

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, permanent 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:

- Over the CIP planning period, a school building is projected to be significantly crowded while others are not.
- Capital expansion of the school to relieve significant crowding would not be possible at that site, would exceed the guideline size for schools at that level, or otherwise would not be feasible.
- An insufficient number of students is enrolled to allow cost-efficient use 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 planning process. An analysis and discussion of the possible need for boundary changes will be included in the bi-annual 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 an outline of the process to include affected schools and communities in 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.

## 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.