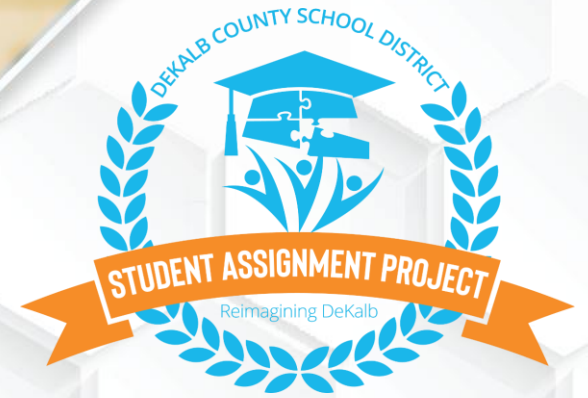




DeKalb County School District SAP Update

Presented by: Sarita Smith



DeKalb County
School District

Vision

To reimagine 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.



Video Message from Acting Superintendent



[Link](#) to the video message from Acting Superintendent, Dr. Norman C. Sauce III

Dr. Norman C. Sauce III

Acting Superintendent - DeKalb County School District



Expanded Timeline (subject to change)

SAP will review and create guidance for potential scenarios related to buildings, boundaries, and programs

Sep – Dec '25

Board Feedback - Share Staff, Parent, Community, and SAP feedback related to buildings, boundaries, and programs

Mar – May '26

Board considerations and potential decisions on scenarios

Fall '26

Staff, Parent, and Community Feedback on potential scenarios related to buildings, boundaries, and programs

Jan – Feb '26

Refine potential scenarios based on all feedback

Summer '26



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



October Recap

10/8/25

- Reviewed the continued goal related to program placement
- Shared community feedback
- Working groups feedback
- Share out

10/22/25

- Welcome from acting superintendent
- Review policy AD
- Understand criteria from education leaders
- Review attendance boundary data
- Working groups feedback
- Share out



SAP Guidance – Program Placement and Attendance Boundaries

Program Placement

- **Programs should be in attendance boundary schools to the greatest extent possible**
- Specialized criteria for programs placed outside of an attendance boundary school (stand-alone building)
 - o **Specialized Student Needs** – Programs designed to serve students whose educational needs cannot be fully met in a traditional school setting (e.g., Special Education Centers, Alternative Programs).
 - o **Specialized Instructional Expertise** – Programs that require educators with unique certifications or expertise aligned to the program’s instructional model or theme (e.g., Arabia Mountain’s environmental focus).
 - o **Non-Traditional Grade Configurations** – Schools or programs that operate outside standard grade band structures (e.g., K–8, 4–6, 4–8 configurations such as Kittredge, Wadsworth, DAA, and Montessori programs).

Attendance Boundary Schools (neighborhood schools) Criteria Top six (6) criteria that is important for SAP to consider for prioritizing attendance boundary schools

- Building Utilization
- Program Alignment: Keep pathways coherent (e.g., ensure elementary schools feed consistently into middle and high schools)
- Resource Distribution: Ensure equitable access to high-quality facilities and educational opportunities
- Facility Condition
- Neighborhood Cohesion
- Geographic proximity and travel time / transportation impact

Dispelling Myths

SAP Recommendations are being implemented Fall 2026

- SAP is not making any recommendations that will begin Fall 2026. Please refer to the timeline on the website.

SAP is recommending closing magnet schools and programs

- SAP is assuming all programs remain based on the current enrollment trends and will make recommendations on program placement and the development of an evaluation system for school choice.

SAP committee member have been coerced into what the district wants

- The only guidance provided by the district was the SAP vision, number of consolidations, and to follow the board policy. Staff members attend SAP meetings to provide context based on their areas of expertise, and Ms. Smith is a facilitator of the project.

SAP committee members are not from the community

- SAP committee members represent many areas of the district and DeKalb community.

SAP has inaccurate data

- SAP is reviewing data from our student information system, planning department, the last comprehensive master plan, school choice enrollment over time, private and charter school enrollment over time, research related to redistricting and programs, and much more. There is always a margin of error in data, but we do have enough data to know we are operating too many buildings, and our programs are not consistently offered or accessible to all families.

SAP is not concerned about the climate culture, and wellbeing of students

- Operating a more efficient school system will, over time, enhance support for all DCSD students, particularly by improving access to academic resources and services.

Community Feedback

