

CRESTWOOD AREA REDISTRICTING STUDY

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose of this redistricting?

The purpose of the redistricting study is to balance enrollments across Crestwood, Ballenger Creek, West Frederick, Governor Thomas Johnson and Monocacy middle schools by adjusting attendance boundaries. Elementary schools that feed to these schools, and high schools that these middle schools feed to, are also included in the study area in order to balance feeder patterns. These schools include Ballenger Creek, Butterfly Ridge, Carroll Manor, Hillcrest, Lewiston, Lincoln, Monocacy, North Frederick, Orchard Grove, Parkway, Spring Ridge, Tuscarora, Waverley, Whittier and Yellow Springs elementary schools, and Frederick, Governor Thomas Johnson and Tuscarora high schools.

2. Why is the study named the “Crestwood Area Redistricting Study” when there are several other schools that have proposed changes in their attendance boundaries?

The scope of work and study area were approved in October of 2022. During that meeting, the Board of Education approved the scope of work with the purpose of balancing enrollments in the study area and utilizing additional space under construction at Crestwood Middle School. At the time the scope of work was approved, no decisions had been made about which schools' boundaries would be proposed to change and thus the study was named Crestwood **Area** Redistricting Study to describe the broad area of the study.

3. If our neighborhood is redistricted to another school, would my student be able to finish their education at their current school or would they have to attend the new school?

This will be a point discussed by the Board of Education during their deliberations for this redistricting study. In a few of the past redistricting studies, the Board has allowed rising 5th, 8th and 12th graders to stay at their current schools with parent transportation. This, however, is not a guarantee and must be decided for each redistricting.

4. What are the options for my student to stay at their current school if they are not grandfathered in?

FCPS students are required to attend the school to which they are assigned by attendance boundaries unless your student has received an out of district transfer approval. For more information about out of district transfer requests, please see our web page at <https://www.fcps.org/enroll> or contact Maryann Gomez at maryann.gomez@fcps.org if you have questions about out of district transfers.

5. Why are there no community meetings scheduled at any of my current schools?

Each community meeting is open to all school communities who are included in the redistricting study area. The same information is presented at each community meeting. The multiple meetings provide multiple opportunities for families to hear about the redistricting recommendations and to ask questions.

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6. Will meetings and information be available in Spanish?

Yes, Spanish language interpreters are available for each community meeting. Recordings of meetings will be available in Spanish and English. The project webpage also has the option to be auto-translated in Spanish or any of the nearly 100 other languages. All documents posted to the project webpage will also be available in Spanish.

7. Why weren't there any alternative options being presented with the Superintendent's Recommendation?

The plan presented to the Board of Education in May is the Superintendent's recommendation. Following the presentation, and in response to community comments, the Board directed staff to develop several alternatives to the recommendation that would address public comments. The Board of Education and FCPS staff will continue to hear from stakeholders before the Board takes any action on the redistricting study. The Board welcomes the community's participation in the redistricting study and looks forward to the community's comments.

8. Why aren't the new alternatives being made available prior to the public meetings in September?

FCPS staff has been working on three redistricting alternatives throughout the summer. The alternatives to the Superintendent's recommendation will be ready for presentation at three community meetings scheduled for September 6, September 7, and September 11. The location and time for each meeting can be found on the project web site at <https://www.fcps.org/capital-program/crestwood>.

The same information will be presented at all three meetings. The community is invited to attend any or all meetings that are most convenient for them. There will also be a recording of the presentation posted on the project web site. The report detailing the alternatives to the Superintendent's recommendation will be posted on the project web site on September 6, 2023. The updated interactive map will also be available on this date. This community engagement plan aligns with the information that was provided to the community through Find Out First (FOF) in June and is posted to the FCPS website.

9. I am concerned about my student's social/emotional wellbeing either due to them being required to move or their friends being required to move. This concern is exacerbated by the instability over the past several years due to Covid. Was this considered when deciding to conduct this study?

FCPS understands the emotions surrounding change and the toll that the COVID-19 pandemic had on many students. FCPS is committed to ensuring that all students feel welcomed in their school community.

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10. What is the best way to get my comments, questions, and concerns addressed for this study? How can I ensure my comments will be received by the Board of Education?

Please send all comments to CrestwoodRedistricting@fcps.org.

Please include your planning block ID and be as specific as possible with your question or comment. Questions will be answered and comments will be recorded and summarized for the Board of Education. In addition, the FCPS team is working on a survey as another way for the community to provide feedback on the Superintendent's recommendation and alternatives.

Additionally, the Board of Education will hold a Public Hearing prior to making final decisions. The Board's public hearing is currently scheduled for November 1, 2023.

11. If I am recommended to change high schools, will I still have the opportunity to enroll in other academic programs and academies, such as the Academy for the Fine Arts or CTC programs?

If you wish to attend a school with a special program, you must submit an out of district transfer request. Please see the [Enrolling a student FCPS webpage](#) and [BOE Regulation 400-15](#) for more details on requirements for submitting an out of district transfer request. CTC programs are available for all FCPS students in grades 10-12 regardless of the high school they attend.

12. We bought our home based on where our children would attend school. Why are you now revising attendance boundaries?

Frederick County Public Schools has more than 47,000 students in 70 schools. All schools provide the same rigorous curriculum. Frederick County is also the fastest growing school system in the state. FCPS is working hard to address capacity issues at our schools through construction of new schools and additions as well as redistricting attendance boundaries to better balance enrollments. While the schools serving your neighborhood may change from time to time, your student will receive the same quality education at any of our schools.