SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS: REDRAWING BOUNDARIES

The School Board will review attendance areas every five years and make any changes necessary to rebalance populations to reflect school capacities. When a new school is created and it becomes necessary to redraw boundaries to take into consideration the capacity of the new school, the boundaries of all schools may be considered in the process of establishing the attendance area.

Criteria

The process of establishing attendance areas will take into consideration the principles established by the School Board in Policy JGBJ “Equity and Excellence” and the following criteria:

1. Primary Criteria

*Geographic Proximity* – An effort will be made to minimize the distance traveled so that students can take advantage of Safe Routes to School for walking and biking.

*Instructional Capacity* – The number of students who can be accommodated at a school will be a starting point and will take into account the number of classrooms and resource rooms needed for art, music, labs, English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), special education, and Talented and Gifted (TAG) programs.

*Projected Enrollment* – Number of students assigned to a school, taking into account the future projected enrollment.

2. Secondary Criteria

When primary criteria indicate more than one option for the assignment of residences to attendance areas, options will be evaluated on the basis of:

*Traffic Patterns* – Factors impacting accessibility of the school from all portions of the attendance zone, including travel time, traffic flow in the area, safe operation of school buses, and other safety considerations.

*Previous Rezoning* – The school division seeks to avoid rezoning neighborhoods more than once during a ten-year period if facility sizes and geographic distribution of student populations allow.

*Special Programs* – Special programs are those serving children with special needs that require use of additional space over and above a regular classroom. Where possible, the school division
avoids setting attendance zones that would place a disproportionate number of special programs at a school.

_School Feeder Alignment_ – Where possible, consideration is given to the alignment of elementary and middle school attendance boundaries.

**Timing and Process**

Following a decennial census, a “major” boundary review process will take place. An ad hoc committee appointed by the School Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools will review capacity and population data and projections and consider those data against the criteria listed above.

Each of the electoral districts in Alexandria will be equally represented on the committee appointed to review boundaries. In the charge to the committee members, the Superintendent will provide a target date for completion of the work of the committee and will designate a staff member to coordinate its operations.

In the five years after a “major” boundary review, a more limited review of boundaries will take place to determine if adjustments are required. The Superintendent will propose to the School Board the process to be followed for this review, which may be similar to the decennial review if it is determined that conditions warrant.

**School Board Hearing**

As required by Code of Virginia § 22.1-79, a public hearing will be conducted prior to the adoption of new boundaries.

**Regulations**

The Superintendent will issue regulations implementing this policy.

Adopted:

Legal Ref: Code of Virginia § 22.1-79

JBA-R - Procedures for Section 504 Impartial Hearings

JC - School Attendance Areas

JC-R - Regulations Governing ACPS Pupil Placement Options

JCA - Transfers by Student Victims of Crime

JCB - Transfers by Students in Persistently Dangerous Schools

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JCC - School Choice for Students Enrolled in Schools Identified for Improvement

JCD - Modified Open Enrollment for Elementary Schools

JCD-R - Regulations Governing ACPS Pupil Placement Options

JCJ - Classroom Assignments for Twins

IGBJ - Equity and Excellence

IHB - Class Size

IHB-R - Regulations Pertaining to Class Size