

# Follow me on Social Media:

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## Questions

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# DeKalb County School District Region 1 Schools Community Meetings

October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
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DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

BROOKHAVEN, CHAMBLEE, DORAVILLE & DUNWOODY



**DeKalb County**  
School District

# What are my responsibilities?

- Detailed responsibilities
  - Enact policies for the efficient and effective governance of the District.
  - Select, hire, and evaluate the Superintendent.
  - Approve an annual budget.
  - Review and approve financial reports and review audits as requested.
  - Set the Local educational millage rate as necessary for the operation of the District and its schools.
  - With the input of the Superintendent and staff, establish policies to strengthen the academic achievement of all students in the District.
  - Working with the Superintendent and staff, periodically evaluate the District's strengths and weaknesses and develop goals for continuous improvement.
  - Periodically conduct a self-assessment of the Board's governance and performance.
  - Work with the Superintendent to ensure that all employment decisions are based on individual merit, without regard to family, political, or other connections.
  - Enact policies for progressive discipline in student matters, resorting to suspension and expulsion of students only as necessary to ensure safety in the schools.
  - Work with the Superintendent to ensure that adequate facilities are available to educate all students in the District.

# What does my District look like?

- Four Mayors who represent four cities
- 21 City Council Members
  - Six Dunwoody, Six Doraville, Five Chamblee, Four Brookhaven
- One State Senate Representative
- Three State House Representatives
- ~140,000 population count in the four-city region
- ~20,000 students in K-12 rough attendance zone of Region 1
- DeKalb County
  - 760,000 residents
  - 92,000 students attending a DeKalb County school



# Peachtree Middle School

YES – PMS is getting a new Principal



# Kittredge ES Magnet

 No Decisions Have Been Made

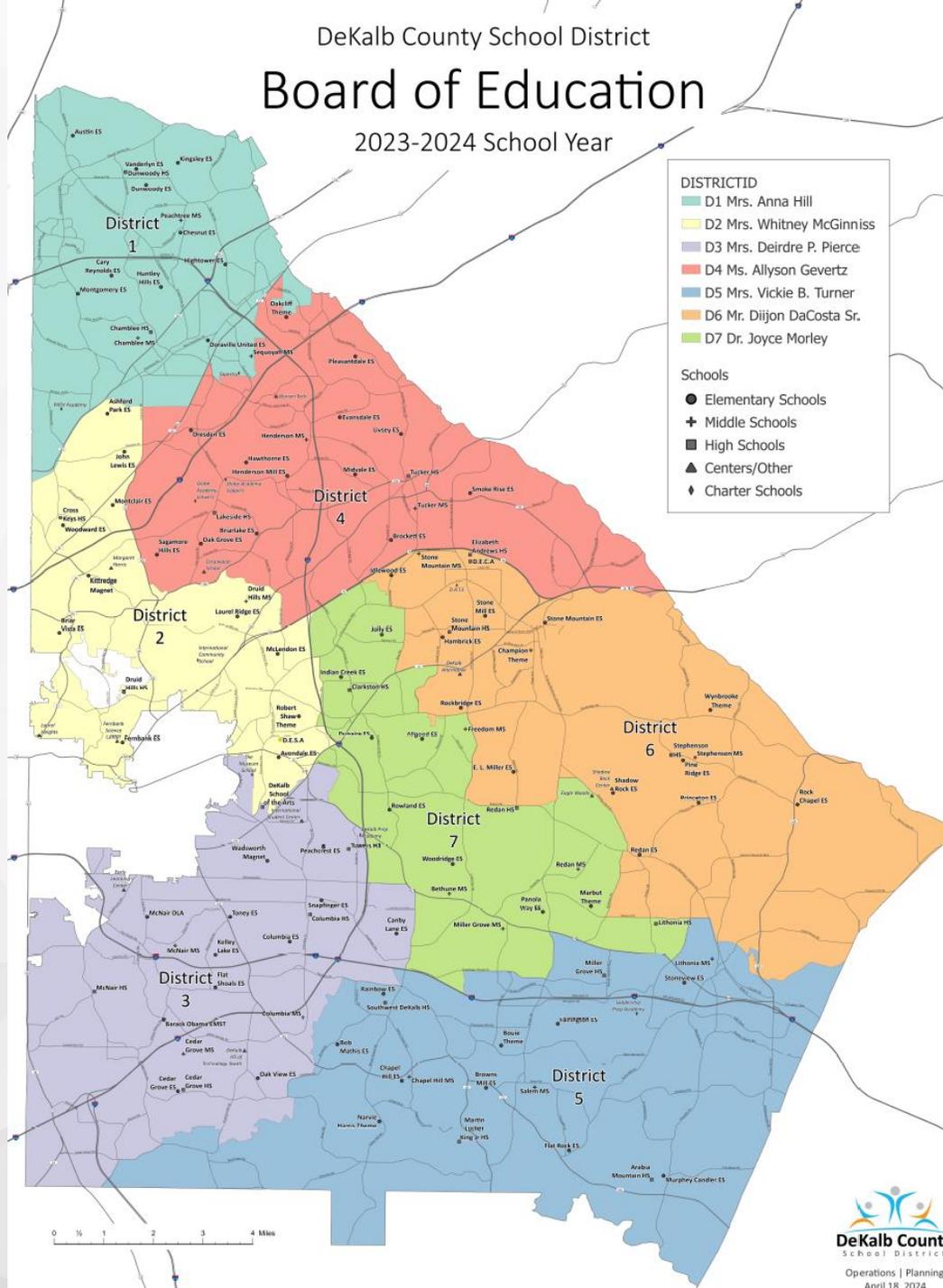
DeKalb County School District is currently in the listening and learning phase of the Student Assignment Project (SAP).

-  No school consolidations or closures have been decided.
-  No final recommendations have been presented to the Board.
-  The process is about gathering feedback and planning thoughtfully for the future.

 Learn more and share your input: [www.dekalbschoolsga.org/sap](http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/sap)

DeKalb County School District  
 Board of Education  
 2023-2024 School Year

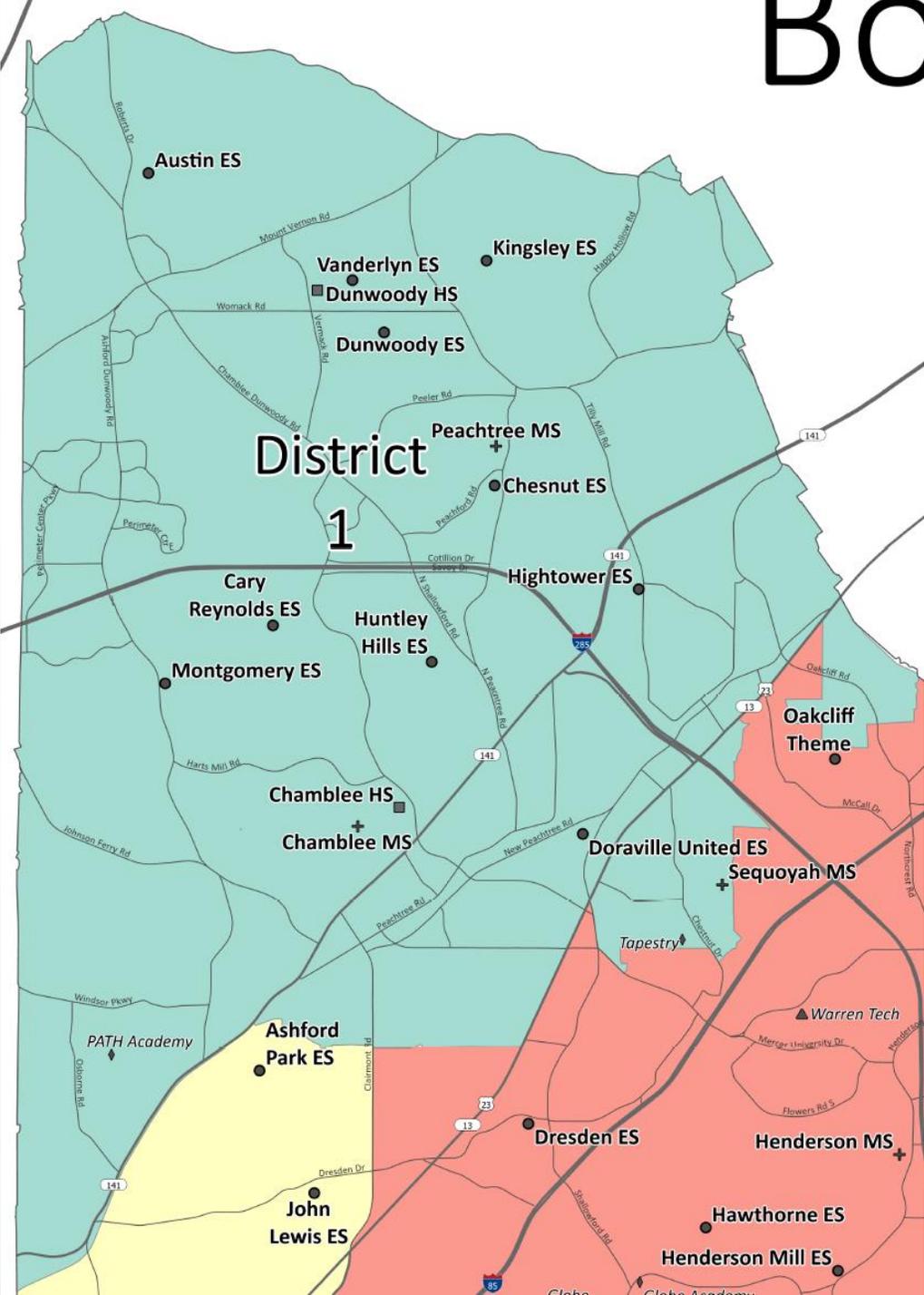
# Board Map





# Board District 1 Map

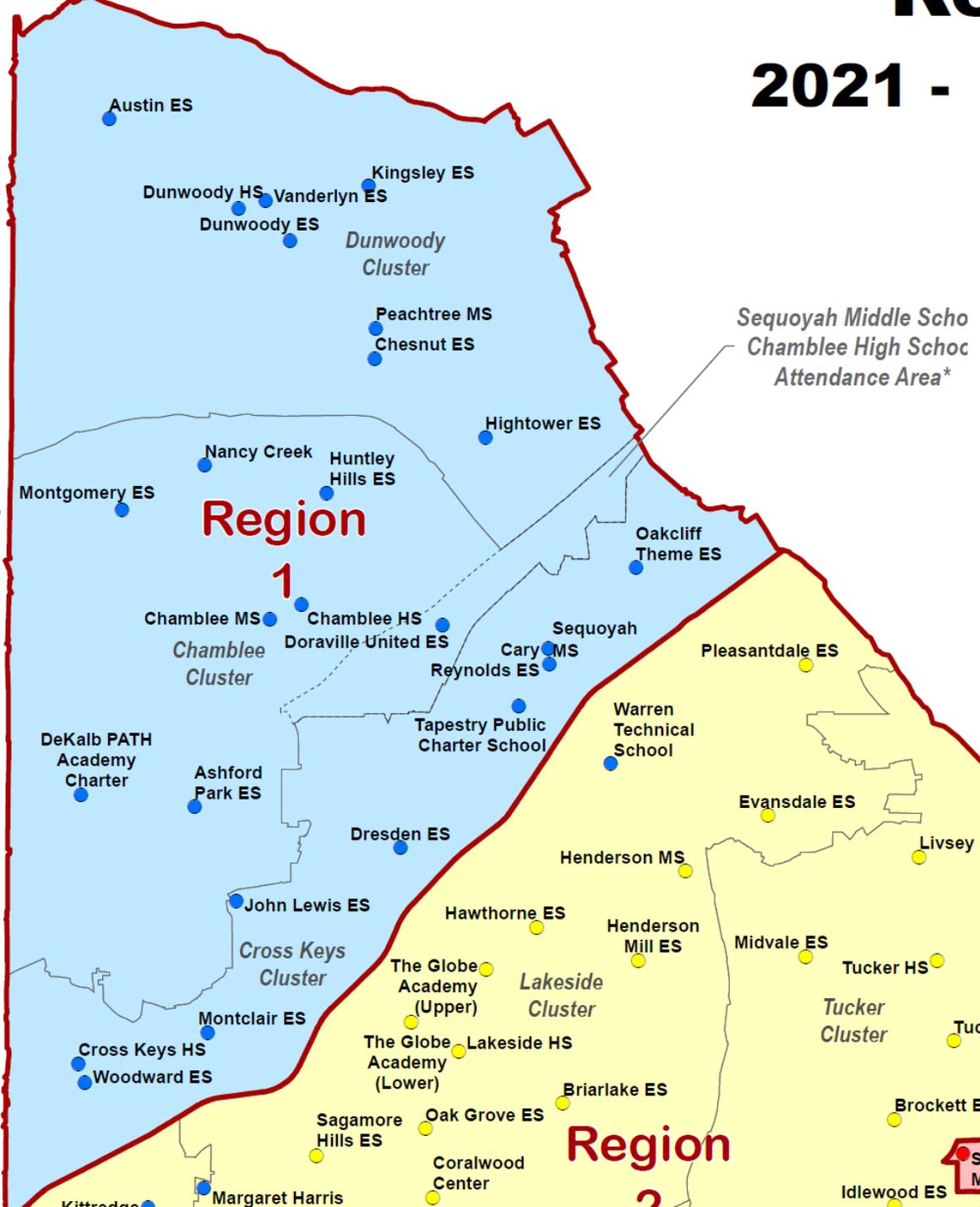
BC



2021 -



# Region 1 Map



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School District

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# Data Dashboard

Link to dashboard

- <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/sap>
- Related Data
- HPM Dashboard



# High Schools

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School District

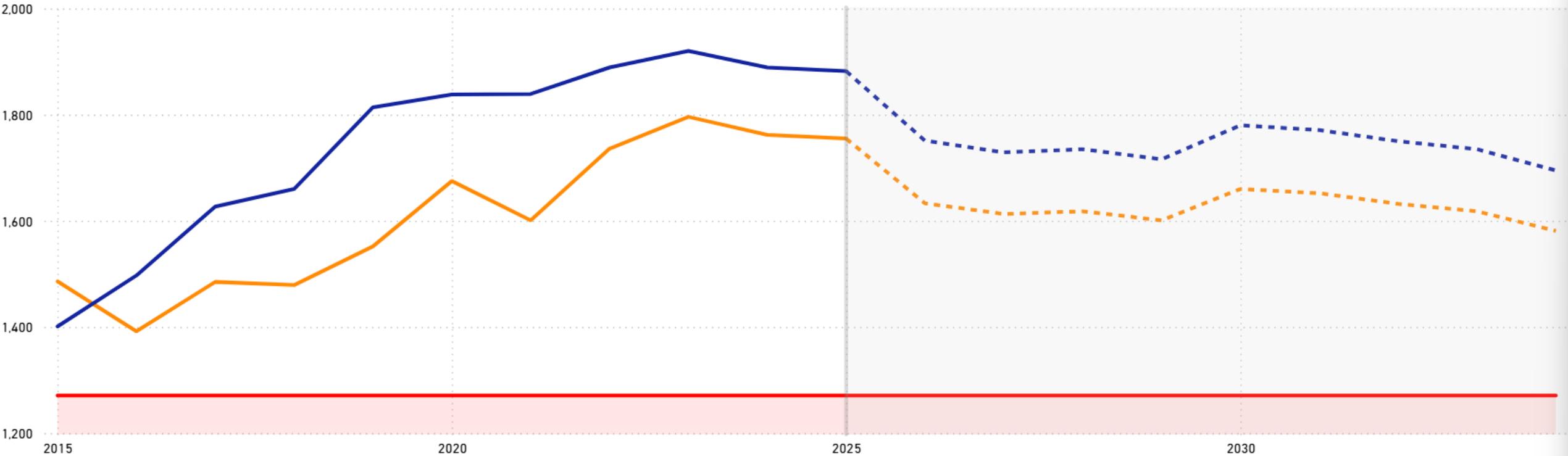
# Data Dashboard Cross Keys High School

Enrollment

FCA

Historical and Projected Attendance, Historical and Projected Live-in by Year

— Historical Attendance — Historical Live-in - - - Projected Attendance - - - Projected Live-in — Current Capacity



Facility Overview

District Overview

Definition of Terms

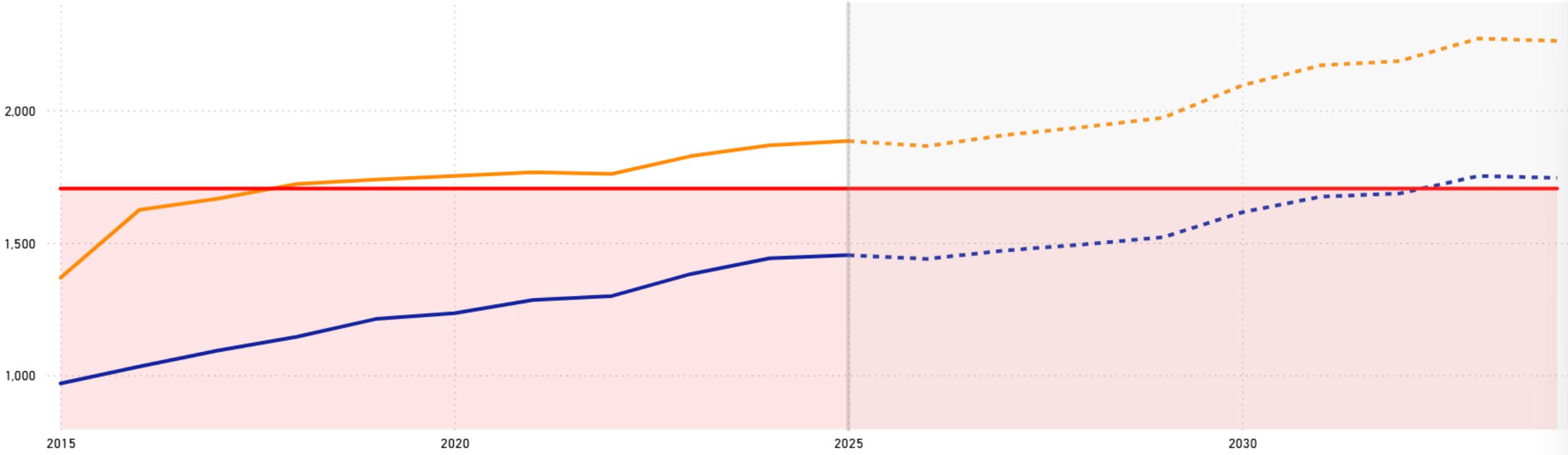
# Data Dashboard Chamblee High School

Enrollment

FCA

### Historical and Projected Attendance, Historical and Projected Live-in by Year

— Historical Attendance — Historical Live-in - - - Projected Attendance - - - Projected Live-in — Current Capacity



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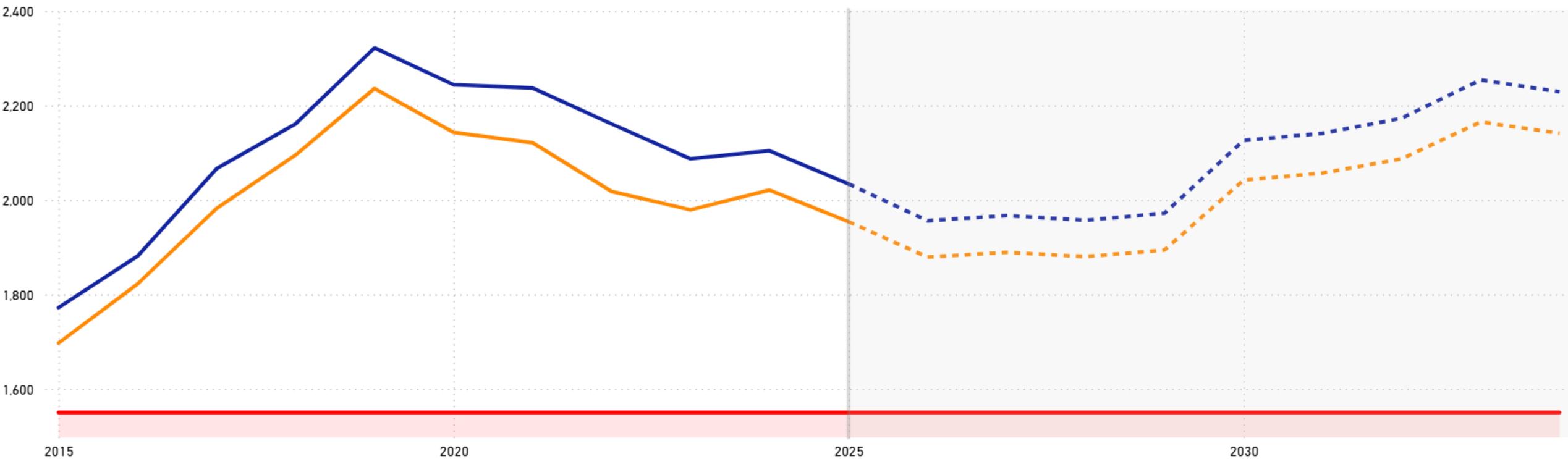
# Data Dashboard Dunwoody High School

Enrollment

FCA

Historical and Projected Attendance, Historical and Projected Live-in by Year

— Historical Attendance — Historical Live-in - - - Projected Attendance - - - Projected Live-in — Current Capacity



Facility Overview

District Overview

Definition of Terms

# Middle Schools



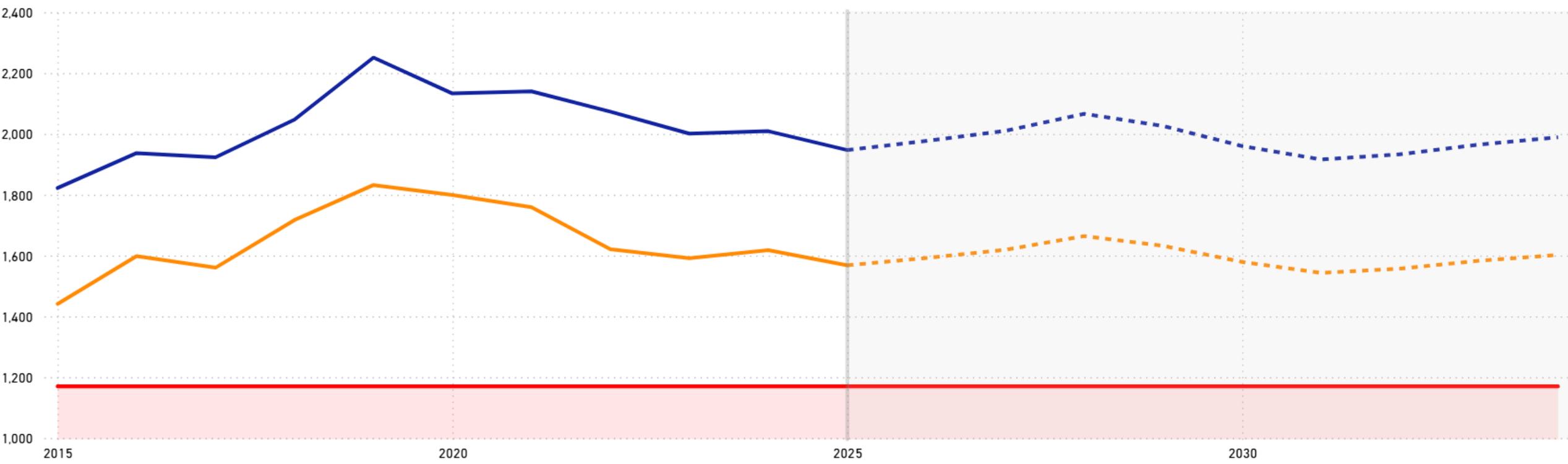
# Data Dashboard Sequoyah Middle School

Enrollment

FCA

### Historical and Projected Attendance, Historical and Projected Live-in by Year

— Historical Attendance — Historical Live-in - - - Projected Attendance - - - Projected Live-in — Current Capacity



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District Overview

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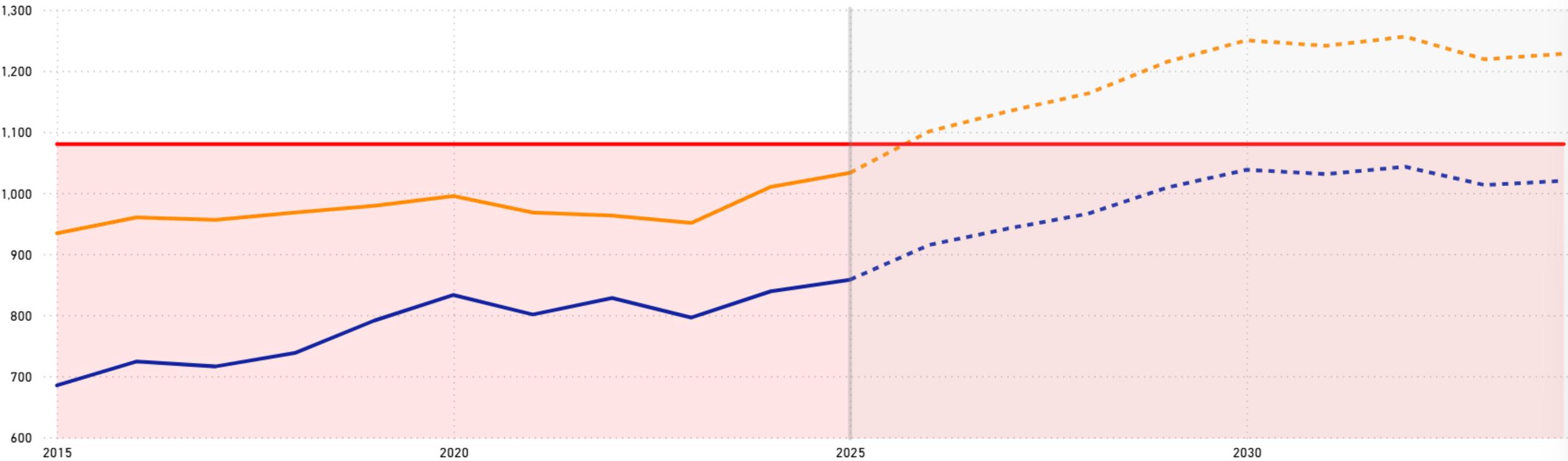
# Data Dashboard Chamblee Middle School

Enrollment

FCA

### Historical and Projected Attendance, Historical and Projected Live-in by Year

— Historical Attendance — Historical Live-in - - - Projected Attendance - - - Projected Live-in — Current Capacity



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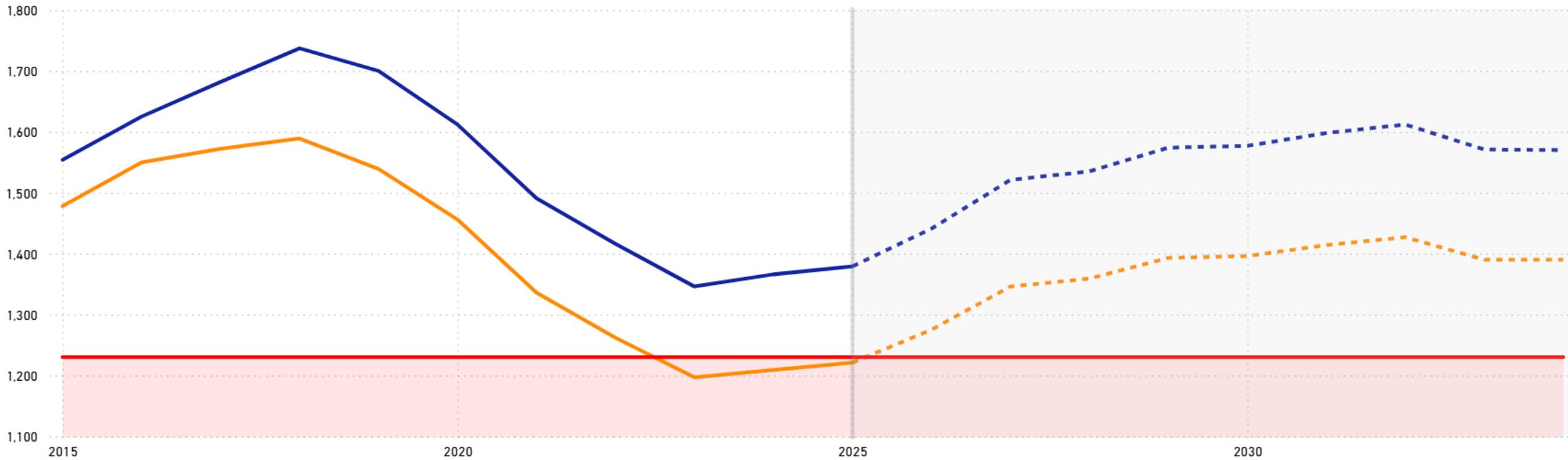
# Data Dashboard Peachtree Middle School

Enrollment

FCA

Historical and Projected Attendance, Historical and Projected Live-in by Year

— Historical Attendance — Historical Live-in - - - Projected Attendance - - - Projected Live-in — Current Capacity



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# Elementary Schools Cluster

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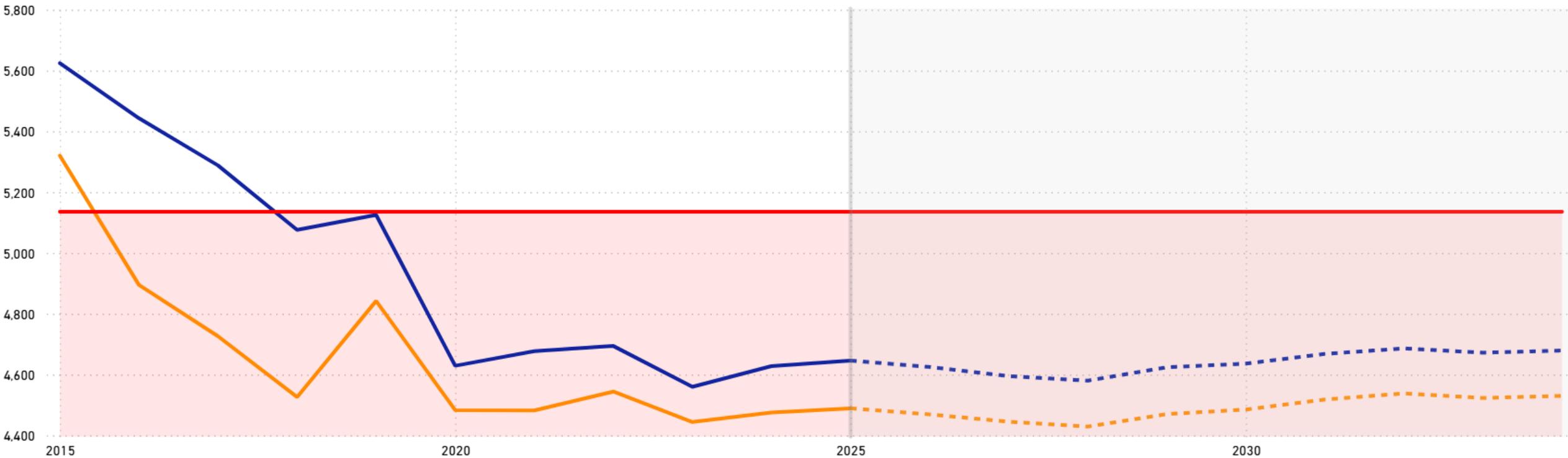
# Data Dashboard Cross Keys Elementary Cluster

Enrollment

FCA

Historical and Projected Attendance, Historical and Projected Live-in by Year

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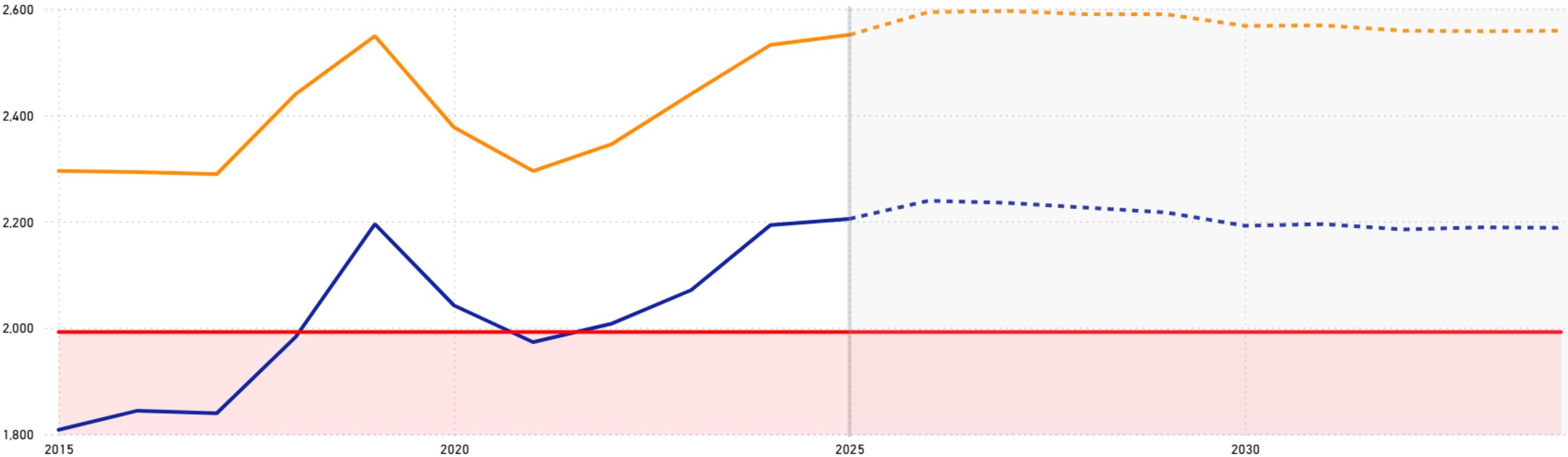
# Data Dashboard Chamblee Elementary Cluster

Enrollment

FCA

Historical and Projected Attendance, Historical and Projected Live-in by Year

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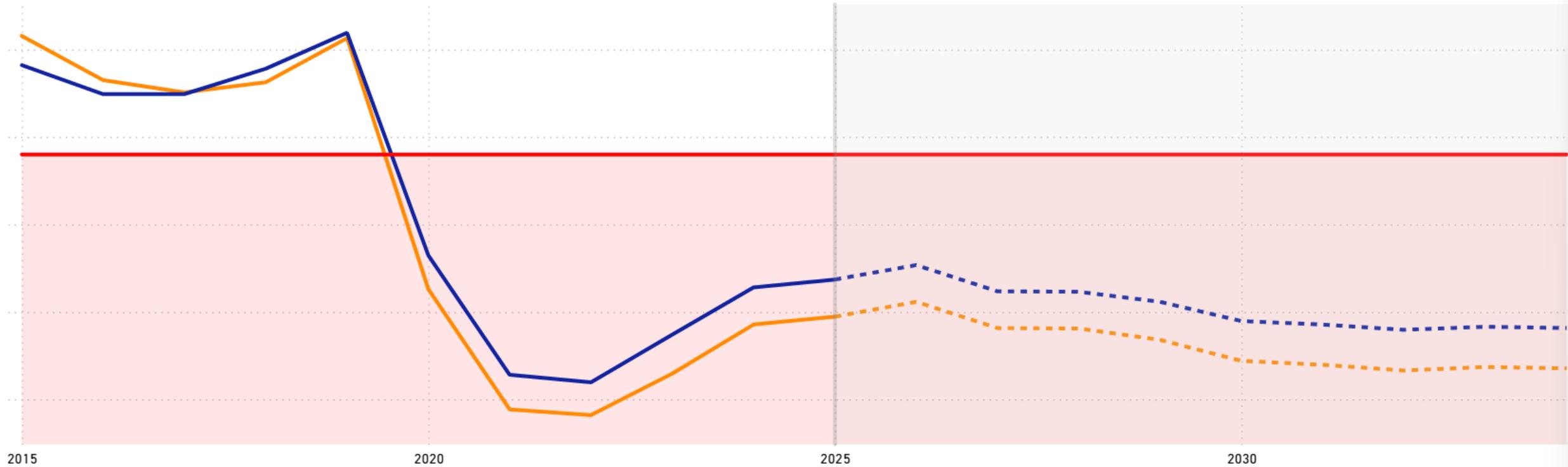
# Data Dashboard Dunwoody Elementary Cluster

Enrollment

FCA

Historical and Projected Attendance, Historical and Projected Live-in by Year

— Historical Attendance — Historical Live-in - - - Projected Attendance - - - Projected Live-in — Current Capacity



Facility Overview

District Overview

Definition of Terms

# Attendance by Region

Region	Elementary (PK-5)	Middle (6-8)	High (9-12)	Program (PK-12)	Charter (K-12)	Total Students
Region 1	10254	3846	5514	71	667	<b>20352</b>
Region 2	8122	3449	5066	261	2081	<b>18979</b>
Region 3	5185	2692	4976	0	272	<b>13125</b>
Region 4	5070	2868	3173	175	763	<b>12049</b>
Region 5	5413	2405	3926	0	0	<b>11744</b>
Region 6	2873	1308	1975	857	563	<b>7576</b>
Region 7	5080	1634	1891	242	0	<b>8847</b>
<b>District Wide</b>	<b>41997</b>	<b>18202</b>	<b>26521</b>	<b>1606</b>	<b>4346</b>	<b>92672</b>

# School Approved Items

## Dunwoody

- Dunwoody HS – updated security vestibule
- Dunwoody HS – elevator upgrade
- Dunwoody HS – field executive bathrooms donation (Wildcat Foundation)
- Peachtree MS – new sod at field (City of Dunwoody – partial success)
- Chestnut ES – HVAC diffuser replacement
- Kingsley ES – HVAC upgrade, windows, vestibule, playground
- Hightower ES – new roof
- Vanderlyn ES – HVAC upgrade

## Doraville

- Sequoyah MS & HS – New \$235mil MS and HS in North DeKalb, 480,000 sf
  - Construction Start: October 14, 2024
  - Design Completion: February 28, 2025
  - The main construction started in February 2025
  - Anticipated construction completion date for the new Sequoyah Middle Fall 2027 High School Fall 2029

## Chamblee

- Chamblee HS – HVAC upgrade
- Chamblee HS – security vestibule
- Chamblee MS – HVAC upgrade
- Chamblee MS – roof replacement
- Chamblee MS – security vestibule
- Montgomery ES – HVAC upgrade

## Brookhaven

- Ashford Park HVAC, vestibule, windows and other renovations
- Cross Keys HS – major renovation
- Kittredge – New roof
- Nancy Creek Facility – HVAC upgrade

# Board & District Operational Improvements

## Board Management

- Usage of the Consent Agenda
- Project Management Tools
  - SmartSheet - Bringing board operations into more of a corporate management mindset
- Working together

## Technology

- Munis migration is completed
- New Chromebooks for all teachers and students
- Telecommunications Upgrade
- Infrastructure

# Current Items on “My List”

## Dunwoody

- DHS – Auditorium updates – lights
- DHS – Turf & Track Maintenance
- DHS – New trainer to DHS
- PMS – Principal feedback

## Chamblee

- CHS - Auditorium updates – sound and lights

## District

- supporting the SAP process
- “right sizing” school district with fewer schools
- vacant and unused properties plan
- efficient board management tools and processes AND managing the business of managing a school district

# Current Challenges – School Utilization

## Utilization Map

This utilization map shows student enrollment based on capacity and if the school is over or under enrolled.

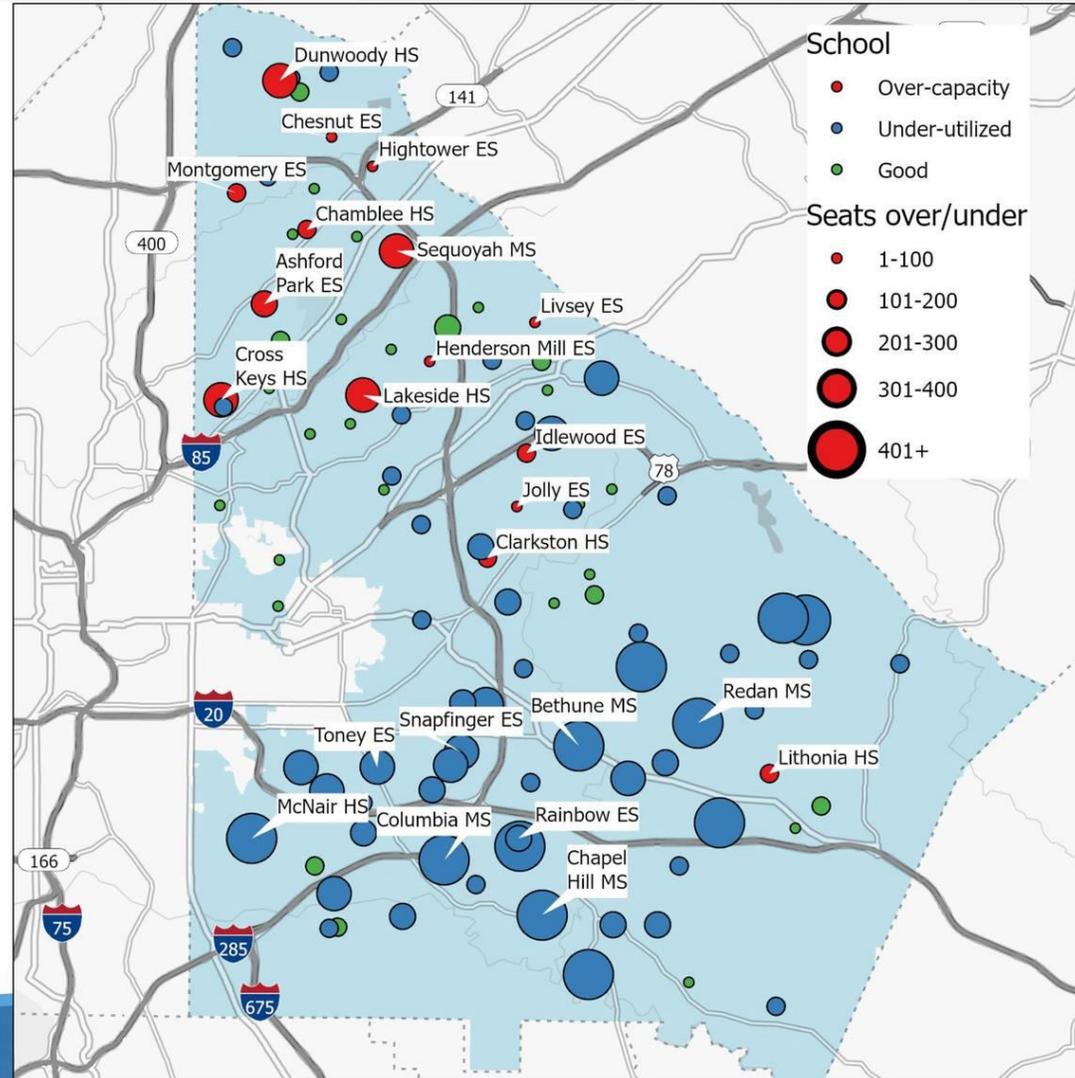
We use a scale to determine utilization rates and if a school would need additional or has extra space.

### Scale

Over – 105% or greater

Good – Between 85% - 105%

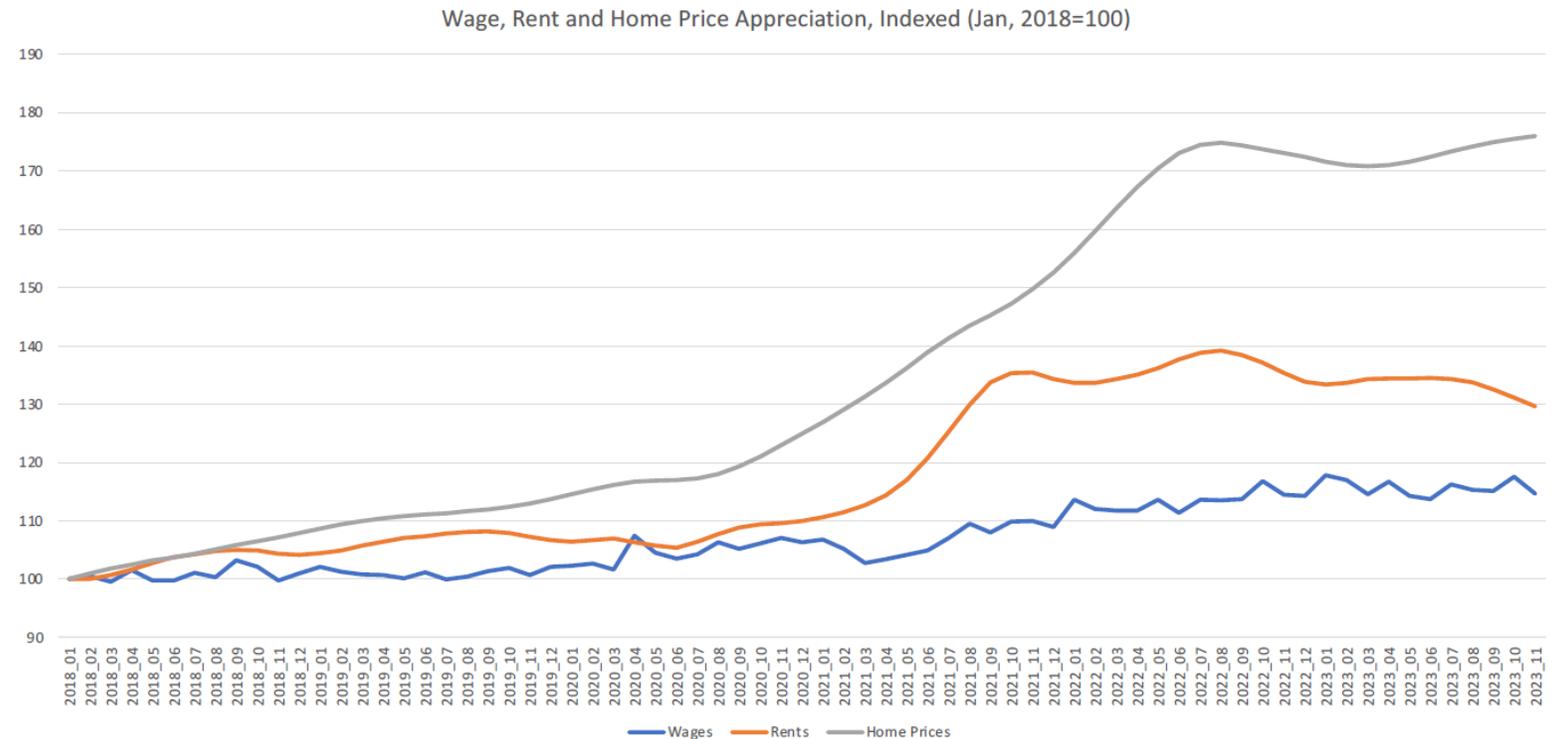
Under – 85% or fewer



# Future Challenges

- Housing prices
- Declining birth rates
- School vouchers
- Home schooling

## Wages Not Keeping Up With Rent or Price Appreciation



ONE great REGION

Source: BLS (Wages); ApartmentList (Rents); Zillow (Home Prices)

A&C

# What will be my focus?

- **Develop safe, supportive school environments where every student has a career, trade, or is college bound after they are handed their diploma.**
- Support and recognize our teachers as professionals
- Fix our school buildings
- Give the community confidence that their tax money is an investment in our community's future (and not being used wisely)
- Audit, audit, audit
- Explore an improved senior tax exemption
- Proactive management (not reactive)
- Replan SPLOST dollars with planning for inflation
- **Create confidence in our schools among stakeholders**

# Our Acting Superintendent Dr. Norman C. Sauce III

- **Experienced Educational Leader:** Dr. Sauce brings over 25 years in education, having served as a high school and elementary principal, and district-level division head in DeKalb County School District, Fulton County Schools, and Griffin-Spalding County School District, respectively.
- He also served as a high school history teacher and high school assistant principal in his native State of California.
- **Local Connection:** He previously served as Principal of Chamblee Charter High School, where he led steady academic gains, increased graduation rates, and helped the school earn state and national recognition for STEM and AP achievement.
- **DeKalb Leadership:** Most recently, Dr. Sauce now serves as Acting Superintendent of DeKalb County Schools, following roles as Chief of Student Services, Area Superintendent for High Schools, and Regional Superintendent, overseeing academic growth across all grade bands and multiple regions.
- **Commitment to Student Success:** Under his leadership, high schools he supervised saw steady increases in graduation rates and improvements in college and career readiness.
- **Focus on Access:** Dr. Sauce is known for initiatives that close achievement gaps, support English learners, and expanded access to gifted education and advanced coursework opportunities for all students.
- **Community-Oriented Leadership:** He has a reputation for being visible in schools, approachable to parents, and responsive to community concerns.
- **Academic Credentials:** He holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California, a Masters degree in Education from the University of California Los Angeles.
- He also completed superintendent and central office executive leadership development programs via The Forum for Educational Leadership and Georgia School Superintendents Association.
- **Family and Service:** Beyond his district role, Dr. Sauce is a husband and the father of middle-school aged twin boys. They are avid soccer players. He is active in youth sports and serves on the Board of Directors for Communities in Schools Georgia. He was also a founding board member of The Lee Thompson Young Foundation- all demonstrating his commitment to supporting students both inside and outside the classroom.

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# DeKalb County School District September SAP Update

Presented by: Sarita Smith



**DeKalb County**  
School District

# Vision, Purpose & Non-Purpose, and Timeline

# Vision

To reimaging 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





**Spring 2024 - Fall 2024:**  
Kick-off and SAP  
Committee Selection



**Fall 2024 - Spring 2025:**  
SAP Planning, Committee Meetings,  
Data Analytics, & Committee Guiding  
Principles Development

**Fall 2025 - Winter 2026:**  
SAP Committee Reimagining, Mapping,  
Preliminary Recommendations,  
& Community Feedback



**Spring 2026:**  
Community Review and  
Final Recommendations

**Fall 2026 - Fall 2030:**  
SAP Implementation Begins



# September Recap

# Recap - Two September Meetings

## 9/10/25

- Welcome Back
- Timeline
- Reviewed Challenges and 5 Reasons
- Action Items
- Collaborations

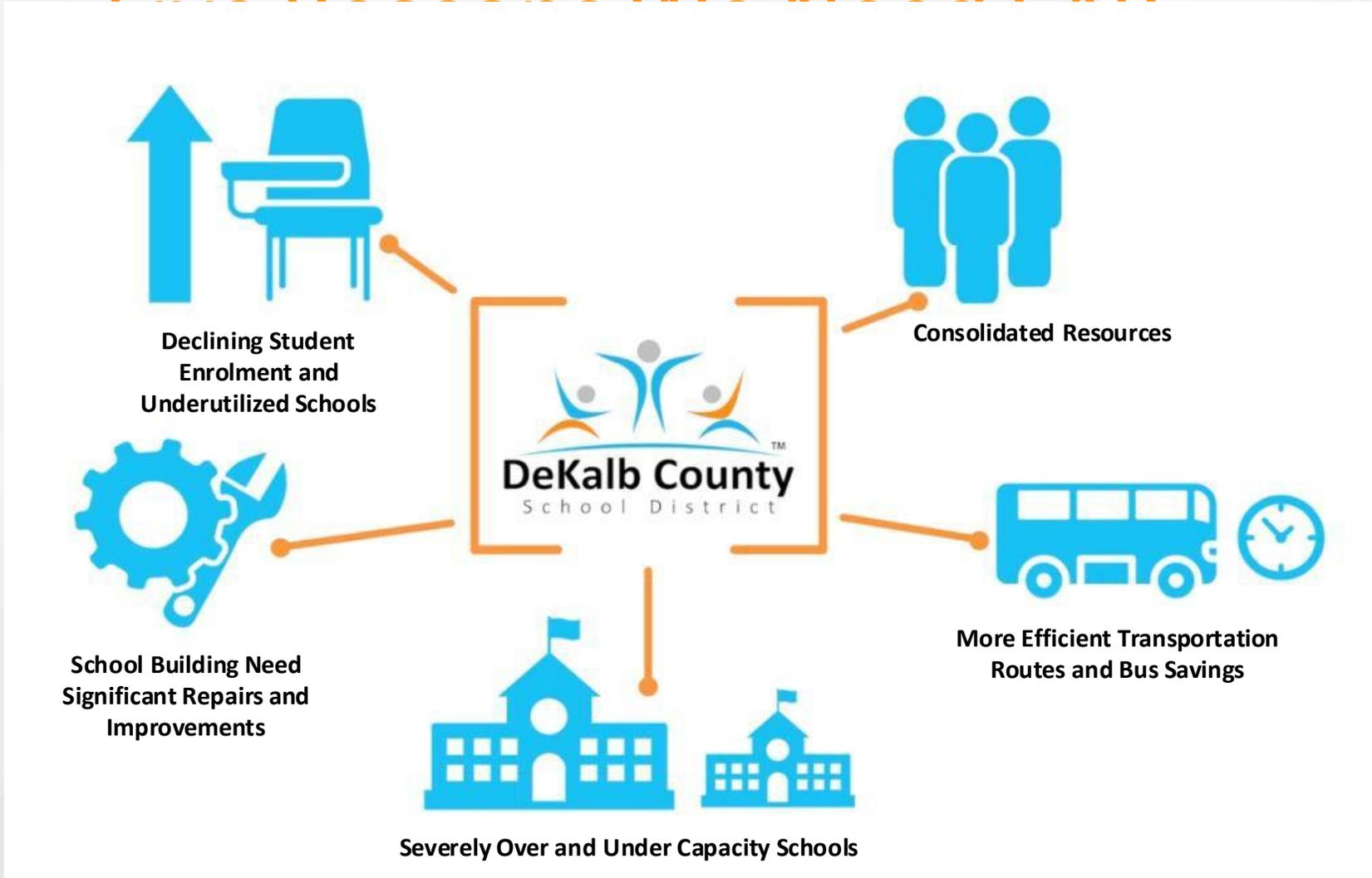
## 9/24/25

- Introduced HPM School Dashboard
- Reviewed the Big Question related to program placement
- Reviewed current programs
- Working groups completed worksheets
- Shared out



**DeKalb County**  
School District

# Five Drivers We Need to Lead



# 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.



# THE BIG QUESTION:

Should DCSD's special programs be offered in a few schools across the district, or placed within neighborhood schools?



# Big Question Defined

DCSD's special programs should be offered in a few schools across the district

- Specific stand-alone facilities would be designated to house special programs with those facilities being distributed throughout the district
- Each of these buildings may house multiple programs
- Special programs will only be housed in non-neighborhood schools

DCSD's special programs should be offered in neighborhood schools

- A program within a school model means that a specialized program (like STEM, Montessori, dual language, or arts) is offered inside a regular neighborhood school
- Special programs will only be housed in neighborhood schools

# Committee Feedback

## Take aways from 9/10/25 meeting related to program placement

- Stakeholders want **clear, transparent, and comprehensive data** on enrollment, capacity, program effectiveness, cost, and equity. They are especially concerned about **program placement fairness, ROI, and student outcomes**, and want the district to use this data for **long-term planning and community trust**.

## Take aways from 9/24/25 meeting related to program placement

- Participants want **smaller, better-facilitated groups, more data and clarity on program models and outcomes**, and **greater equity in program distribution**. They emphasized that effective process and transparent data are essential before making program or school redesign decisions.

# SAP Says

Hybrid program school model where programs are offered in neighborhood schools in a super cluster

DCSD should not offer specialty programs in K-5 to become more efficient

Minimum number of students committed to a program

We have to be creative about how we offer programs in neighborhood schools, so all students have access

A hybrid model within district regions, so all schools have access to quality academics

Depletion of teacher and student talent when there are stand-alone program buildings

Programs that require special equipment may require a stand-alone building

A limited diversity of programmatic opportunities in a cluster model.

Difficult to have this question without program outcomes

There are programs that do need separate facilities (examples: DSA/DAA, CTAE)

Creatively rotate students based on specialized programs

No school choice beyond specialized needs until middle school

Programs should be fluid and evaluated on a 5-year basis

# Community Feedback

- 1. Preserve Chamblee Cluster Alignment:** Many parents strongly oppose rezoning Ashford Park and surrounding neighborhoods out of the Chamblee Middle/High School cluster. They stress the importance of academic alignment, particularly access to AP and advanced programs not currently offered at Cross Keys.
- 2. Protect Gifted, Magnet, and Language Programs:** There is widespread support for continuing School Choice options, including the German Immersion (GI), magnet, and gifted programs. Parents credit these with driving school improvement and providing critical opportunities for high-achieving students.
- 3. Keep Neighborhoods and Communities Intact:** Families want to avoid being split across different schools, emphasizing the social and community impact. They cite shared activities, sports teams, and long-standing ties between Ashford Park, Drew Valley, and other Brookhaven neighborhoods.
- 4. Academic Quality and Equity Concerns:** Parents fear being rezoned to lower-performing schools (e.g., Montclair, John Lewis, Woodward) with significantly lower test scores. They argue that this move would reduce academic opportunities and unfairly disadvantage children in high performing zones.

# Community Feedback

- 5. Opposition to Rapid Implementation and Lack of Transparency:** Concerns are raised about the rushed timeline, lack of clear data, and poor communication from DeKalb County School District. Many ask for more time, input, and transparent planning before decisions are finalized.
- 6. Avoid Redistricting as a Quick Fix for Overcrowding:** Instead of redrawing boundaries, many suggest expanding or upgrading facilities (e.g., Ashford Park and Montgomery) to accommodate growth without disrupting high-functioning school communities.
- 7. Maintain Consistent Academic Pathways:** Families have planned their children's education (and often home purchases) around current school clusters. Disrupting this pathway, particularly for those already in gifted/magnet programs, is seen as destabilizing and unfair.
- 8. Negative Impact on Property Values and Enrollment Stability:** Homeowners are concerned that redistricting will reduce home values and prompt an exodus to private schools or different districts, thereby weakening both the public school system and community fabric.

# Community Feedback

**9. Community Investments at Risk:** Parents highlight the time, effort, and fundraising they've poured into their current schools. They argue redistricting would dismantle years of progress and parent engagement in building strong school cultures.





# Community Feedback



# What's Next

- Committee Meeting, October 8
- Finalize program placement consensus
- Consider special circumstances for program placement
- Review programs not meeting new criteria
  
- Committee Meeting, October 22
- Review neighborhood school projections
- Analyze maps and HPM supporting data

Chat w/ SAP Virtual Meeting, October 9th and October 23rd

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

- Virtual Community Town Hall Meetings
- Saturday, October 25th @ 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 28th @ @ 6:30 p.m.



[Student Assignment Project \(SAP\) Website](#)

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