. 14, at the Board's regular monthly meeting.

Public hearings will be separated. The Board and Superintendent will accept comments on the elementary school redistricting proposals on Feb. 28, 7 p.m., at Westlake High School. Comments on the middle school proposal will be accepted on March 1, 7 p.m., at Westlake.

Superintendent James E. Richmond will make his recommendations to the Board on March 14. The community has an opportunity to comment on the Superintendent's recommendations at a second round of public hearings.

The second elementary redistricting hearing is March 28, 7 p.m., at North Point and the middle school hearing is March 29, 7 p.m. at North Point. The Board will make its final decision on

redistricting on April 18 and may make modifications to the Superintendent's recommendation based on public input.

## How Are Zones Determined?

Board of Education policy requires, as a minimum, that the following factors are considered and applied consistently to all zoning decisions: school capacity; impact on educational program quality of affected schools; student enrollment trends; age or condition of school buildings involved in the redistricting, recognizing the impact of increasing enrollment on older facilities where a building's physical condition and supporting utilities (i.e. septic system, HVAC, cafeteria, etc.) may be less able to accept more students; financial considerations such as temporary housing and operating costs per student; transportation costs; impact on the community of the school proposed to be redistricted relative to the size of the student population to be relocated and the natural boundaries of communities and neighborhoods within which students reside; the desirability of limiting the redistricting for an elementary or middle school to once every three years; and the number of students from outside the attendance zone.

## Who is on the Redistricting Committee?

There are 17 people on the Redistricting Committee. The group is composed of three parents, one representing each level (elementary, middle and high school); three parent alternates; three community members; three school system staff members; three principals; a member of the County Department of Planning and Growth Management; and the Assistant Superintendent for Supporting Services. Each school makes a recommendation for a parent representative to the committee. Names are picked at random from those recommendations.

## How will comments be received?

Community input is essential to a successful redistricting. Superintendent James E. Richmond welcomes comments from the public. Comments and suggestions may be shared at public hearings, through e-mail or by letter. Send e-mails to [redistrict@ccboe.com](mailto:redistrict@ccboe.com). Mail letters to Charles County Public Schools, Redistricting, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646.

All redistricting information will be posted on the school system's web site at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).



**Charles County Public Schools Redistricting Fact Sheet**  
**P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646**

**For more information, contact: 301-932-6610, 301-934-7220**  
**or e-mail [redistrict@ccboe.com](mailto:redistrict@ccboe.com)**

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