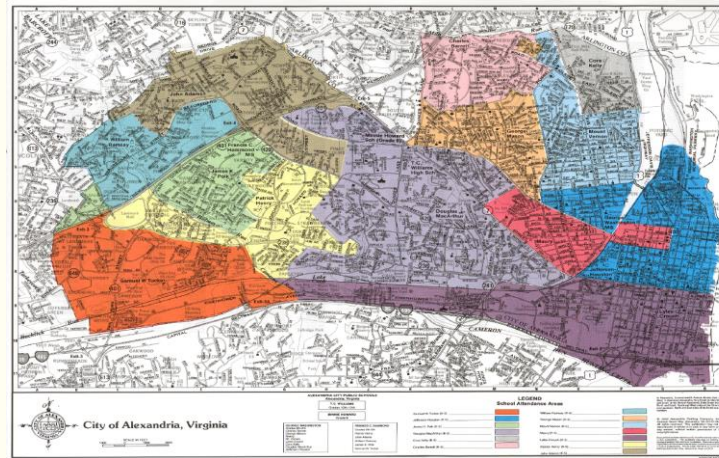


Redistricting in Alexandria City Public Schools



Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Every Student Succeeds



Essential Questions

- What is the impetus for redistricting?
- How is redistricting aligned with Strategic Plan 2020?
- What criteria and structures will guide the redistricting process?
- How will the community be engaged in the redistricting process?
- What is the proposed redistricting timeline and process?
- What are the anticipated outcomes of redistricting?

Statement of Problem

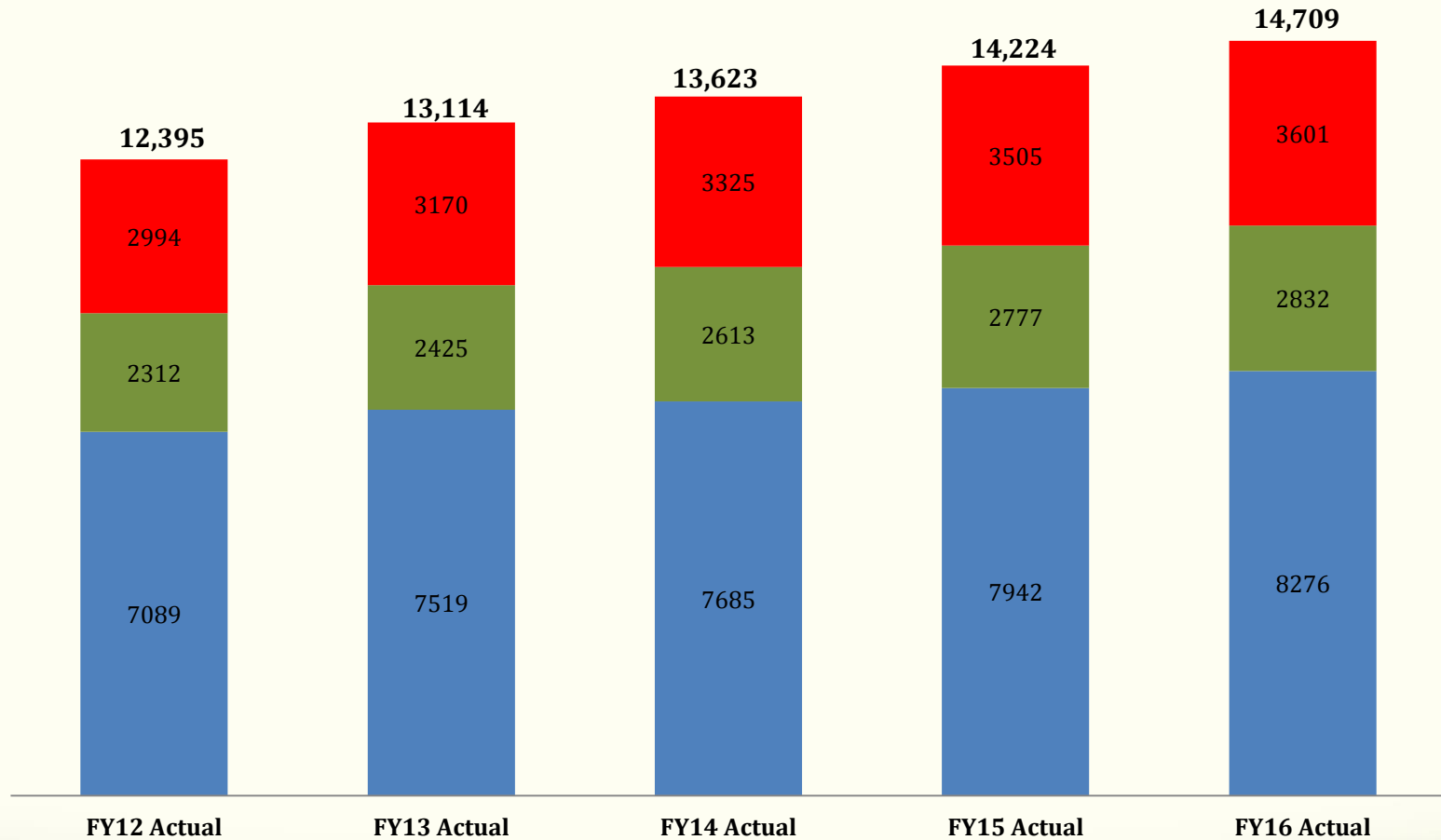
- ACPS is growing at the rate of 4% each year
- Majority of schools will be over capacity by 2020
- Crowding conditions impact delivery of instruction and use of core spaces
- Some schools are currently under capacity
- Redistricting has not occurred since 1999

Student School Assignment Process: Redistricting

When new schools or additional classroom capacity are added in an area of the city, or imbalances of enrollment and capacity exist, ACPS School Board may direct staff to review attendance boundaries for modifications.

Enrollment Growth

■ Elementary ■ Middle ■ High



Strategic Plan 2020 Goals

- 1. Academic Excellence and Educational Equity:** Every child will be academically successful and prepared for college, work and life.
- 2. Family and Community Engagement:** ACPS will partner with families and the community in the education of Alexandria's youth.
- 3. An Exemplary Staff:** ACPS will recruit, develop, support, and retain a staff that is best for Alexandria's students.
- 4. Facilities and the Learning Environment:** ACPS will provide optimal and equitable learning environments.
- 5. Health and Wellness:** ACPS will provide access and support that enables students to be healthy and ready to learn.
- 6. Effective and Efficient Operations:** ACPS will be efficient, effective, and transparent in its business operations.



Proposed Redistricting Criteria (Overview)

- Instructional Capacity
- Student Safety
- Transportation
- Enrollment Capacity
- Class Size
- Distribution of special programs
- Previous Rezoning
- Program Continuity
- Sensible and Fair Boundary Lines
- Diversity

Proposed Redistricting Criteria

Overarching Goal: Enable students to attend their neighborhood school with equitable access to instructional programs and services, **in a cost effective manner**, unless there is a demonstrated need or desire to attend a designated citywide program.

- Instructional Capacity: Number of students assigned to a school takes into account the number of classrooms and resource rooms needed for art, music, labs, ELL, special education and Talented and Gifted.
- Student Safety: Promote safe walk zones -routes to school.
- Transportation: Minimize need for bus transportation or travel time
- Enrollment Capacity: Student enrollment provide room for future growth .
- Class Size: Adhere to and accommodate ACPS policy on class size requirements at different grade levels.
- Distribution of special programs: Consider balance and access to districtwide programs (special education; pre-k).
- Previous Rezoning: Minimize need for more than one boundary change in the elementary life of a student.
- Program Continuity: Minimize school assignment change for students who have spent the majority of their elementary experience in the school.
- Sensible and Fair Boundary Lines: **Consider the proximity to the school**, and to extent possible, look for natural points to define boundaries.
- Diversity: Consider rich diversity of school division.

Redistricting Structure

Redistricting Steering Committee

Function: Oversee the Redistricting Process and serve as liaison between Board and Redistricting Review Committee.

- Three School Board Members
- Four Senior Leadership Team Members
- Communications Director
- Third Party Consultants (Reingold)

Redistricting Review Committee

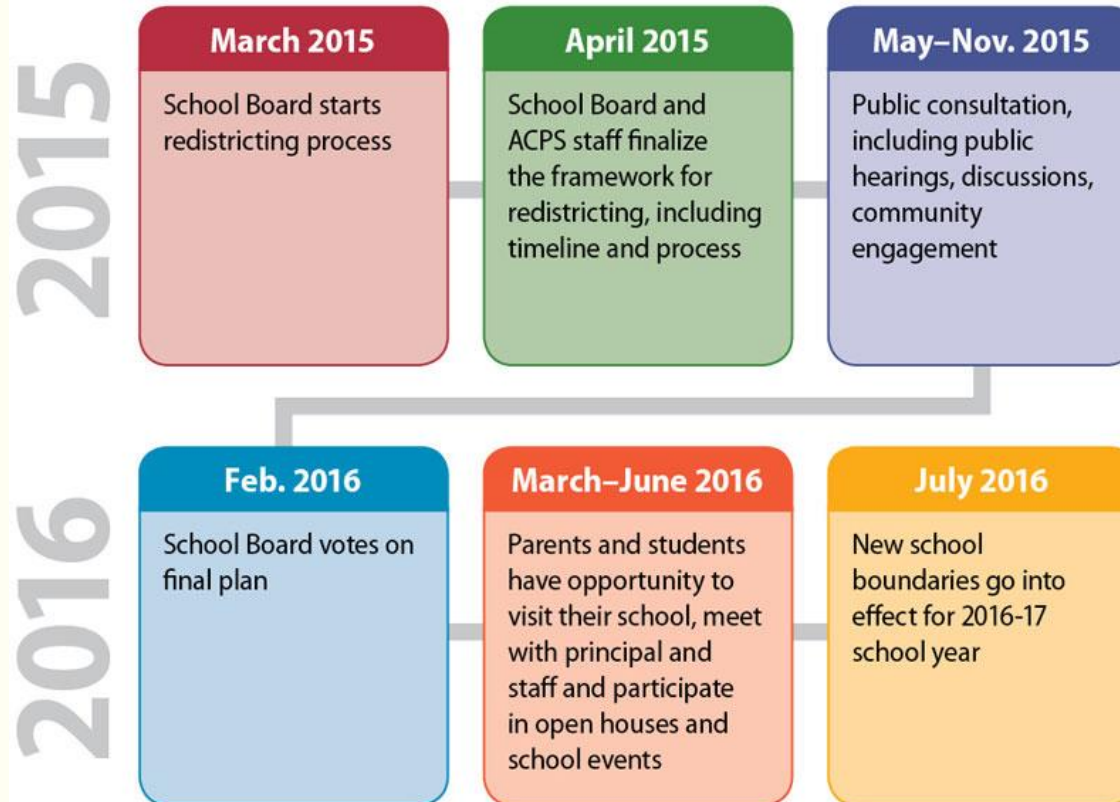
Function: Advise the School Board on redistricting process and serve as a communication link to the community.

- Two Community Members
- Two School Representatives
- One TCW student

Guiding Documents

- Long Range Educational Facilities Planning Document
- Official Boundary Map
- Information Regarding Elementary Enrollment, Transfers, and Boundary Schools
- Historical Documents
- Hanover Report
- GIS Software
- Policies and Regulations

Initial Proposed Timeline



*The timeline will evolve & change as needed to allow for the best possible engagement process and decision-making.

Process

- Defined timeline from March 2015 to February 2016
- Ongoing Opportunities for Community Engagement
 - School Board Meetings
 - Survey
 - Twitter Town Hall Meetings
 - Community Forums
 - Public Hearings

Community Engagement Timeline (Reingold – Phase I)

	Aug. '15	Sept. '15	Oct. '15	Nov. '15
<u><i>Steering/Review Committee Meetings</i></u> Community engagement planning discussions.				
<u><i>Community Forum #1 (1 location/event)</i></u> Gauge community preferences for engagement and set platform for meaningful engagement throughout the process.				
<u><i>Twitter Town Hall (1 event)</i></u> Provide community members the opportunity to provide feedback regarding proposed engagement efforts and ask questions before process launch.				

Community Engagement Timeline (Reingold – Phase II)

	Aug. '15	Sept. '15	Oct. '15	Nov. '15
<p><u>Community Forum #2 (2 locations/events)</u> Present project process, criteria, timeline, and redistricting objectives to community. Solicit initial feedback to inform the overall process and initial options development.</p>				
<p><u>Twitter Town Hall (2 events)</u> Provide community members the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions regarding objectives, criteria, timeline, and process.</p>				

Community Engagement Timeline (Reingold – Phase III)

	Aug. '15	Sept. '15	Oct. '15	Nov. '15	Dec. '15
<u><i>Community Forum #3 (2 locations/events)</i></u> Present preliminary redistricting options to community for comment/feedback.					
<u><i>Twitter Town Hall (2 events)</i></u> Provide community members the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions regarding preliminary redistricting options (information made available online).					

Community Engagement Timeline (Reingold – Phase IV)

	Aug. '15	Sept. '15	Oct. '15	Nov. '15	Dec. '15	Jan. '16
<u><i>Community Forum #4 (2 locations/events)</i></u> Present updated redistricting options to community for comment/feedback.						
<u><i>Twitter Town Hall (2 events)</i></u> Provide community members the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions regarding updated redistricting options (information made available online).						

Community Engagement Timeline (Reingold – Phase V)

	Aug. '15	Sept. '15	Oct. '15	Nov. '15	Dec. '15	Jan. '16	Feb. '16	Mar. '16
<i>Presentation of Final Recommendations to the School Board</i>								
<i>Community Forum #5 (1 location/event)</i> Present final redistricting model and next steps to community and solicit feedback for implementation.								
<i>Twitter Town Hall (1 event)</i> Provide community members the opportunity to ask questions regarding final recommendations and next steps for implementation.								

Process Continued

- Post-Redistricting Engagement
 - Open Houses
 - Principal Chats
 - Opportunities for clubs, organizations, and PTA to stay involved

Anticipated Outcomes of Redistricting

- Allows for more equitable distribution of students across schools
- Diminishes school crowding
- Allows more students to attend their neighborhood school
- Allows ACPS to maintain its commitment to creating better learning and work environments for students and staff

Hallmarks of Successful Redistricting Process

- Use of data and relevant policies to inform decision making (division and school level)
- Effective and transparent community engagement
- Clarity around timelines, activities and decision-making
- Alignment with school board stated criteria
- Opportunities for positive transition experiences

Timeline of Events

- 10/15/2015 School Board approves Redistricting Review Committee members
- 10/19/2015 Initial meeting of Redistricting Review Committee, 1340 Braddock Place, 5 p.m.
- 10/22/2015 Kick off community meeting for redistricting, T.C. Williams High School, 7 p.m.

Questions

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Superintendent of Schools

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Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be. Dr. Rita Pierson