



# **-Public Information Session-**

## **Rezoning Study Presentation of Process and Timeline**

**May 29, 2019**

**Cropper G/S**

# *Welcome and Introductions*

# *Who We Are*



# The Company

## Cropper GIS Consulting, LLC

K-12 school planning is our business and our passion. Our specialty is school realignment.

Cropper works with K-12 school districts to:

- develop redistricting plans,
- facilitate community engagement,
- research, map and write demographic studies,
- prepare long-range facility master plans,
- author site feasibility studies,
- conduct & publish housing impact and yield factor studies, and
- provide GIS implementation & training.

*Who We Are*

Cropper GIS is an ESRI Authorized Business Partner





## Recent Projects:

- Henrico County Public Schools, VA
- Frederick County Public Schools, VA
- Alexandria City Public Schools, VA
- Union County Public Schools, NC
- Brunswick County Public Schools, NC
- Frederick County Public Schools, MD
- Baltimore County Public Schools, MD
- Alexandria City Public Schools, VA
- Meridian Public School District, MS
- Kershaw County School District, SC
- Calhoun County Public Schools, SC
- Akron Public Schools, OH



# Matthew Cropper

- 20 years experience providing GIS mapping and analysis services to school districts and other clients.
- Manages and Facilitates K-12 redistricting and facility planning projects across the U.S.
- Expert consultant for U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Right's Division
- Published numerous papers about using GIS in master planning and educational planning.

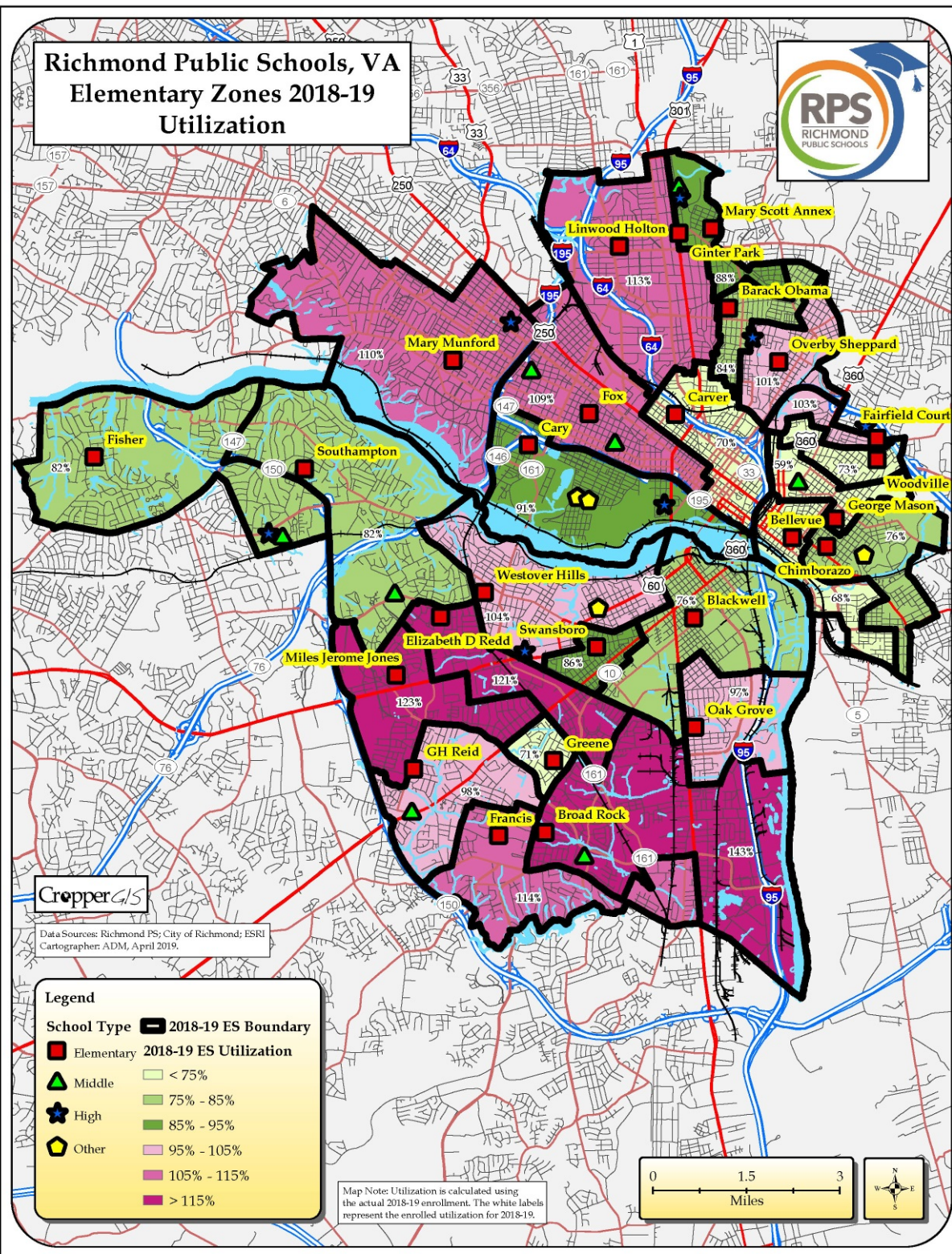


# Why We're Here

1. 3 new buildings opening in Fall 2020:
  - New Greene Elementary School, with 1,000 seats
  - New George Mason Elementary School, with 750 seats
  - New Elkhardt-Thompson Middle School, with 1,500 seats
2. Additional considerations:
  - Respond to changes in demographics and population, which have created imbalances in building utilization throughout the division.
  - Identify potential school, program, and central office team consolidation opportunities.
    - Many buildings are in need of modernization or replacement.
    - Consolidating underutilized facilities with high repair costs will save capital dollars and accelerate capital repairs throughout the division.



# Richmond Public Schools, VA Elementary Zones 2018-19 Utilization



Below 75% Utilization

Between 75-85% Utilization

Between 85-95% Utilization

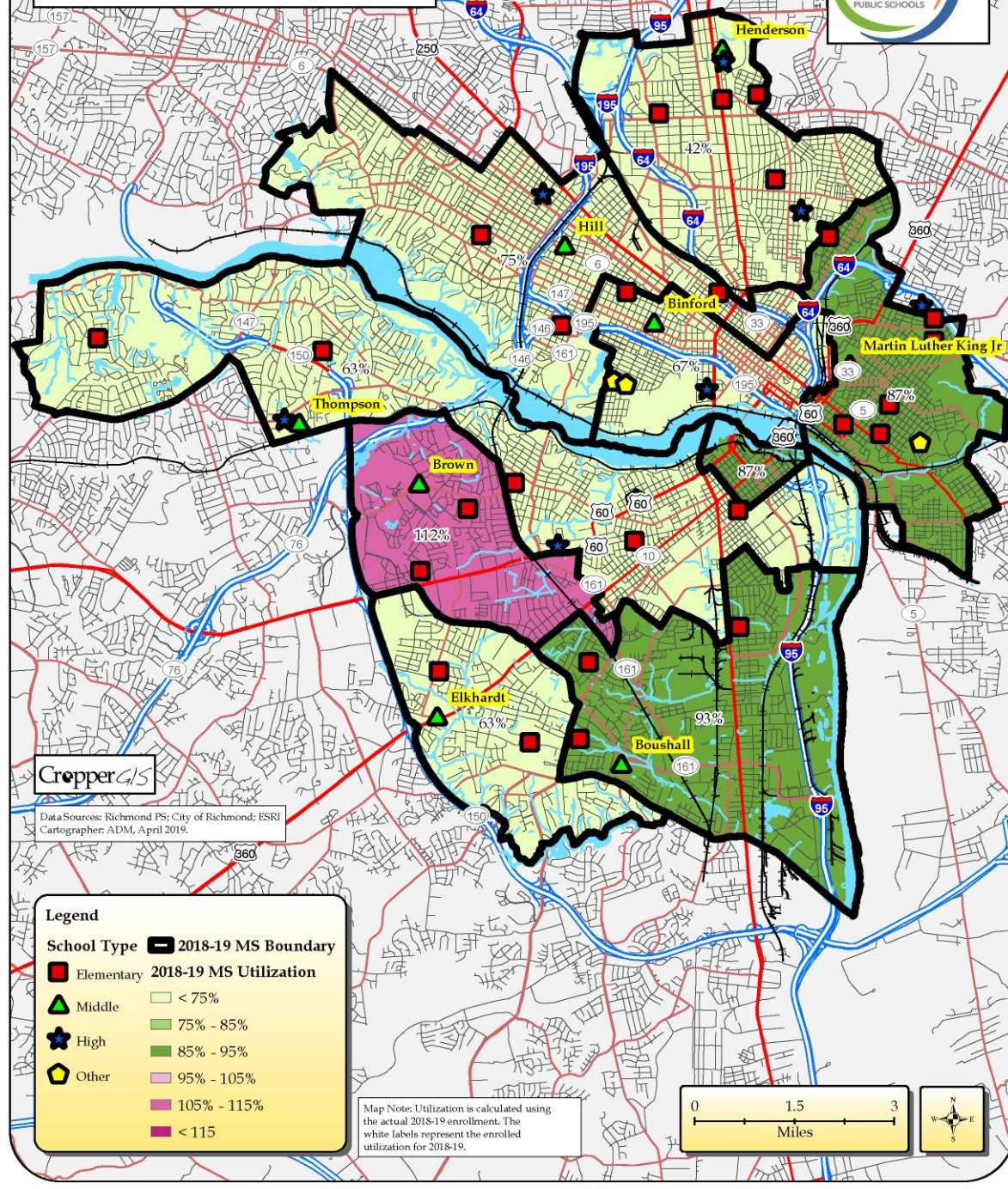
Between 95-105% Utilization

Between 105-115% Utilization

Over 115% Utilization



# Richmond Public Schools, VA Middle School Zones 2018-19 Utilization



Below 75% Utilization

Between 75-85% Utilization

Between 85-95% Utilization

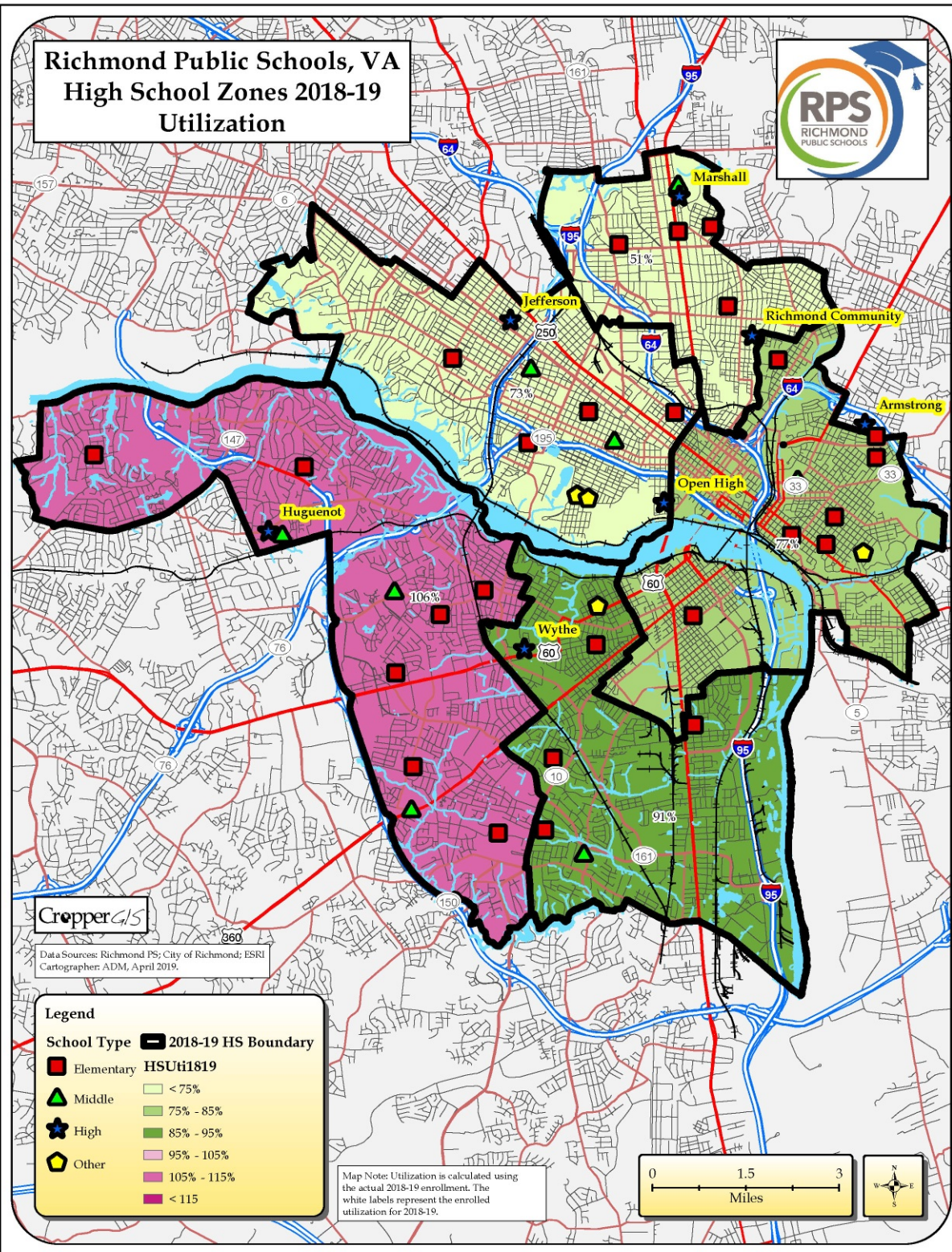
Between 95-105% Utilization

Between 105-115% Utilization

Over 115% Utilization



# Richmond Public Schools, VA High School Zones 2018-19 Utilization



Below 75% Utilization

Between 75-85% Utilization

Between 85-95% Utilization

Between 95-105% Utilization

Between 105-115% Utilization

Over 115% Utilization

# Project Objectives

*Why We're Here*

1. To explore and develop Rezoning options through a community-based process.
2. Focus on developing options that best meet the RPS rezoning guiding principles.



# School Rezoning Study

Cropper GIS Consulting were hired by the district to facilitate and manage the project. Our firms are tasked to:

- A. Develop supporting materials to help facilitate the study.
- B. Facilitate a community-based process of developing a school rezoning plan.
- C. Empower the community throughout the process.
- D. Leverage expertise to develop logical, efficient, and effective rezoning options with the committee.

Why We're Here





# Rezoning Guiding Principles

## *Rules to Follow*

The Richmond Public Schools has a set of guiding principles to follow when evaluating school rezoning options. These are rules to follow when considering any potential attendance zone adjustment.

- The rezoning committee will be oriented on these guiding principles and will follow them as best as possible as they consider rezoning options.

# Rezoning Guiding Principles

## Principle 1: Engage the community by

- Providing multiple authentic opportunities for all stakeholders to share their ideas and provide feedback
- Creating an advisory body of community representatives to help guide the process
- Engaging local historians and other community leaders
- Reviewing and leveraging past rezoning efforts

*Rules to Follow*



# Rezoning Guiding Principles

## *Rules to Follow*

**Principle 2: Develop new zones for RPS schools that improve the student experience by**

- Ensuring safe, equitable, and more timely transportation; and leveraging natural boundaries when possible
- Increasing student diversity of all kinds within schools
- Alleviating overcrowding and minimizing, if not eliminating, the use of trailers
- Planning for future student population trends and future development
- Expediting student placement in modern facilities after rezoning through a variety of measures including new school construction, as well as potential consolidations and closures (revised)



# Rezoning Guiding Principles

**Principle 3:** Develop a plan for the disposition of vacant and non-instructional (owned/rented) properties in an effort to:

- Raise funds for new school construction
- Develop mutually beneficial partnerships with Richmond cultural institutions
- Focus more time, energy, and money on our core work: teaching and learning

*Rules to Follow*

# *Project Approach*

# Four Project Phases

Cropper has identified four phases of a community-driven rezoning study for RPS:

1. Data Collection
2. Data Analysis / Assimilation
3. Options Development
4. Committee and Public engagement



# 1. Data Collection



- School District–
  - Geocoded enrollment databases by address.
  - Maps of current boundaries and schools
  - School facility information
  - Projected enrollment
- City / County Sources–
  - Base GIS data (address pts, municipalities, subdivisions, existing and planned road networks, etc.)





## 2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

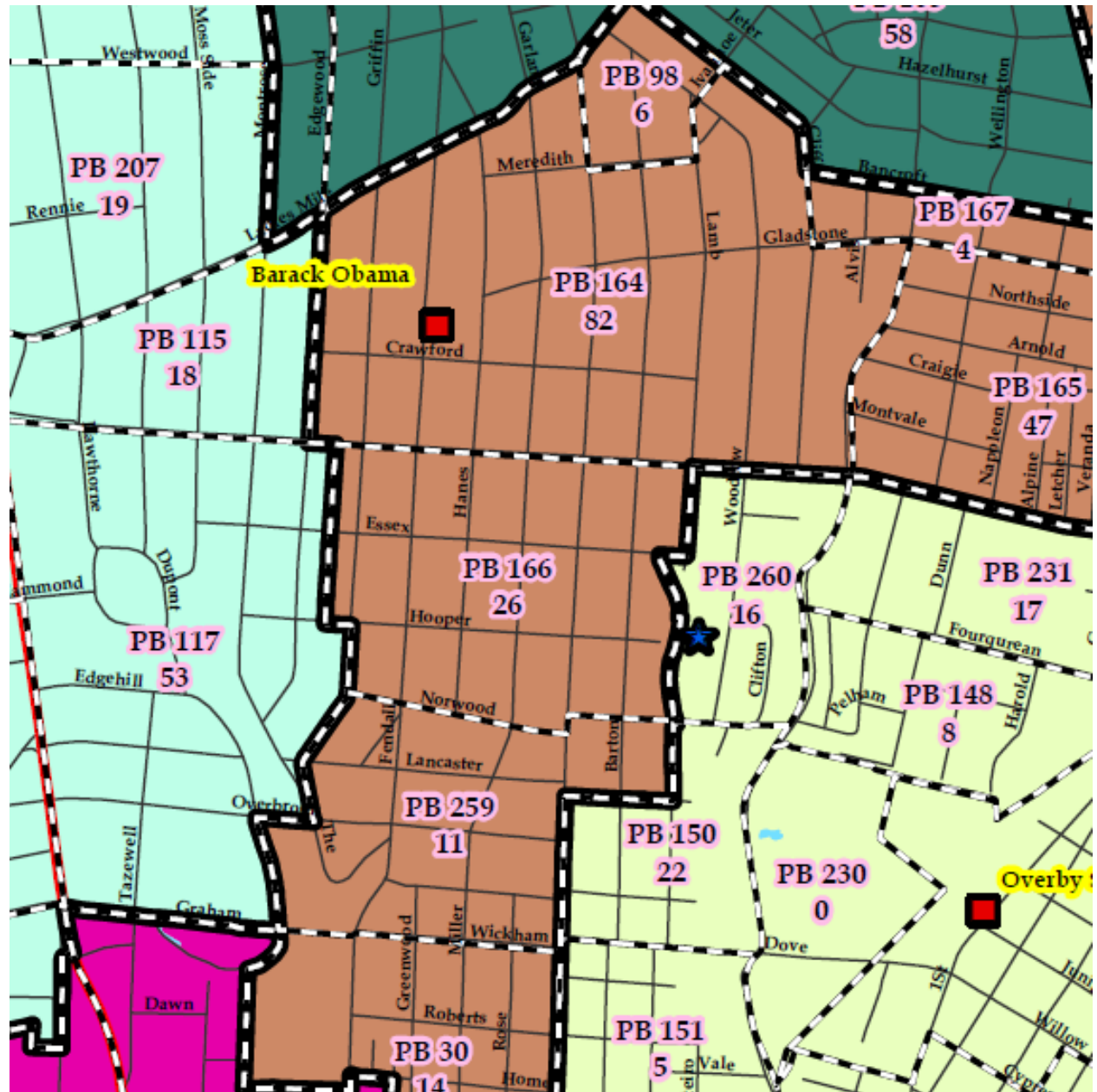
- All data was incorporated into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to enable quick, accurate, and efficient analysis, and also to help facilitate rezoning options.



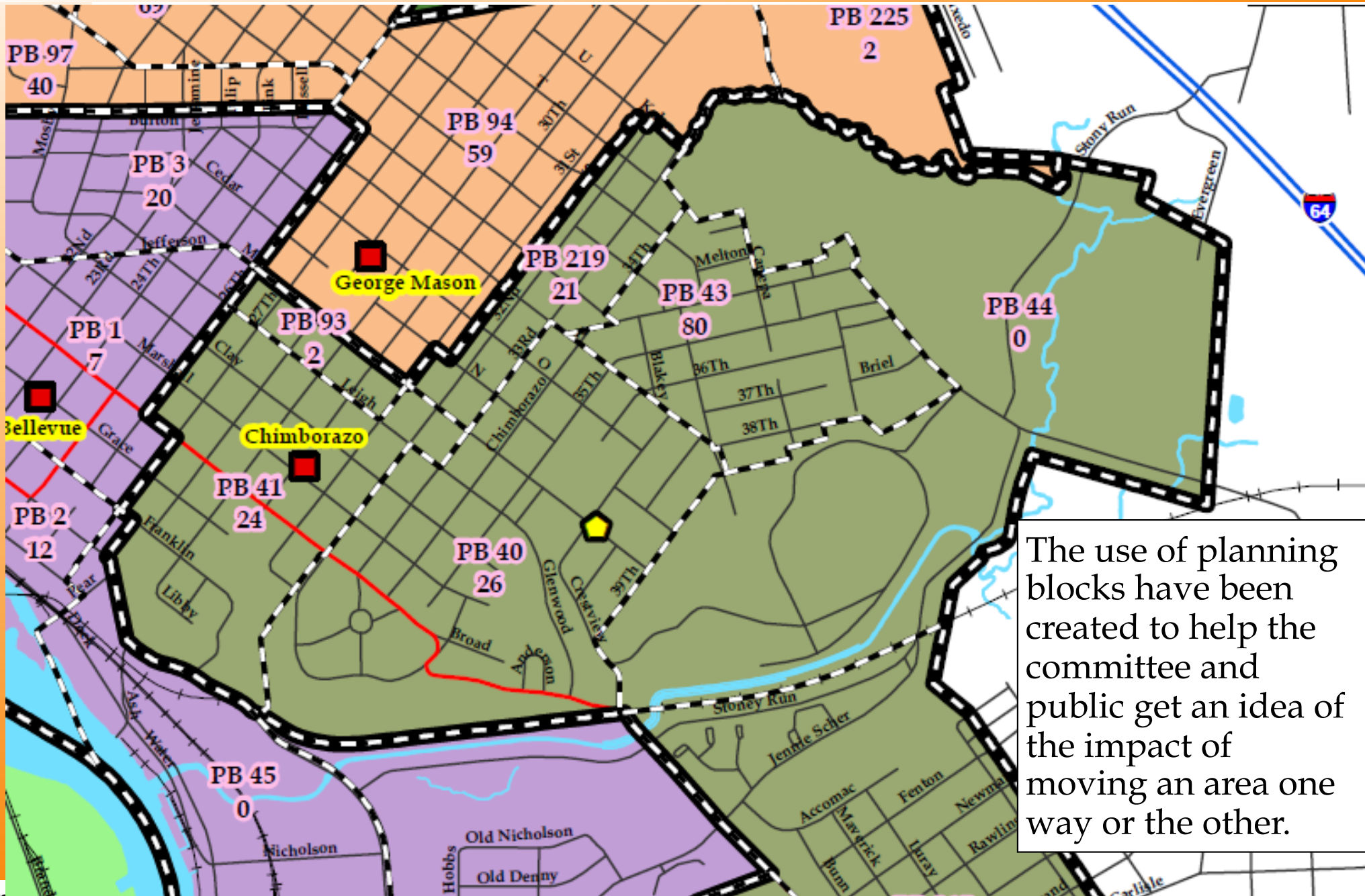
## 2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

The use of planning blocks were created to help the committee and public obtain an understanding of the impact on moving an area one way or the other.

Key data have been analyzed by these planning blocks, such as total number of students living within each block who attend their zoned school.



## 2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

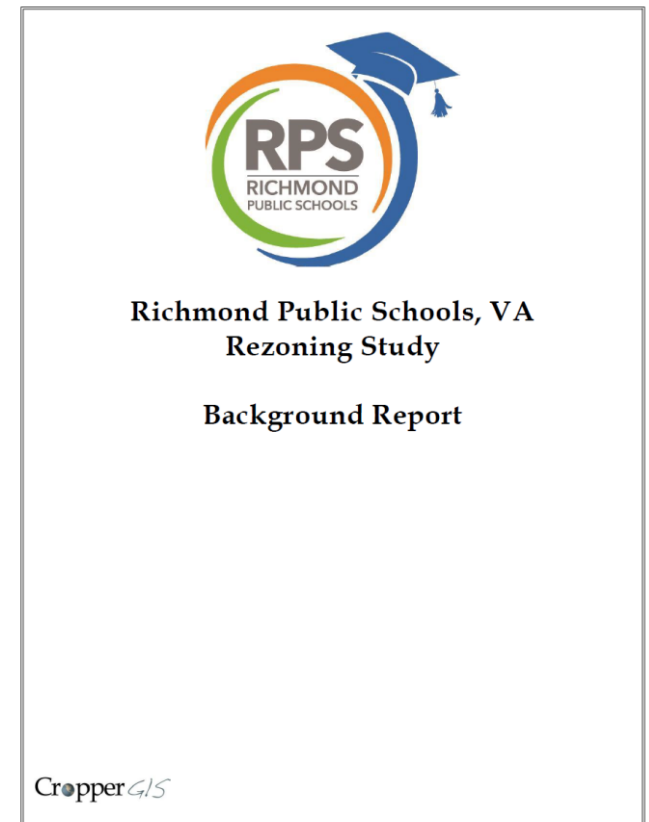


The use of planning blocks have been created to help the committee and public get an idea of the impact of moving an area one way or the other.

## 2. Data Analysis / Assimilation: Background Report

Each committee member will be provided with a background report. The report expands the extensive knowledge each committee and public member already has about the Richmond Public Schools.

The background report helps committee members share a message with the community that is consistent and accurate.





## 2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

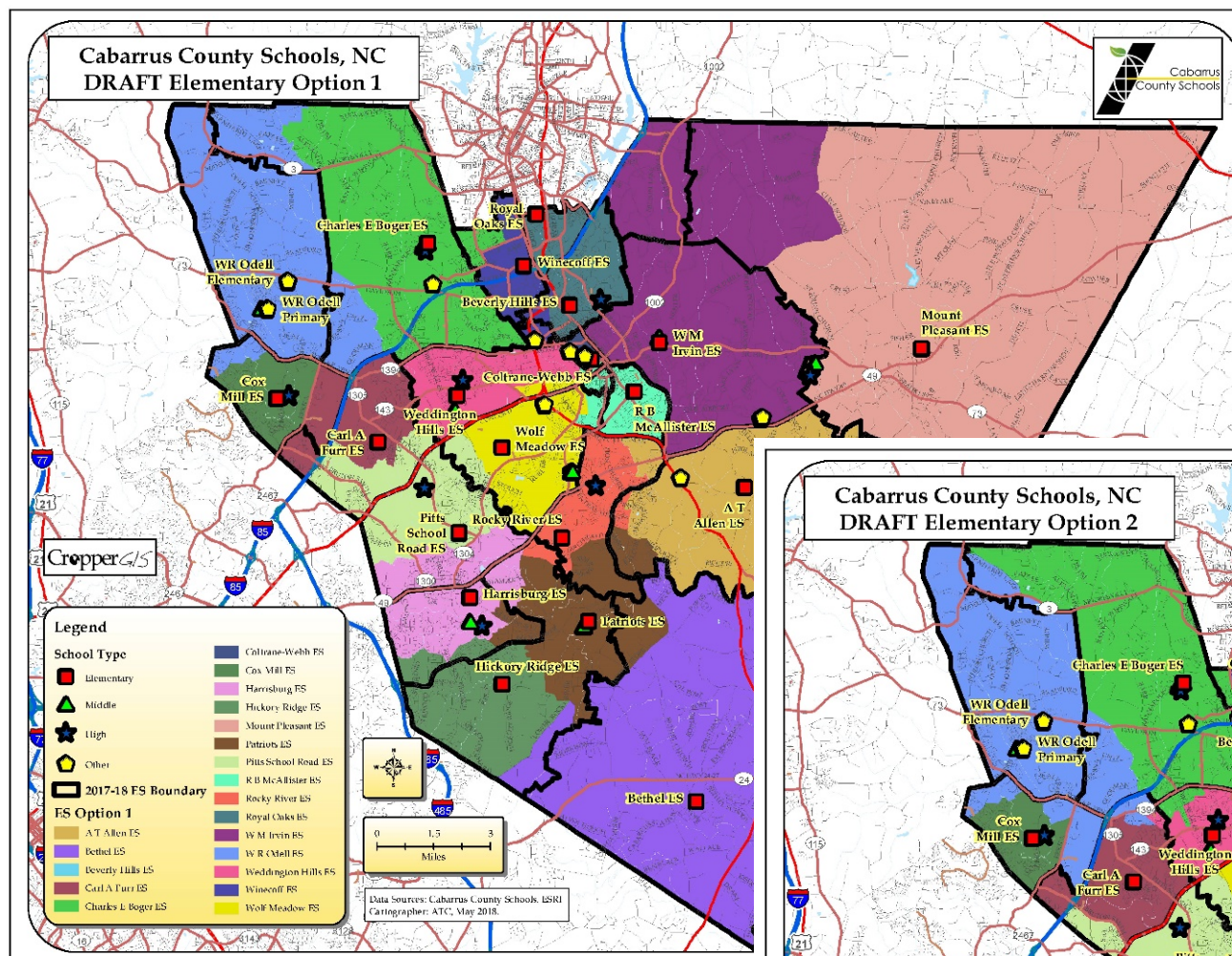
# Online Map

- An online map has been developed to further inform the committee and public on the work of the committee.
- Current zones and options can be viewed on the map.
- Other features can be turned on/off on the map, including planning blocks.
- Map is customizable, and can/will be updated during the process to show new options along with other information requested by the committee.
- Site can be viewed on any device, including mobile devices and tablets (with internet connection).
- Site address is:

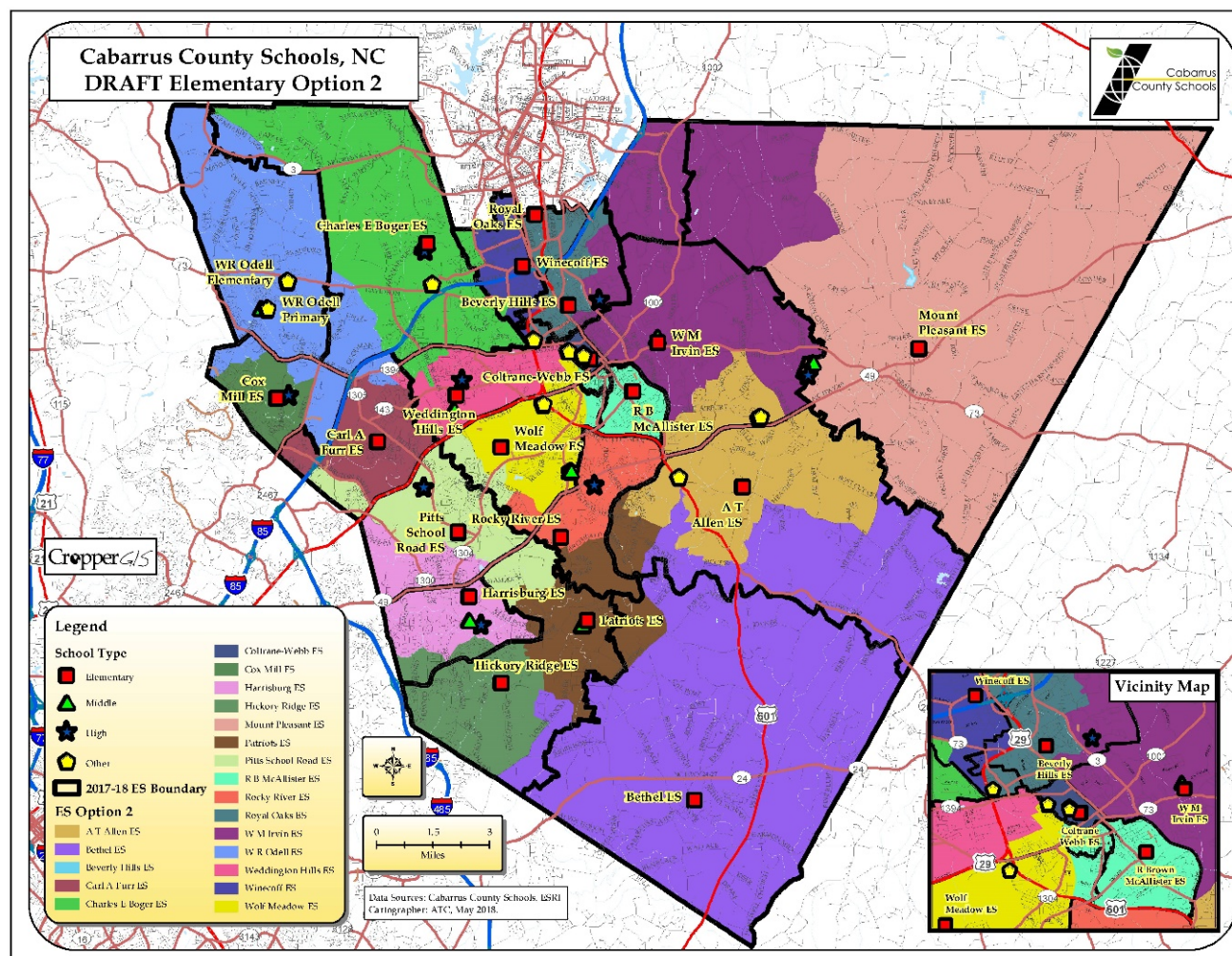
[www.croppermap.com/richmondrezoning](http://www.croppermap.com/richmondrezoning)

### 3. Options Development

To expedite the process and empower the community, it is best to begin with a series of baseline rezoning options.



Baseline options will be shared with the committee at their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

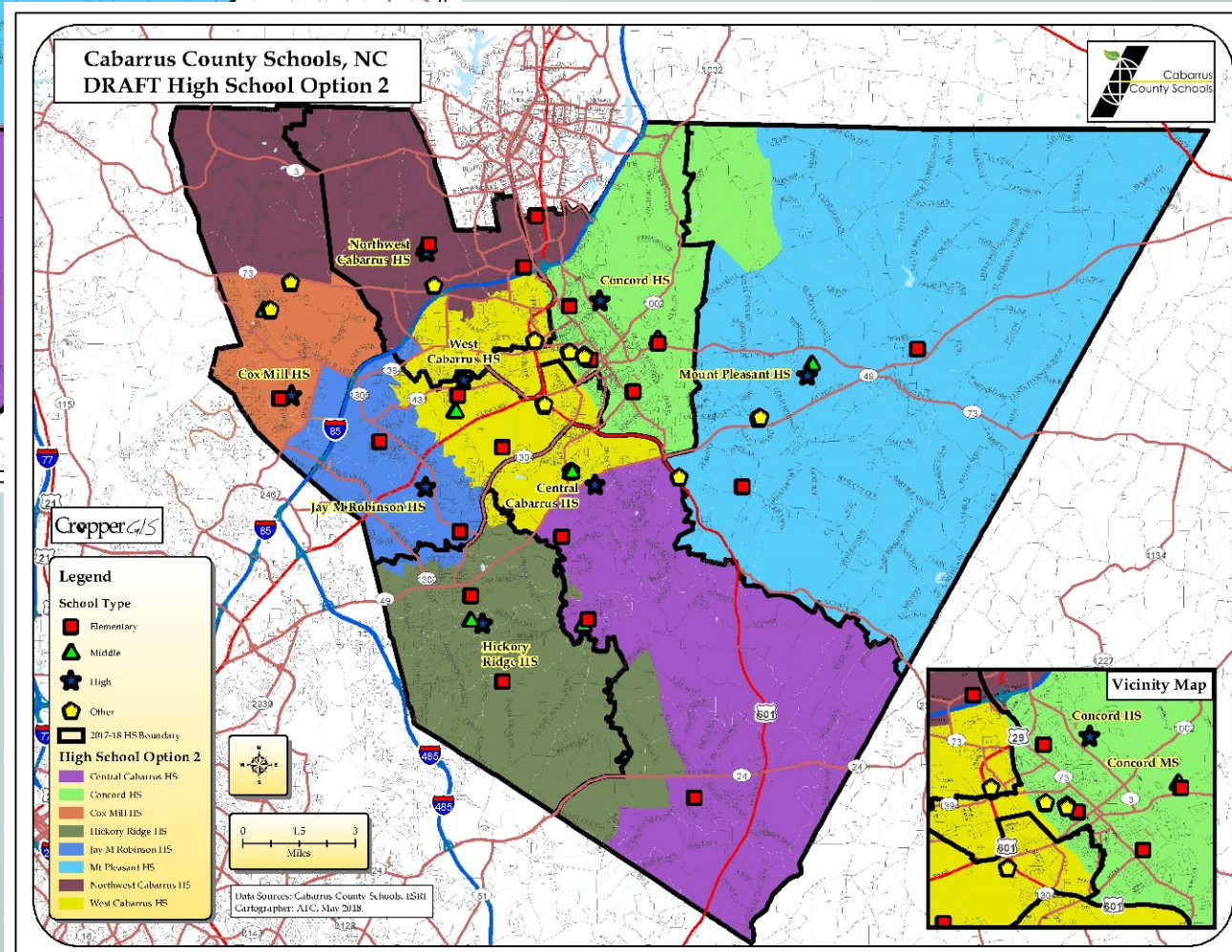
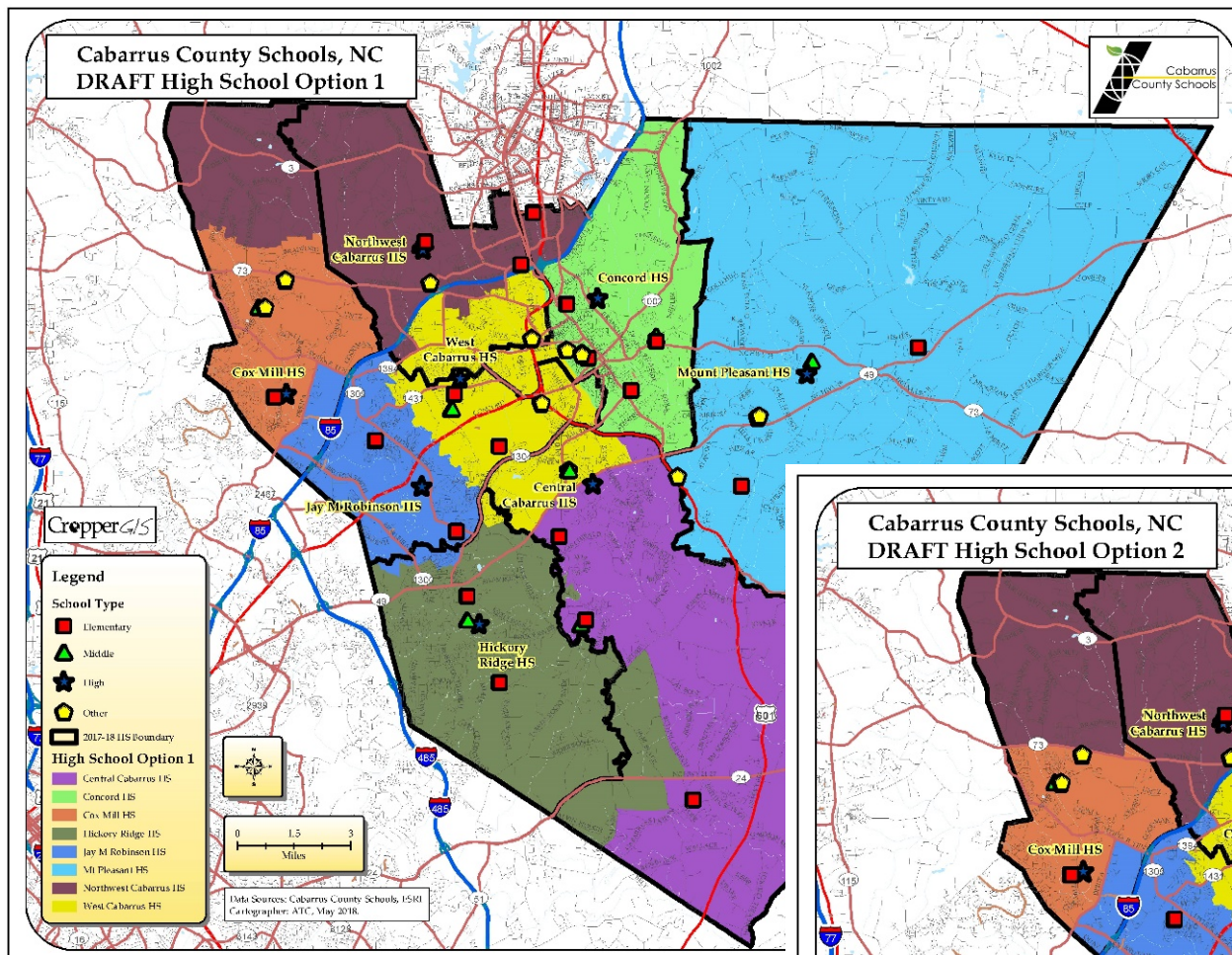




### 3. Options Development

Options will be developed with RPS board approved guiding principles in mind.

The committee will utilize the baseline options as a starting point, with the expectation that they will be modified or new options created based on stakeholder input. All with a focus on the rezoning guiding principles.





## 4. Committee and Public Engagement

The most important factor when working on a rezoning study is to keep all lines of communication open.

*Project Approach*





## 4. Committee and Public Engagement

The district has formulated a committee to advise RPS as they work on developing rezoning options.

School Board members each nominated two persons to serve on the committee, which ensures that input will be received from all areas of the school district.

In addition to the board-nominated committee members, RPS staff will serve an informational role. Their role is to provide background information/feedback as it relates to school facilities, RPS operating procedures, policy, or answers to any other questions that are best suited to come from the school division.



# Review of Timeline

	Jan. '19	Feb. '19	Mar. '19	Apr. '19	May '19	June '19	July '19	Aug. '19	Sept. '19	Oct. '19	Nov. '19
<i>Data Collection</i>											
<i>Data Analysis / Assimilation</i>											
<i>Internal Logistics Planning with RPS</i>											
<i>Background Report Development</i>											
<i>Baseline Options Development</i>											
<i>Public Information Session #1 : Present Project Process, Criteria, Timeline, and Rezoning Objectives to Community. Information meeting to public.</i>					5/29						
<i>Rezoning Meeting 1</i> <i>- Review Background Data, Introduce Baseline Options</i>					5/30						
<i>Rezoning Meeting 2</i> <i>- Options Development</i>						6/27					
<i>Rezoning Meeting 3</i> <i>- Options Development, Prepare for Public Info Session #2</i>							7/30				
<i>Public Information Session #2: Present Preliminary Rezoning Options to Community for Comment/Feedback</i>								8/13 8/14			
<i>Rezoning Meeting 4</i> <i>- Review Survey Feedback/Results, Continue Options Development</i>									9/19		
<i>Rezoning Meeting 5</i> <i>- Finalize Recommendations &amp; Prepare for Board Presentation</i>										10/17	
<i>Presentation of Final Recommendations to the Board of Education</i>											11/4

We are here



# *How can you participate?*

- Follow the process by visiting the RPS Rezoning Study webpage:
  - **<https://www.rvaschools.net/Page/5403>**
  - On this page, you can find a general feedback form, where you can provide any feedback related to the rezoning study at any time.
- All committee meetings are open to the public as observers.
  - Public participation is not allowed at committee meetings, but you are able to see and track the work being done by the committee at any meeting.

# *How can you participate?*

- The public will be invited to view the DRAFT options that are being considered by the committee at Public Engagement Sessions on August 13 and August 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Please visit the RPS study webpage for details on time and location.
  - A survey will be opened for this process in August, to solicit further feedback regarding DRAFT Options that are being considered by the rezoning committee.
- The committee process is the first phase of this work. Once the committee provides a recommendation, it is in the hands of the school board.
  - Members of the public can always provide input/comment at scheduled school board meetings, using their public comment procedures.

**Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with the public on this important process!**