



## WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To: Thomas Scarice, Superintendent

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Subject: Redistricting: Preliminary Section Analysis for Phase 1 - Scenario A1 - FY 26

Date: October 10, 2024

At the Board of Education's last meeting on September 19, 2024, the district's contracted demographers, Mike Zuba and Pat Gallagher of M & P Planning group, shared an update of some redistricting options the Board can consider in the coming years. Although the options include two phases, the first intended to balance enrollment at the elementary schools feeding Bedford Middle School and the second intended to balance enrollment at the elementary schools feeding Coleytown Middle School, the primary focus of the discussion centered on Phase 1, which is under consideration for the 2025-2026 school year.

Phase 1 includes two scenarios for the Board to review as it considers redistricting options. Scenario A1, the one recommended by you to the Board of Education, calls for a shift of Long Lots Elementary School (LLS) students to Saugatuck Elementary School (SES). Specifically, Scenario A1 moves approximately 50 students between the schools. These moves will have a significant impact on the number of sections at each school for the 2025-2026 school year.

The demographers will be presenting their enrollment projections at the October 24, 2024, Board of Education meeting. While they are still finalizing the numbers and their detailed report on the information, they have provided us with some preliminary data for the 2025-2026 school year that considers enrollment in existing elementary catchment zones and the proposed catchment zones under Scenario A1. The data, compiled at the end of this document, looks at all of the schools, but the focus of this review is on LLS and SES.

The preliminary enrollment projections in existing catchment zones for the 2025-2026 school year indicate LLS would have 604 students across 29 sections in grades K-5. While the number of sections would remain flat from the current year, the projected enrollment rises above 600 students. The same projections call for SES to have 400 students across 20 sections in grades K-5. This would mark a decrease of one section at SES in the coming year.

By contrast, the preliminary enrollment projections in Scenario A1 for the 2025-2026 school year indicate LLS would have 546 students across 27 sections in grades K-5. This would mark a decrease of two sections at LLS. The same projections call for SES to have 459 students across 24 sections in grades K-5. This would mark an increase of three sections over the current year and four sections over the projections for existing zones.

As noted earlier, the primary focus of this review is on the shifts between LLS and SES under Scenario A1 and their impact on section numbers for the 2025-2026 school year. However, it is

important to look at the enrollment projections at all of the elementary schools and their impact on the number of sections across the district. All of the elementary schools, even the ones not considered for redistricting under Phase 1 - Scenario A1, have some fluctuation in the number of sections. The projected number of elementary sections across the district remains flat from the current year with 121 sections (CES -1, GFS +1, KHS -1, LLS -2, SES +3).

Finally, the projected enrollments highlighted in yellow indicate grade levels in which minor changes could flip the number of sections up or down in the coming year. The number of sections ties directly to the Board of Education's class size guidelines. As such, the possibility of a few sections moving up or down is something we have to manage regardless of any redistricting considerations.

