

# Middle School Redistricting

August 2021 Fact Sheet 1

## Redistricting Schedule

#### October 2020

Members of the Redistricting Committee selected. A public information Town Hall session was held virtually on Oct. 26.

#### November 2020

The Redistricting Committee begins meeting weekly. The meetings were paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### May 2021

The Redistricting Committee resumes its weekly meetings.

### **July 2021**

The Redistricting Committee completes work.

#### August 2021

Board of Education received a report on the Redistricting Committee's recommendations on Aug. 10. Public hearings are set for Aug. 23 and 24, 2021.

### September 2021

The Superintendent presents recommendation to the Board at its Sept. 14 meeting. Public hearings on the recommendation are set for Sept. 27 and 28, 2021.

#### October 2021

The Board takes action. The redistricting decision takes effect at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

### **Overview of redistricting**

A Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) redistricting committee is tasked to develop two different proposals to change middle school attendance zones. The redistricting will be comprehensive and could affect students at all eight CCPS middle schools. Middle school redistricting may revise attendance zones and reduce overcrowding at some schools. It will take effect in August 2022 once a renovation and expansion are complete at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School. The redistricting committee's task is to develop and evaluate potential middle school attendance zones for consideration by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education. The middle school redistricting committee was selected at random at the Oct. 13, 2020, Board of Education meeting; however, the process was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee reconvened on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, and met weekly to develop its proposals. The committee is divided into two groups to develop two different proposals. Redistricting policy and rules require the committee to submit two proposals.

The redistricting committee presented its two proposals for consideration to the Board at its Aug. 10, 2021, meeting.

### Why do we need to redistrict?

Redistricting is necessary to relieve overcrowding at the middle-school level, and to more evenly distribute student enrollment among schools. The renovation and expansion of Benjamin Stoddert Middle School increases the school's square footage from 105,800 to 148,317 feet. The current state-rated capacity (SRC) for Stoddert is 711 students; the completed project increases the SRC to 975, allowing for additional students to attend Stoddert.

## Which middle schools and students will be affected?

Redistricting could impact attendance zones for all eight middle schools. Affected students entering Grades 6-8 will change schools at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

## When will redistricting take effect?

Redistricting will take effect at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. The Board begins the redistricting process two years in advance to provide ample research time and opportunity for public input and notification. The middle school redistricting process started in Oct. 2020 with the selection of the committee and a public hearing for input. The committee paused its meetings in the fall after the Board moved its meetings to a virtual setting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

















## Who is involved in redistricting?

Last fall, CCPS invited parents and community members to apply for membership on the redistricting committee. The Board at its Oct. 13, 2020, meeting selected 11 parents through a random drawing to serve on the committee – two elementary, one high school and eight from the middle schools. The Board of Education also selected three community members at large and four school principals for the committee. Additionally, three local government planners and CCPS staff support the committee.

### How will public comments be received?

The Board of Education believes community input is essential to a successful redistricting.

There are several ways for community members to share ideas about the middle school redistricting:

- Email ideas and comments to redistrict@ccboe.com. All correspondence will be shared with Board members and staff.
- Participate in public hearings. For more information about the redistricting time line, visit the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com/redistricting.

Public comments and suggestions are shared with the Board of Education.

## When will parents and students be notified about the redistricting?

Parents and students will be notified of school zone changes after the Board votes on its redistricting decision in Oct. 2021. The school system will notify parents about the chosen proposal. Additionally, CCPS posts all redistricting information on its website at www.ccboe.com/index.php/redistricting-middle-school-ql.

## How will the committee develop proposals?

Using input from Board of Education policy, administration, staff, local government officials and community members, the redistricting committee will develop two proposals. The options will be developed based on criteria established by the Board of Education from a review of data. Input includes, but is not limited to, transportation costs, increasing populations of schools under capacity and decreasing student enrollment in schools over capacity. The redistricting committee will review data including middle school enrollments, growth projections, resale of homes, new home construction, geographic maps and other information. The committee will present its two proposals to the Board of Education at its Aug. 10, 2021, meeting. CCPS will make the proposals available to the public. The Board will hold public hearings after receiving the recommendations from the committee.

On Sept. 14, 2021, Superintendent Maria Navarro will make her recommendation to the Board. The Board will hold two additional public hearings after receiving the superintendent's recommendation. The Board is tentatively scheduled to make a decision at its Oct. 12, 2021, meeting.

## Where can I find up-to-date redistricting information?

CCPS continuously posts information on the school system website at www.ccboe.com/index.php/redistricting-middle-school-ql, including time lines, meeting notices, publications and parent notifications, maps, fact sheets and more. All parents will receive four fact sheets – an introduction to the redistricting, committee proposals, the Superintendent's recommendation to the Board, and the approved redistricting plan. Board meetings include updates on the process and air live at ccboe.com.

















The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Kathy Kiessling, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikial M. Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (employees/ adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event. CCPS provides nondiscriminatory equal access to school facilities in accordance with its Use of Facilities rules to designated youth groups (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).

