

NATIONAL STUDY – BEST PRACTICES AROUND SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

OCTOBER 15, 2018

WORK SESSION

FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES



BACKGROUND

- The Board requested that staff benchmark our boundary change practices against other jurisdictions
 - Next Step 103 from January 22, 2018 Work Session

PURPOSE

- To review how other school districts implement policy regarding school boundaries for informed discussion regarding equity, excellence, and efficiency

PURPOSE

- **Excellence** by creating an exceptional and comprehensive foundation
- **Equity** by allowing boundary adjustments to be implemented impartially and consistently
- **Effectiveness** by promoting boundary adjustments that will increase the efficiency of FCPS

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT MATRIX

- Developed Matrix with the following:
 - A. School Districts
 - B. School District Size
 - C. Different Types of Boundary Adjustments
 - D. Type of Adjustment Determined by
 - E. Boundary Adjustment Factors
 - F. Prioritization of Factors
 - G. Limit on Frequency of Boundary Adjustments
 - H. Implementation of Boundary Adjustments
 - I. Initiators of Boundary Adjustments
 - J. Approval of Boundary Adjustments

REVIEW

- Matrix provided includes a sample of school districts in:
 - Washington metropolitan area
 - Virginia
 - Top 50 in U.S. by enrollment size

C. DIFFERENT TYPES OF BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

- FCPS: Administrative, Expedited, and Standard
- 10 other districts provide for other types of boundary adjustments in addition to standard

C. DIFFERENT TYPES OF BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

- FCPS policy includes three types:
 1. Administrative
 2. Expedited
 3. Standard

D. TYPES OF ADJUSTMENT DETERMINED BY

1. FCPS **Administrative** Boundary Adjustment:
 - A. An emergency or overriding public need
 - B. New unoccupied housing requires reassignment to avoid school crowding or to facilitate student transportation.
 - C. Less than five percent of the enrollment of each school will be affected, and analysis indicates the change will improve the operating efficiency of the school division.

D. TYPES OF ADJUSTMENT DETERMINED BY

2. FCPS **Expedited** Boundary Adjustment:

- A. An emergency or overriding public need requires such a change within an expedited time frame.
- B. Less than fifteen percent of the enrollment at each school will be affected, and analysis indicates the change will improve the operating efficiency of the school division.

D. TYPES OF ADJUSTMENT DETERMINED BY

3. FCPS **Standard** Boundary Adjustment:
 - A. Boundary adjustments affecting fifteen percent or more of the enrollment at a school

D. TYPES OF ADJUSTMENT DETERMINED BY

- Other school districts:
 1. Percent of enrollment at each school
 2. Number of actual students affected
 3. Aligning geographic features
 4. Emergency/Temporary

E. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT FACTORS CONSIDERED

- School districts review factors as part of their boundary adjustments
 - 1 Included in policies
 - 2 Operational practices in place beyond policies
 - 3 Both in the policies and in practice

F. PRIORITIZATION OF FACTORS

- FCPS: Does not prioritize factors. Identifies two factors NOT to be considered: magisterial districts and postal addresses
- Other districts prioritize school capacity during boundary adjustments

G. LIMIT ON FREQUENCY OF ADJUSTMENTS

- FCPS: Limits adjustments affecting the same home to once in three years
- Other districts limit boundary adjustments based on residences or school attendance areas



H. IMPLEMENTATION OF BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

- FCPS Adjustments implemented through a:
 - Grandfathering (6th, 8th, 12th grades)
 - Grade-by-grade beginning with the incoming class at middle and high schools
 - School Board may adopt other phasing plans
 - Transportation is not addressed in policy



H. IMPLEMENTATION OF BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

- Other school districts:
 - Allow for grandfathering of students entering their last year, if space is available
 - Transportation is not provided by most



I. INITIATORS OF BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

- FCPS: Superintendent is directed by the School Board to consider the need to make adjustments
- Other school districts:
 - Cyclical Review Period
 - School Board
 - Superintendent
 - School Planning Department (e.g. Facilities Planning)
 - Advisory Committees (e.g. FPAC)

J. APPROVAL OF BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

- FCPS: Superintendent (Administrative) School Board (Expedited and Standard)
- Other school districts:
 - School Board approves all adjustments
 - Superintendent approves all adjustments
 - Superintendent approves administrative adjustments and the School Board approves all other adjustments

DISCUSSION