

Alexandria City Public Schools
Pre-Read for February 19, 2025
Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #1
6:00pm - 7:30pm
School Board Meeting Room

ACPS School Boundary Redistricting Overview

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) is embarking on a school boundary redistricting process to address evolving student enrollment needs and ensure equitable access to resources across all schools. This process aims to balance enrollment, address school utilization, and align school boundaries with the division's commitment to equity, transparency, and collaboration.

Goals of Redistricting

- Ensure equitable access to resources for all students.
- Balance student enrollment across all ACPS schools.
- Address school utilization and align with projected enrollment growth.
- Engage the community to reflect diverse perspectives.

Why Redistricting Matters

Adjusting school boundaries ensures that ACPS can continue to meet the needs of its growing student population while maintaining equitable and inclusive educational opportunities for all students.

Redistricting Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles will be used to guide the development of the boundary proposals:

- **Equitable School Utilization:** Ensure optimal utilization of school spaces to support efficient use of facilities and maintain effective learning environments.
- **Neighborhood Schools:** Prioritize maintaining neighborhood schools to foster community engagement and ensure students have access to educational opportunities based on proximity, school utilization, and walkability/bikeability to further strengthen connections between schools and their surrounding neighborhoods.
- **Demographic Alignment:** Align school demographics with division-wide goals to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring all students have access to a supportive and representative learning environment.
- **Capacity & Utilization Focus:** Redistricting decisions will prioritize school utilization ratios, which consider class capacity, the number and size of classrooms, and class caps. These ratios will guide the distribution of students to ensure schools operate efficiently, avoiding both excessive enrollment and underutilization.
- **Minimize Bus Dependency:** Strive to reduce transportation needs by minimizing bus rides and encouraging alternative methods of transportation where possible.

Key Terms and Definitions

Enrollment: Number of active students enrolled at ACPS on September 30 of each school year as detailed in the Fall Membership Report to the School Board.

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Class Cap: Number of seats available to students in a homeroom class with a full-time teacher, based on the IHB-R policy.

Capacity: Measured student space based on the Educational Specifications; the total building capacity for a school is a sum of each classroom's measured capacity; this is not related to building occupancy as established by building code or the number of students that can be served at the school per the class cap.

Utilization: Student enrollment divided by the building capacity; we aim to be between 90-110%.

Mobility: The ratio of the number of students living in an attendance area by grade to the number enrolled the prior year in the earlier grade. This ratio is averaged over four years of student data representing three years of change.

Student Generation Rates: The City of Alexandria produces this factor. Represent the ratio of enrolled ACPS students who live in Alexandria to the number of residential housing units in Alexandria.

Birth Rate Data: The number of babies born in an area each year. For school division redistricting, this data is used to estimate kindergarten enrollment each school year and helps predict how many students will attend schools in the future.

Resident Student Population: Total number of students living in a certain area, such as an attendance area or study area.

Residence vs. Enrollment: Where a student lives vs. the school a student attends.

Redistricting: Adjusting school boundary lines to balance student enrollment between schools.

Methodology: The process or steps used to collect and understand data.

Additional Resources

- Policies [Related Policies](#)
- Previous Presentations [Previous Redistricting Meetings](#)
- FAQs [Redistricting FAQs](#)

Redistricting Advisory Committee: Ensuring Diverse Voices

The Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) is a key component of the ACPS school boundary redistricting process. This committee will represent the voices of Alexandria's diverse community and provide input that reflects the priorities and needs of all stakeholders.

The following is the role and purpose of the RAC:

- **Primary and At-Large Members:** Attend meetings in person, keep in touch with the secondary representative and the school community.
- **Secondary Members:** Watch meetings virtually, remain in contact with the primary

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representative to attend meetings if the primary member can not attend.

- **Community Representation:** Act as ambassadors for their school communities sharing information to keep families informed of the redistricting process.
- **Data Review:** Understand how data and the guiding principles are used to develop boundary scenarios.
- **School Boundary Input:** Collaborate with the Steering Committee for recommendations to the School Board that align with the guiding principles.

Key Values of the Redistricting Process:

- **Fairness:** Ensure boundary adjustments result in a fair and balanced distribution of resources and opportunities.
- **Transparency:** Maintain an open and inclusive process by sharing information and updates regularly.
- **Collaboration:** Engage all stakeholders in meaningful conversations about the redistricting process.

Meeting Timeline

- **February 19, 2025 (6-7:30pm):** RAC Meeting #1
- **March 12, 2025 (3-4pm):** Steering Committee Meeting
- **March 18, 2025 (6-7:30pm):** Community Meeting #1
- **March 19, 2025 (6-7:30pm):** RAC Meeting #2
- **April 8, 2025 (6-7:30pm):** RAC Meeting #3
- **April 9, 2025 (3-4pm):** Steering Committee Meeting
- **April 22, 2025 (6-7:30pm):** Community Meeting #2
- **May 14, 2025 (3-4pm):** Steering Committee Meeting
- **May 15, 2025 (6pm):** School Board Work Session
- **May 29, 2025 (6pm):** Recommendations for School Board Vote
- **June 11, 2025 (3-4pm):** Steering Committee Meeting
- **June 12, 2025 (6pm):** School Board Vote on Redistricting
- **2025-26 School Year:** Families Notified of Impact on Their Student(s)
- **2026-27 School Year:** New School Boundaries In Effect

A link for the public to view all meetings will be available. All meetings are recorded and posted on the [ACPS School Boundary Redistricting](#) webpage after the meeting occurs.

Stay Informed and Engaged:

- Visit [ACPS School Boundary Redistricting](#) for updates, timelines, and FAQs.

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- Attend community meetings to learn more about the process and share your thoughts.
- Contact ask@acps.k12.va.us for additional information or questions.