



State College Area School District

Randy Brown

Danielle Yoder

240 VILLA CREST DRIVE • STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA • 16801

TELEPHONE: 814-231-1021 • FAX: 814-466-6068

To: Curtis Johnson
From: Danielle Yoder, Randy Brown, and Jonathan Klingeman
Date: May 6, 2024
Subject: Proposed Attendance Boundary Area Change

Recommendation

The administration recommends an attendance boundary change between Easterly Parkway and Corl Street elementary schools beginning in the 2024-2025 school year (Attachment 1).

Background

As presented on April 15th, we have worked with our transportation department to identify an attendance boundary change as a way to provide equitable experiences by balancing class sizes while minimizing busing disruptions. The administration has been researching this attendance boundary area change between Easterly Parkway and Corl Street elementary schools. The rationale for this proposal is similar, in part, to the alternate attendance area proposal [approved on March 25, 2024](#). In contrast, this proposal would be a permanent change in school and boundary area assignments, beginning in August 2024.

This specific move will permanently relocate all students, including ESL-eligible students, currently assigned to Easterly Parkway who live at the White Course apartments (Duff Drive) to Corl Street Elementary. This change will provide more equitable class sizes across several elementary schools and allow for student assignment to neighborhood schools. This would add English Language Development (ELD) support services to Corl Street, which historically has had to send ESL students to the Radio Park center. Thus, this step would also allow ELD students who live in the Corl Street catchment area to return to their neighborhood school to receive those services.

Rising fifth graders at the White Course apartments (Duff Drive) will have the option to remain in their current placement with the understanding that they will then attend Park Forest Middle School. Note, this currently pertains only to three rising fifth graders.

Given our current student enrollment, no additional ELD staffing will be required to complete this change. Current staffing will be reassigned to meet the ELD needs of Corl Street.

An additional change, beginning the 2024-2025 school year, will include rising sixth graders and new middle school students who reside at White Course (Duff Drive). These students will attend Park Forest Middle School for their middle school career. White Course students who have been attending Mount Nittany Middle School will have the option to continue in their current building assignment for seventh and/or eighth grade and will have district transportation provided. Note, there are currently three middle school students with siblings in this attendance area; however, those siblings are in younger grades.

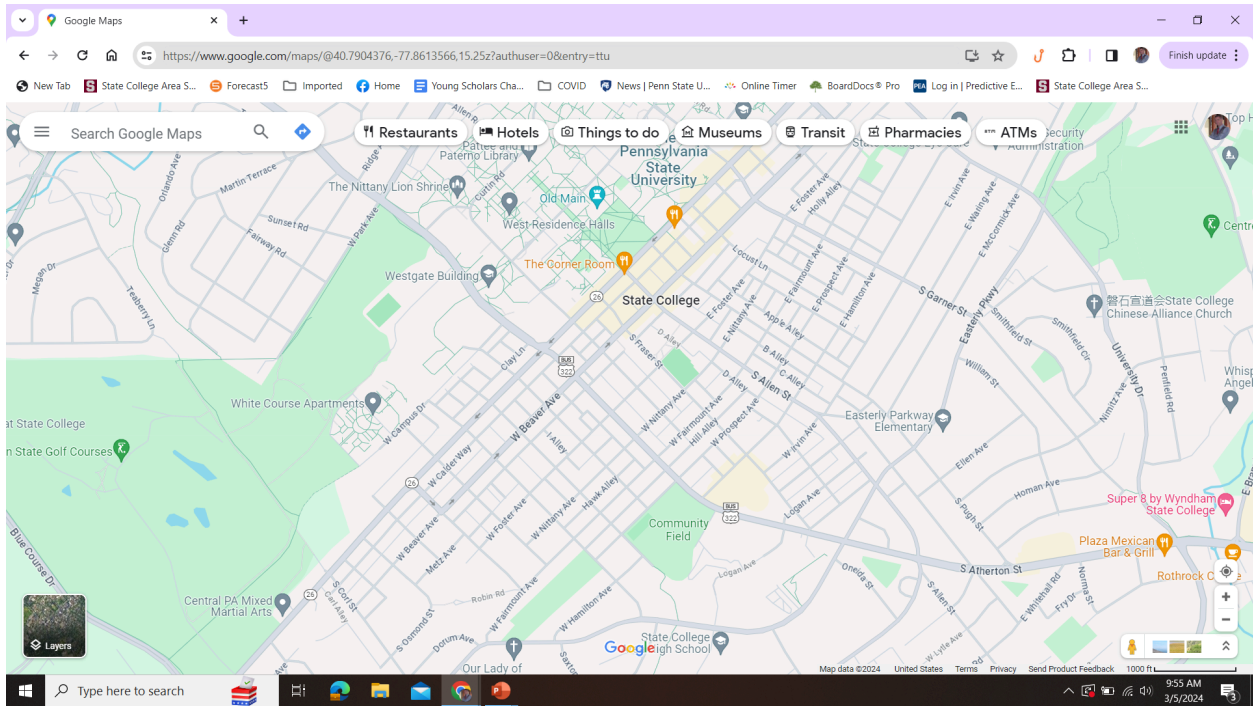
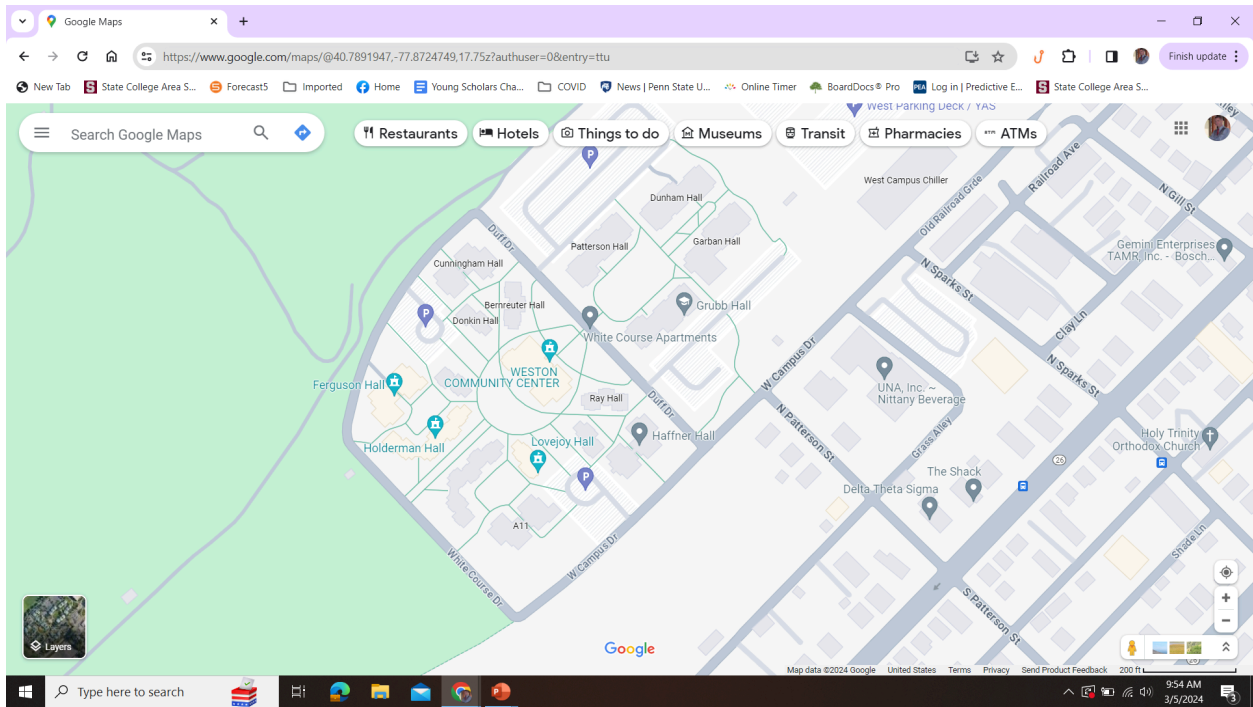
A summary of the changes is provided below.

For 2024-2025

- White Course (Duff Drive) boundary shifts from Easterly Parkway to Corl Street:
 - All students who reside will move to Corl Street, as the boundary will be redefined:
 - Fifth-grade students would be given a choice to finish at Easterly Parkway.
 - All ESL-eligible students will receive support at Corl Street.
- All new ESL registrations in the Corl Street boundary will receive support at their home school, Corl Street.
- All ESL-eligible students who have been attending the Radio Park Center for ELD support will move back to their neighborhood school, Corl Street, and be provided ELD support.
- All rising fifth graders affected will have the option to remain in their current placement but will attend Park Forest Middle School for sixth through eighth grade.
- All rising sixth graders affected by this change will attend the middle school of the updated boundary change.
- All rising seventh/eighth graders affected by this change will have the option to remain in their current placement or move to the new boundary middle school (transportation provided as appropriate).
- Although few in number, family situations that would be affected by having students in multiple middle schools will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

For 2025-2026

- Students choosing to finish fifth grade at Easterly Parkway will transition to Park Forest Middle School rather than Mount Nittany Middle School.
- All rising eighth graders affected by this change will have the option to remain in their current placement or move to the new boundary middle school (transportation provided as appropriate).





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TELEPHONE: 814-231-1021 • FAX: 814-466-6068

To: Curtis Johnson
From: Danielle Yoder, Randy Brown, and Jonathan Klingeman
Date: March 27, 2024
Subject: Proposed Attendance Boundary Area Change

The administration has been researching a potential attendance boundary area change between Easterly Parkway and Corl Street elementary schools. The rationale for this proposal is similar, in part, to the alternate attendance area proposal [approved on March 25, 2024](#). In contrast, this proposal would be a permanent change in school and boundary area assignments, beginning in August 2024.

This specific move will permanently relocate all students, including ESL-eligible students, currently assigned to Easterly Parkway who live at the White Course apartments (Duff Drive) to Corl Street Elementary. This change will provide more equitable class sizes across several elementary schools and allow for student assignment to neighborhood schools. This would add English Language Development (ELD) support services to Corl Street, which historically has had to send ESL students to the Radio Park center. Thus, this step would also allow ELD students who live in the Corl Street catchment area to return to their neighborhood school to receive those services.

Rising fifth graders at the White Course apartments (Duff Drive) will have the option to remain in their current placement with the understanding that they will then attend Park Forest Middle School. Note, this currently pertains only to three rising fifth graders.

Given our current student enrollment, no additional ELD staffing will be required to complete this change. Current staffing will be reassigned to meet the ELD needs of Corl Street.

An additional change, beginning the 2024-2025 school year, will include rising sixth graders and new middle school students who reside at White Course (Duff Drive). These students will attend Park Forest Middle School for their middle school career. White Course students who have been attending Mount Nittany Middle School will have the option to continue in their current building assignment for seventh and/or eighth grade and will have district transportation provided. Note, there are currently three middle school students with siblings in this attendance area; however, those siblings are in younger grades. Note: Prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the White Course (Duff Drive) stop was assigned to Park Forest Middle School.

A summary of the changes is provided below.

For 2024-2025

- White Course (Duff Drive) boundary shifts from Easterly Parkway to Corl Street:
 - All students who reside will move to Corl Street, as the boundary will be redefined:
 - Fifth grade students would be given a choice to finish at Easterly Parkway.
 - All ESL-eligible students will receive support at Corl Street.
- All new ESL registrations in the Corl Street boundary will receive support at their home school, Corl Street.
- All ESL-eligible students who have been attending the Radio Park center for ELD support will move back to their neighborhood school, Corl Street, and be provided ELD support.
- All rising fifth graders affected will have the option to remain in their current placement but will attend middle school based on the newly defined boundary for sixth grade.
- All rising sixth graders affected by this change will attend the middle school of the updated boundary change.
- All rising seventh/eighth graders affected by this change will have the option to remain in their current placement or move to the new boundary middle school (transportation provided as appropriate).
- Although few in number, family situations that would be affected by having students in multiple middle schools will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

For 2025-2026

- Students choosing to finish fifth grade at Easterly Parkway will transition to Park Forest Middle School rather than Mount Nittany Middle School.
- All rising eighth graders affected by this change will have the option to remain in their current placement or move to the new boundary middle school (transportation provided as appropriate).



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TELEPHONE: 814-231-1021 • FAX: 814-466-6068

To: Curtis Johnson
From: Danielle Yoder and Randy Brown
Date: March 20, 2024
Subject: Alternate Attendance Area Radio Park and Park Forest Elementary

Recommendation

The administration recommends the creation of an alternate attendance area for new students to the district in the Park Hills neighborhood between Radio Park and Park Forest elementary schools beginning in the 2024-2025 school year (Attachment 1).

Background

As presented on March 11, we have worked with our transportation department to identify an alternate attendance area for student enrollment to provide more equitable experiences by balancing class sizes while minimizing busing disruptions.

Specifically, there are large discrepancies at various grade levels between the two buildings, and this proposal would help balance the class sizes. For example, there are currently 76 fourth-graders at Park Forest and 64 at Radio Park. This translates into an average class size of 25.3 at Park Forest and only 21.3 at Radio Park. The district's administrative guidelines for class size state grades 3-5 classrooms should have 24 to 26 students. This means if there were to be a few new students at Park Forest, the range there would be exceeded. Under this scenario, the new plan would enable us to enroll new students at Radio Park instead of Park Forest and thus remain within the guidelines.

If this option is approved, we will inform all newly registered families in the alternate attendance area that could be directly impacted. Additionally, we will notify the Park Forest and Radio Park communities. To be clear, no currently enrolled students will be assigned to a different school.

Our parameters for making the enrollment assignments include:

1. The specific geographic area found within Attachment 1 will be an alternate attendance area in 2024-2025 and beyond.
2. The alternate attendance area is in close proximity to two schools: Radio Park and Park Forest. These schools share a heavily populated boundary line, which would limit additional transportation costs.

3. Depending upon enrollment numbers at each school, new students to the district, including kindergarten, will be subject to the alternate assignment.
4. The district will provide transportation for all students who are assigned to either school within the boundary.
5. Once a student is assigned to the receiving school, that school will remain their home school for their entire elementary career.
6. Priority will be given to new students having a sibling already attending either school, to enroll them in the same school. This supports our desire to keep families together.

Rationale

We believe this proposal would balance class sizes, which benefits students, and provide more equitable experiences for students while limiting additional transportation costs.

Attachment 1: PFE and RP Alternate Attendance Area

