

Best Practice Review
Draft Boundary Policy 8130

In its December 12, 2021, [work session](#), the School Board received a report from the MGT Consulting Group, an education consulting firm, to identify best practices in boundary policies. In their [report](#), MGT recommended that FCPS update its boundary policy to ensure that best practices are being followed. The recommendation stated the following seven aspects should be strongly considered in a revised draft policy.

Best Practice	FCPS Practice
Prioritize factors determining boundary policy.	<p>The revised draft policy has prioritized capacity above all factors.</p> <p>See Section V: “As population and membership shift within the division, changes in boundaries may become necessary and shall be recommended to the School Board for approval.”</p> <p>The additional 9 factors listed (A – I) have not been prioritized due to the differing conditions that may necessitate a boundary change.</p>
Define school and program capacity to ensure consistency across the division.	The FCPS CIP provides definitions of design capacity and program capacity, along with an explanation of how we calculate capacity (see p. 76).
Establish boundary adjustments based on balancing the number of schools and students for efficient use of buildings.	<p>The revised draft policy includes this language.</p> <p>See Section V: “...to ensure excellence, equity and opportunity, the Superintendent will recommend boundaries that...[b]alance available capacity.”</p>
Centralize, regionalize, or duplicate programs with great demand in schools across the district to ensure equitable access for all families.	<p>FCPS employs various strategies to ensure equitable access to programs across the county. The revised draft policy includes language to address instructional delivery.</p> <p>See Section V: “...to ensure excellence, equity and opportunity, the Superintendent will recommend boundaries that...[o]ptimize instructional delivery.”</p>
Limit time students are on buses and create efficient transportation networks.	<p>The revised draft policy includes language to address transportation efficiency.</p> <p>See Section V: “...to ensure excellence, equity and opportunity, the Superintendent will recommend boundaries that...[e]nsure efficient transportation routes with attendance areas.”</p>
Create an established and well-articulated exemption process.	The revised draft policy refers to Regulation 2230, Student Transfer Process, which establishes exemptions to school boundaries.

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Formally evaluate school boundary policies every five years.	The School Board’s Strategic Governance Manual states that the “School Board office will ensure policies are reviewed by appropriate staff members at least every five years.”