



DeKalb County School District Student Assignment Project (SAP)

9/10/2025

Presented by: Sarita M. Smith



DeKalb County
School District



● Agenda

- ✓ Welcome
- ✓ A message from the Superintendent
- ✓ Meeting Norms, Purpose, & Vision
- ✓ 24/25 Recap & Updated Timeline
- ✓ The Challenge
- ✓ Why It's A Challenge
- ✓ The Possible Solution
- ✓ Action Items
- ✓ Data and HPM
- ✓ Guiding Principles
- ✓ Complete exit ticket

Today's Working Session Schedule

Agenda Item	Resources	Time Allotment
Agenda	Slide 2	6:30 – 6:35 p.m.
Inspo and Welcome	Domino video	6:35 – 6:45 p.m.
Norms	Slide 6	6:45 – 6:50 p.m.
Vision, Purpose/Non-Purpose, and Outcomes	Slides 7-10	6:50 – 6:55 p.m.
Recap and Timeline	Slides 11- 14	6:55 – 7:05 p.m.
The Challenge	Slides 15 – 18 5 reasons SAP Video , Birth rates CDC Reports , Aging in place Atlanta Regional Commission ,	7:05 – 7:20 p.m.
The Possible Solution	Slide 20	7:20 – 7:30 p.m.
Action Items	Slide 22	7:30 – 7:40 p.m.
Internal Collabs	Slide 24 Operations site , HPM site	7:40 – 7:50 p.m.
What's Next	Slide 25	7:50 – 8:00 p.m.
Exit Ticket and Questions	Slide 27	8:00 – 8:10 p.m.

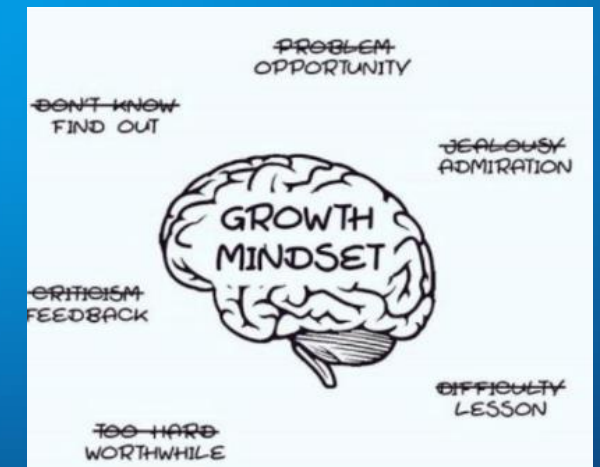
INSPO



A Welcome Message From The Superintendent



Meeting Norms



Vision, Purpose & Non-Purpose, and Outcomes of SAP

Vision

To reimagining DCSD by considering **programs**, **boundaries**, and **buildings** holistically, using data, and reviewing every 5 years to align with E-SPLOST.

This comprehensive planning process will help position **ALL** our students upon graduation to **E**nroll, **E**mploy, engage in **E**ntrepreneurship, or **E**nlist.



SAP Advisory Purpose and Non-Purpose

Purpose

- **Serve as a critical thought partner in assessing systems related to buildings, boundaries, and programs.**
- Serve as a critical thought partner in assessing DCSD's current student assignment procedures and policies.
- Provide impartial recommendations suited to dismantling structural inequities.
- **Use data to make informed decisions and recommendations.**
- Recommend ways for DCSD to become fiscally efficient.
- Review and recommend ways to **reimagine** DCSD programs and offerings so all students have a quality education.
- Recommend boundaries, buildings, and programs suited for the current and projected enrollment.

Non-Purpose of the Advisory

- To make **final decisions** regarding policy or standard operating procedures related to DCSD.
- **To determine the daily operations of schools or programs.**
- To direct DCSD to make specific changes within the purview of the Board of Education.
- **To make decisions that only impact specific children or communities.**

SAP is the WHAT not the HOW



SAP Outcomes

To develop recommendations related to buildings, boundaries, and programs that has been triangulated with data, informed by community input, and filtered through the SAP guiding principles.



SAP Recap & Timeline

First 10 Months of

September 24' - SAP Kick Off Year 2! Review SAP vision and outcomes	October 24' - Learning buildings	November 24' - Learning boundaries	December 24' & January 25' - Learning programs	February 25' - Meeting of the whole, understanding guiding principles and division answers
March 25' - Developing guiding principles related to buildings	April 25' - Developing guiding principles related to boundaries	May 25' - Developing guiding principles related to programs	June – July 25' - Conducted SAP Summer Insitute meetings - Established partnership with HPM	Aug 25' - Secured fall SAP locations and timeline - SAP Year 2 comms plan developed





SAP MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

SEP '25 - JAN '26

September

Wednesday @ 6:30pm

10 - VIRTUAL

24 - Lakeside HS

October

Wednesday @ 6:30pm

8 - VIRTUAL

22 - Tucker HS

November

Wednesday @ 6:30pm

5 - VIRTUAL

19 - McNair HS

December

Wednesday @ 6:30pm

3 - VIRTUAL

10 - Lithonia HS

LAST SAP MEETING
(before Board Meeting)

January '26

Monday @ TBD

12 - Board Meeting - AIC

Note

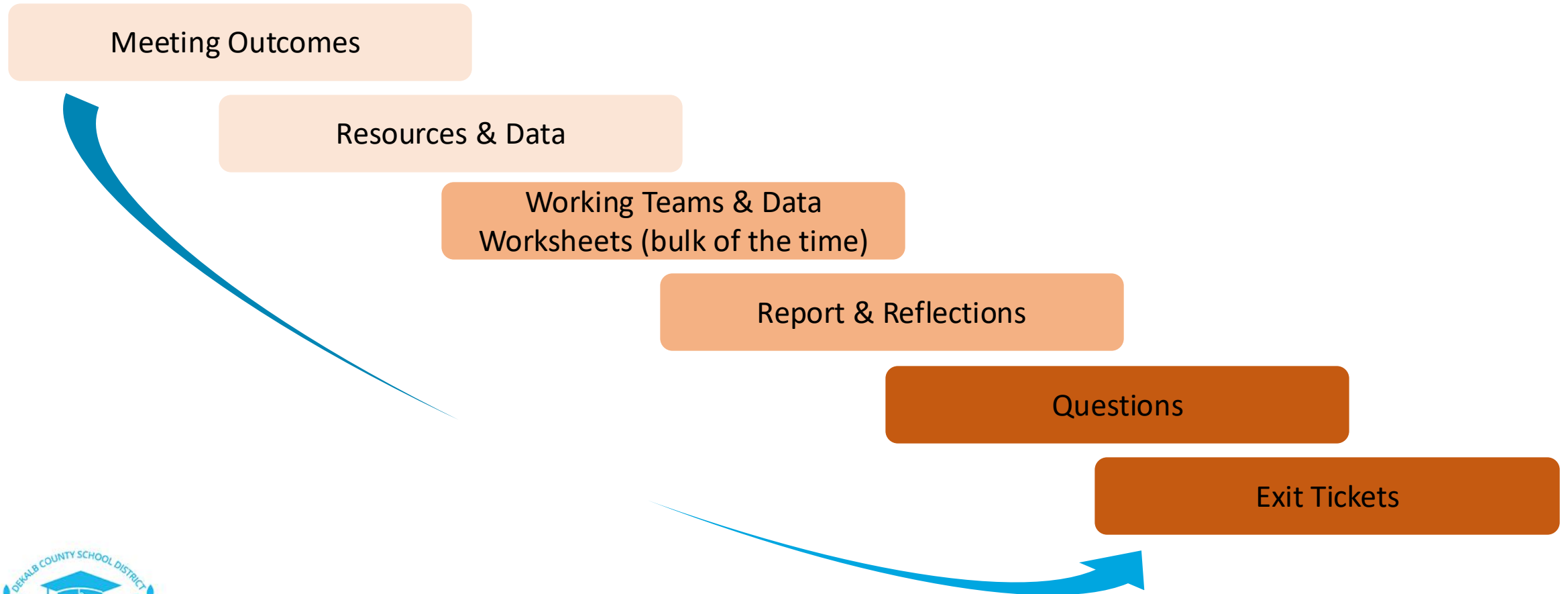
Please note that these dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Information will be shared with you should changes arise. Thanks!
~ SAP Team

REV. 8.12.25



DeKalb County
School District

SAP Meeting Cadence



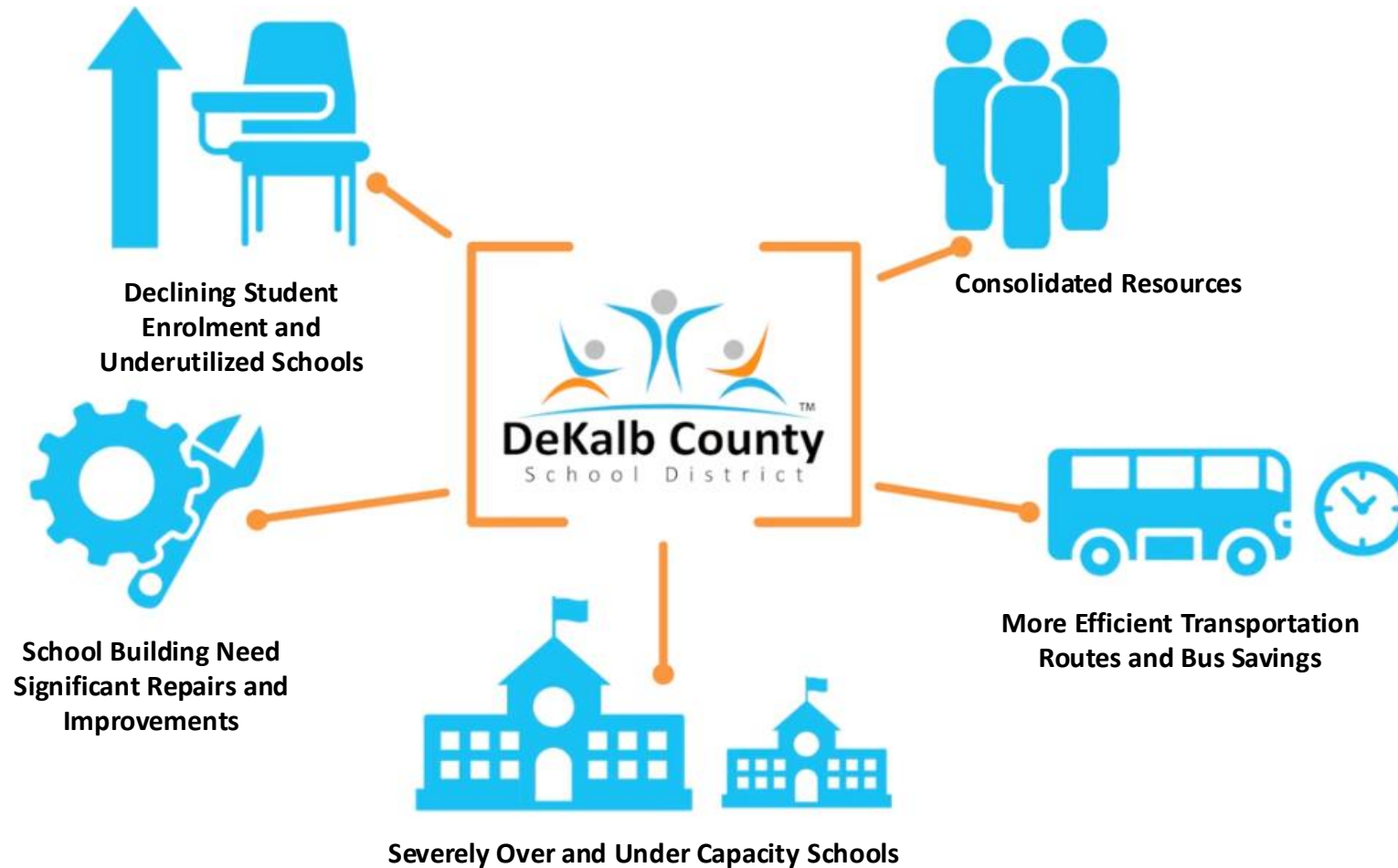


The Challenge





Five Reasons for DCSD To Thrive

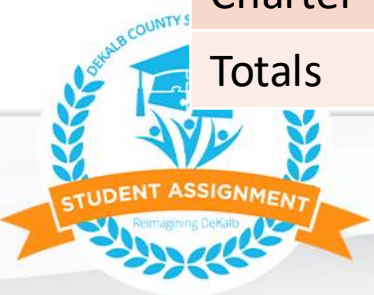


K- 12 Enrollment Forecast (preliminary data)

Our planning department uses a method of population forecasting called “cohort-survival analysis.” In this method, future enrollment is forecasted based on historic matriculation patterns from grade to grade, birth rates, future housing development, and historic patterns of school-choice enrollment.

It is imperative to know that projections beyond 2-3 years can vary drastically. However, the DCSD annual forecast averages 99% accurate for the District and 95% accurate for individual schools. Our methodology is vetted by 3rd-party demographers.

	Current Seats Available	2024 Enrollment	2025 Forecast	2026 Forecast	2027 Forecast
Elementary	52,104	41,263	40,872	40,503	40,085
Middle School	23,400	18,087	18,120	18,203	18,477
High School	31,310	26,953	26,328	25,903	25,574
Other	1,400	1,135	1,135	1,135	1,135
Charter	N/A	4,405	4,405	4,405	4,405
Totals	108,214	91,843	90,860	90,150	89,675





The Possible Solution

SAP Summer Institute

Reviewed

- Boundaries Capacity and utilization maps
- Decide DeKalb development
- DCSD Boundaries
- DCSD program inventory
- Guiding Principles
- Planning Schools Metrics
- Program heat maps
- SAP data in the google folders
- Schools



Maps Sandboxed

- Cluster Map: Balanced numbers in each area with specific school needs.
- Equitable Program Map: Specified program buildings throughout the district that serve all program types.
- New Construction Map: All schools have defined capacities E- 900, M- 1200, H-1600
- Typical Redistricting Map: Balanced enrollment
- All Neighborhood Schools Map: Everyone attends their neighborhood schools and programs are within the school.





Action Items



SAP Call To Action

By January 2026

- Determine how programs are placed; in separate buildings or neighborhood schools?
- What criteria should be used to determine the placement of special programs?
- Determine how we prioritize which buildings and boundaries need adjustment (Planning School Metrics).
- Determine specific ES/MS/HS need to be consolidated/ repurposed.
- Determine what we can or should do with other buildings or property.
- Develop a few general recommendations for communities to review and provide feedback.

By May 2026 – *select members and staff will be on the collaborative committee*

- Review community feedback and determine if tweaks or changes are necessary.
- Create final recommendations.



Internal Collabs



HPM / SAP/ Operations/ Communication

Community Engagement

- SAP committee meetings and smaller community meetings across the district
- SAP, District, and Board leaders will share the process, recommendations, and gather specific feedback
- HPM and Operations support community meetings to support construction specifics

Facilities Planning & Enrollment Projections

- Provide facility plan for infrastructure for a district while managing E-SPLOST projects and funds.
- HPM and operations will determine temporary accommodations and swing space

Reimagining Support

- All will be supporting the SAP visions and E-SPLOST priority list
- HPM and operations will share relevant data so SAP committee can make informed decisions
- HPM will provide a timeline based on SAP recommendations

Long-Term Strategic Planning

- Operations provides long-term projections
- HPM advises on cost estimates, feasibility or renovations, new builds, and construction phasing
- SAP will align their process with every 5 years of E-SPLOST



What's Next?

1. Homework

- Review data sets in the google drive
- Begin thinking about how DCSD should place programs

2. Next meeting

- In-Person
- Sept 24th @ Lakeside High School

Connect with SAP and Ms. Smith
sap@dekalbschoolsga.org





QUESTIONS



EXIT Ticket

