

Staff Follow Up: 23-081 (Board)
February 16, 2023



Educating Today's Students to
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From: Deputy Superintendent, Operations

Topic: Requesting diversity information for map c4 with the removal of Coral Glades reassignments

Staff Follow-up: Hello Ms. Young,

Can you please provide me and school board members with new diversity stats including all racial stats and FRL stats when you remove the 800 reassigned students from Coral Glades and replace them with the students that encompass map c4?

It has been brought to my attention that at Coral Glades, the reassigned students heavily boost the school's test scores. My concern is that by removing these higher level students and replacing them with 100% of the section 8 homes that were originally zoned for MSD, we will be creating a school with a much higher FRL population and that Glades, subsequently will struggle even more to achieve that "A" status that so many of our school board members on 2/7 stated they were committing to helping it achieve.

Alternatively, adding some of the Parkland students to Coral Springs High, will increase the overall socioeconomic status of the student body at Coral Springs High which will again, help in that overall mission to make ALL the High Schools located in Coral Springs desirable (help boost the scores at Coral Springs High) since it's proven that the socioeconomic status of kids in the school is directly correlated to the school's letter grade.

Lastly, it was discussed that map c1, the rezoning of 194 students did not make MSD "safe enough". That was the rationale used to justify the school board's decision to further explore c4 which removed 351 students, or 157 more.

When we look at the numbers at Monarch High School and Westglades Middle, they are over permanent capacity by over 200 students. Are those schools not safe? And if this is the reason we are using to rezone MSD NOW, the impression that is now being given is that the safety of kids at other overcrowded schools in our area, Westglades and Monarch, is not as important as the safety of students at MSD. Hence, just another reason to halt the decision at MSD until we can take a holistic, regional approach to this decision.

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Thank you in advance for providing us with this additional information, particularly the diversity stats.

Jennifer Levi

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Response: Good afternoon Ms. Levi and thank you for your questions regarding the Superintendent of Schools' recommended boundary change from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School to Coral Glades High School, formerly designated as Proposal C-4. (Please see the Superintendent's "Final Boundary Recommendations for the 2023/24 School Year" memorandum, linked within the Boundary Process Timeline <https://www.browardschools.com/BP> for a full description of the recommended change.) Henceforward, the recommendation will be designated as "H-1," for "high school boundary recommendation number one."

As a point of clarification, the recommendation is not to "remove the 800 reassigned students from Coral Glades High School and replace them with the students that encompass map c4 (sic)" as you have suggested. As of the 2022/23 school year, there are 886 students attending Coral Glades High School who are reassigned from outside their boundary. Per School Board Policy 5004.1, all of the students currently reassigned to Coral Glades High School are permitted to remain there through their twelfth grade year. The recommendation will gradually phase in 351 students from the current Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School boundary over a four-year period, which will be accomplished by limiting future reassignment awards to Coral Glades High School to approximately 135 students per year. Though this does represent a 39.1% reduction in future annual reassignment awards, Coral Glades High School is projected to have sufficient space available to accommodate 535 total reassigned students after the phased boundary change is complete.

As the 351 students recommended to shift to Coral Glades High School will only replace about forty percent of the total seats currently allocated to reassigned students, it is not possible to report with certainty the demographics of the students who *would not* be awarded reassignment seats in the future. However, we can compare the demographics of the current Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students residing in the Recommendation H-1 area with the 886 students currently reassigned to Coral Glades High

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School. Please see Table 1, below, for a side-by-side comparison of the diversity metrics for these two groups of students.

Table 1. Demographic Comparison of Students Reassigned to Coral Glades High School to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (MSD) Students Residing in Recommended Change Area H-1

Diversity	Students Reassigned to Coral Glades High, 2022/23	Students Reassigned to Coral Glades High, 2022/23, %	Current MSD Students Residing in H-1 Area	Current MSD Students Residing in H-1 Area, %
White	512	57.8%	206	58.7%
Black	304	34.3%	98	27.9%
Asian	33	3.7%	33	9.4%
Native American or Native Alaskan	5	0.6%	2	0.6%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Multiracial	31	3.5%	12	3.4%
Ethnically Hispanic	336	37.9%	131	37.3%
ELL	22	2.5%	29	8.3%
ESE	110	12.4%	48	13.7%
FRL	437	49.3%	159	45.3%
Total*	886	100.0%	351	100.0%

*Total represents the sum of all students *by race*. Other demographic characteristics- Hispanic ethnicity, and ELL, ESE and FRL status, do not add to the total number of students.

Contrary to your assertion, the Recommendation H-1 area has proportionately fewer students eligible for free or reduced price lunch (FRL) than the population of students currently reassigned to Coral Glades High School (45.3% versus 49.3%), and therefore the change would not increase the overall number of these students at Coral Glades High School. There are also proportionally fewer Black students in the change area compared with the reassigned students, but more Asian and English Language Learner (ELL) students. For all other demographic subgroups- White, Native American/ Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander, Multiracial, Ethnically Hispanic, and ESE- the populations of these two groups of students are virtually identical.

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Based on the striking demographic similarities between these two groups- the reassigned students versus the Recommendation H-1 area students- it is not reasonable to conclude that this change would result in a downward shift in the school grade at Coral Glades High School. Your implication that students residing in affordable housing (what you term "Section 8," which specifically refers to a federal housing program that may or may not be applicable to the subsidized housing units in question) have a negative impact on school performance is baseless and, quite frankly, offensive.

Table 2, below, shows the most recent Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) examination achievement levels in reading and in math for both groups of students- the current Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students living in the Recommendation H-1 area, and the students currently attending Coral Glades High School on reassignment. On both exams, the Recommendation H-1 area students scored higher than the students reassigned to Coral Glades High School, which contradicts your contention that this recommended change would impede Coral Glades High School's efforts to become an "A" school.

Table 2. Comparison of Most Recent FSA Reading and Math Achievement Levels of Current Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Living in the Recommended Boundary Change Area H-1 Versus Those of Students Reassigned to Coral Glades High School

FSA Score	H-1 Students: Reading	H-1 Students: Percentage by FSA Reading Achievement Level	Reassigned Students: Reading	Reassigned Students: Percentage by FSA Reading Achievement Level	H-1 Students: Math	H-1: Percentage by FSA Math Achievement Level	Reassigned Students: Math	Reassigned Students: Percentage by FSA Math Achievement Level
1	71	21.5%	188	21.9%	75	23.3%	295	34.7%
2	72	21.8%	188	21.9%	43	13.4%	134	15.8%
3	78	23.6%	238	27.8%	107	33.2%	255	30.0%
4	74	22.4%	173	20.2%	55	17.1%	98	11.5%
5	36	10.9%	70	8.2%	42	13.0%	68	8.0%
Total Students Taking Exam	331		857		322		850	

In your email you mention your concern about enrollment and capacity usage, and how they relate to safety at other schools in northwest Broward County, specifically Westglades Middle School and Monarch High School. I want to thank you for providing this opportunity to clarify the significant differences between these two sites and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. While both of these two schools currently have enrollment more than 200 students

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above their *permanent* capacity (235 and 236 students over, respectively), both of these schools also have relocatable classrooms (“portables”) on site in addition to their permanent brick-and-mortar buildings. The resulting total *gross* capacity is sufficient to accommodate all students at both facilities, with remaining space of 141 seats at Westglades Middle School and 2 seats at Monarch High School. For reference, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is currently enrolled at 434 students above its total capacity (there are no capacity-bearing relocatable classrooms on its campus).

Another key difference between these two sites and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School lies in the core dining capacity of the three schools. Core dining capacity is the number of students a school’s dining space can accommodate over three lunch periods per day. It is based on a formula defined in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) and is driven solely by the square footage of the dining area. This is a particularly relevant metric as it provides context for the sense of overcrowding experienced by students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. When Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School opened in 1990, it initially had a total permanent capacity of 2,000, which was perfectly in line with its core dining capacity of 2,220. Since opening, however, the school has had three classroom buildings added to its campus, bringing the total permanent capacity to its present level of 3,077, (this takes into account the one-for-one replacement of the 1200 Building with the 1500 Building). The result is that the school’s total capacity, and even more so its current enrollment, are far above the capacity of its cafeteria, and this is one of the areas where students most frequently report issues with overcrowding, i.e. lack of seating, long service lines, etc.

By contrast, the core dining capacity at both Westglades Middle School and Monarch High School is greater than both schools’ student enrollment and their total gross capacity. While I cannot speak directly to the issue of school safety as it is impacted by overcrowding, I can confirm that of these sites neither is overcrowded in classroom or core dining capacity, whereas Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is significantly over-enrolled by both of these measures. Table 3 shows a comparison of the permanent, gross, and core dining capacity utilization at the three schools referenced above, Westglades Middle School, Monarch High School, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. All of the data referenced in this table is available for all Broward County Public Schools in the

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online Planning Tool for School Enrollment and Capacity at:
<https://webapp.browardschools.com/schoolenrollment/splash1.aspx>

Table 3. Enrollment and Capacity Utilization at Westglades Middle School, Monarch High School, and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (MSD), 2022/23

School	Benchmark Enrollment 2022/23	Permanent Capacity	Gross Capacity	Over/ (Under) Permanent Capacity	Over/ (Under) Gross Capacity	Permanent Capacity Utilization	Gross Capacity Utilization	Core Dining Capacity	Over/ (Under) Core Dining Capacity
Westglades Middle	1,684	1,449	1,825	235	(141)	116.2%	92.3%	2,010	(326)
Monarch High	2,358	2,122	2,360	236	(2)	111.1%	99.9%	2,370	(12)
MSD	3,511	3,077	3,077	434	434	114.1%	114.1%	2,220	1,291

I hope I have been able to address the questions you listed in your email. I am sincerely grateful for the chance to respond, as I am sure our School Board members have similar concerns. A more “holistic” look at the District’s entire facilities portfolio that will address both over- and under-utilized school sites will be coming forward in the a long-range facilities master plan. It was the School Board’s position however, that the critical overcrowding at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and both the safety and operational challenges that it presents, warranted addressing outside the scope of the long-range facilities master plan. In light of the **350+ one- to three-bedroom apartments coming online for move-ins this spring** at Modera Coral Springs in the Cornerstone development, located within the Recommendation H-1 area, I believe the School Board was prudent in choosing not to delay this move. Please continue to visit the Demographics & Enrollment Planning Department’s Boundary Planning Process webpage (browardschools.com/BP) for up to date information regarding future meetings and other announcements.

JMM/JY:jg