



School Boundary Advisory Committee

Board of Education of
St. Mary's County

February 11, 2015

School Boundary Advisory Committee Second New Elementary School (2014 – 2015)

Redistricting Policy - JCAA

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the realignment of school district boundaries as a result of new school construction, overcrowding at existing schools, or closing existing schools.

II. Policy Statement

Section 4-109 (c) of the Education Article, Maryland Annotated Code provides that: With the advice of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of St. Mary's County (the Board) shall determine the geographic attendance area for each school established under this section.

In accordance with 13A.02.09 of the Code of Maryland Regulations, St. Mary's County Public Schools hereby adopts the following policy to be applied to the redistricting and closing of schools.

1. The Board has the primary responsibility to provide school facilities that address changing enrollment patterns and that sustain high quality educational programs and equitable educational opportunities in a way that meets its instructional expectations. The Board fulfills this responsibility through the facilities planning process. The academic achievement of all students in a safe and orderly learning environment through partnership with our community is of primary importance to the Superintendent of Schools and the Board. Enrollment in St. Mary's County is not static. The fundamental basis of this policy is to provide a sound educational environment for a changing and growing community. The number of students, their geographic distribution, and demographic characteristics of this population are all a concern for the public school system. Enrollment changes are driven by factors including birth rates, movement in admissions, and withdrawals from the school system.
2. The Board, upon the advice of the Superintendent of Schools, must address underutilized or overcrowded conditions in existing schools, the closing or opening of a school, and the impact of residential development which may require the redistricting of certain school sites. At those times, the Board's primary basis for judgment must be equity of educational opportunities for all students rather than the personal desires of any one group. The Board and the Superintendent of Schools shall hold a public hearing to hear suggestions and reactions from the community prior to the final decision.
3. The Superintendent of Schools will prepare student enrollment projections annually and report to the Board any need for redistricting. The Superintendent of Schools will charge a committee to develop and recommend boundary proposals for redistricting and/or school closings.
4. In the event of an emergency, the decision to redistrict a school because of extenuating circumstances cannot be dependent upon the advice of the committee because immediate and temporary action must be taken.
5. The Superintendent of Schools has the authority and responsibility to recommend redistricting when needed to the Board.
6. The Superintendent of Schools may request a longer study period based on the anticipated number of schools possibly impacted.

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The Superintendent of Schools annually evaluates the need for redistricting, using the following timeline and procedure:

- June – Refine five-year enrollment projections by school and grade. Prepare preliminary recommendations regarding the need for redistricting.
 - July – Assess school building capacities and utilization rates (enrollment measured against school building capacities). Identify schools over capacity and those exceptionally under local rated capacity, with and without relocatables. In years when redistricting has been determined to be required, staff will begin developing proposed redistricting plans.
 - October – Assess September 30 enrollment data and confirm that the need for redistricting exists. If redistricting is required, the School Boundary Advisory Committee will be charged to review and provide comments on boundary proposals and/or school closings.
 - November/December – The committee chair(s) will present recommended boundary proposals to the Superintendent of Schools. Upon approval, the Superintendent of Schools will present recommended boundary proposals to the Board.
- January – The Board holds a public hearing regarding the recommended boundary proposals.
 - February – Present final boundary plans to the Board for final approval.
- March/April – Distribute to parents the final school assignment for students affected by the new boundary plans.

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Areas Reassigned

From Leonardtown Elementary School to Captain Walter Francis Duke

Elementary School: Maryland Route 5 northbound from and including Cedar Lane Court to and including Maryland Route 245 to and including Barnsby Lane and all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes. McIntosh Road from the intersection of Maryland Route 245 to but not including Jones Road, including all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes. St. John's Road from the intersection of Maryland Route 245 to but not including Abell's Run Drive, including all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes.

From Hollywood Elementary School to Captain Walter Francis Duke

Elementary School: Maryland Route 245 from but not including Barnsby Lane to the intersection of Maryland Route 235, including all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes. Northbound Maryland Route 235 from the intersection of but not including Old Three Notch Road and Three Notch Road to and including Jones Wharf Road, including all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes. Southbound Maryland Route 235 from the intersection of Jones Wharf Road to and including Airport View Drive, including all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes.

From Hollywood Elementary School to Evergreen Elementary School:

Southbound Maryland Route 235 from but not including Airport View Drive to and including Airport Road, including all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes.

From Town Creek Elementary School to Evergreen Elementary School:

Johnson Pond Lane, including all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes.

From Evergreen Elementary School to Hollywood Elementary School:

Southbound Maryland Route 235 from the intersection of Maryland Route 4 to and including Old Rolling Road, and all auxiliary roads, drives, courts, and lanes. Maryland Route 4 from and including the intersection of FDR Boulevard to Maryland Route 235, excluding the Settler's Landing development.

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Recommendation

Submit Plan 10 to the Interim Superintendent as the proposed redistricting plan with the following considerations:

- Based on continued growth at Evergreen Elementary School do not allow transfers into the school, except as outlined in this recommendation.
- Grandfathering all rising fifth grade students affected by the redistricting effort, without transportation for the 2015-16 school year, utilizing a special form and process developed by St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS).
- Provide support for students of active duty military families within the Evergreen, Hollywood, and Leonardtown elementary school communities by:
 - Grandfathering students who currently attend these schools through the end of the 2014-15 school year and their siblings, without transportation for a three-year period through the 2017-18 school year. Students and their siblings will be able to attend the school based on their registration for the 2014-15 school year.
 - Allow new students who register from the time of approval of the redistricting plan to the last day of the 2014-15 school year and are redistricted to Hollywood Elementary School to attend Hollywood Elementary School for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year, without transportation.
 - Effective July 1, 2015, all new active duty military students will attend the school based on their residence and the approved redistricting school boundaries.
 - SMCPS will develop a special transfer form and process for the active duty military transfers outlined in this proposal, which must be utilized.
- In order to address transportation resources, the Sunshine Daycare Center will be limited to continued transportation service to Benjamin Banneker Elementary School and Leonardtown Elementary School, as currently served.
- School start times will be finalized as a result of the approval process and establishment of new bus routes. It is anticipated that the start time will be between 8:15 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. for Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School and between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. for Leonardtown Elementary School.