

Questions & Comments from Region I CMP Town Hall 10/26/2021



Question or Comment	In-Chat Response	Response
<p>When will District 1 and Region 1 be provided relief through redistricting? Vanderlyn has had trailers for over 20 years, Peachtree Middle for 12 years, Dunwoody High and Sequoyah for about 9. How many years is enough? (Apparently 20 isn't). If our middle and high schools aren't provided relief until new buildings are built, they will be on a 20 year trailer trajectory as well.</p>		<p>Thank you for sharing your concerns. DCSD is currently in the process of building the new Dunwoody/Chamblee Elementary School. The recommendation of the CMP is to introduce a new cluster into Region 1 with a new MS & HS. Without the additions of new schools redistricting will not solve the need of more open seats.</p> <p>Providing relief to overcrowded schools is of the upmost priority in the CMP process.</p>
<p>Has the district considered the socio economic impact on Peachtree Middle School by removing two of the most economically advantaged schools in our cluster from PMS by turning them into K-8 schools?</p>		<p>According to the Demographic Analysis & Forecast Study, Peachtree Middle School is expected to see an increase in enrollment until Fall 2027. The current facility would not be able to support the anticipated growth.</p>
<p>When is Austin supposed to become a K-8 and how will that be implemented? Will you phase in, starting with a 6th grade, or will you pull a group of 6-8 from Peachtree and relocate them to Austin?</p>		<p>Please attend the upcoming Draft CMP presentation for more information of timeline and scheduling of projects.</p> <p>The CMP website will have more information on dates, times, and meeting links.</p>
<p>Ashford Park has a German immersion program. I'm assuming that this was the chosen language in part because Chamblee already had a robust German program. If Ashford Park feeds into Cross Keys in the future, does the district have a plan to provide continuity for students in this program beyond elementary school? Will Kittredge continue to feed into Chamblee?</p>		<p>The CMP team is working with Academics and Special Programs to decide the direction of school choice and special programs.</p> <p>How these programs will continue based on the recommendations of the CMP will be for DCSD leadership and staff to decide.</p>
<p>Why not scale back on "Big Ideas" and focus on scaling back on outdated trailers?</p>		<p>As mentioned in the presentation, relief of overcrowded schools is of the upmost priority during the CMP process.</p>
<p>But these "old" schools will be OK for early learning students?</p>		<p>The CMP team is working to find the best locations of ELC's by region based on enrollment and avoiding major distributions to feeder patterns.</p>
<p>Would be a good idea to add a photo of a more diverse group of people to the one shown for stakeholder engagement. Didn't pay attention to this before. Thx</p>		
<p>Your proposal to relieve overcrowding at Dunwoody High is to re-cluster areas currently mapped to DHS to Chamblee High School. When will this happen and is there any construction that must be completed before this change can be made?</p>		<p>As the CMP only provides recommendations for the District, DCSD will follow the usual protocols of several rounds of public engagement before any redistricting takes place.</p> <p>Please attend the upcoming Draft CMP presentation for more information of timeline and scheduling of projects.</p>
<p>The K-8 option at Austin is only feasible due to Austin losing about 300 students (from 2020 projections) during the COVID pandemic. What happens if those 300 students return?</p>		<p>Based on the Demographic Analysis & Forecast Study conducted by Cropper GIS and McKibben Demographics then current enrollment at Austin ES is expected to remain at the level.</p>
<p>Across the district equity doesn't make sense. Change should occur where needed.</p>		
<p>Why can't we stop underestimating school enrollment? Yes change is hard, even for those who continue to say that school enrollment will be lower than it ever is.</p>		
<p>How does making k-8 schools increase diversity? seems like it would be more segregation.</p>		<p>Using the seats in Austin to hold students 6-8 provides more activities and opportunities to students at this school which may not have been available at Peachtree MS due to the number of enrolled students.</p>
<p>Distance is hard because you built mega schools and got rid of NEIGHBORHOOD schools. Yes, now they are too far to rezone. Too late now.</p>		
<p>How can all these k-8 schools support extra-curricular activities and sports?</p>		<p>DCSD leadership and staff will work to ensure all students have access to the same sports and activities regardless of the attending school.</p> <p>Please attend the draft CMP presentation for more details on the recommendations and options.</p>
<p>So we have to move towards large schools to save money, what about what is best for students?</p>		<p>DCSD has been building our prototype facilities for the last several years. The new elementary schools include John Lewis ES, Fernbank ES, Austin ES, Peachcrest ES, Barack Obama Tech ES, Doraville United ES, Smoke Rise ES, and Pleasantdale ES.</p> <p>We have found this design to be very successful and also a great use of E-SPLOST funding in contrast to maintain or building smaller schools.</p>
<p>Did you use ARC data for growth?</p>		<p>The Demographic Analysis & Forecast Study pulled information from several places including but not limited to: DeKalb County Board of Health, Census 2020, Internal Revenue Service Migration report, American Community Survey, etc.</p> <p>https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/comprehensive-master-plan/files/2021/03/dcsd-ga-demographic-report-210225-1.pdf</p>
<p>Why not build a high school in central perimeter? That's where the demand is folks. Cater to the fortune 50 businesses that pay your salaries.</p>		<p>A recommendation of the CMP is to build a new cluster in Region to open more seats at the middle school and high school levels. This will in time help with relief to the existing schools that are overcrowded.</p>
<p>What about dunwoody HS. They have significant overcrowding now</p>		

Question or Comment	In-Chat Response	Response
Will K-8 schools provide same extracurricular activities as existing middle schools?		Thank you for your feedback. DCSD leadership and staff will work to ensure all students have access to the same sports and activities regardless of the attending school. Please attend the draft CMP presentation for more details on the recommendations and options.
You are overlooking the mental capacity of middle schoolers. Educating them with elementary school is a DANGER.		
If everyone in our cluster isn't K-8, I don't see how it's "equitable"		
Is it safe for kindergartners to ride buses with 8th graders?		Once the CMP is approved by the Board of Education, the District will begin designing how the layout of these projects will unfold especially K-8 schools.
Will ELC's divert funds from K-12 students and K-12 schools?		The District is looking at different funding sources for ELCs and facility improvement needs outside of E-SPLOST.
Would you consider k-6 for all feeder schools to Peachtree MS? This seems to address equality while also allowing for sports, arts, STEM, and foreign language for all students attending Peachtree.		Thank you for your suggestion. The K-6 feeder pattern is being reviewed by our team and DCSD staff. The upcoming draft CMP presentation will be another opportunity to provide feedback on the presented options.
I'd like to clarify that the only reason you picked Austin & DES as a K-8 is because they currently have open seats (thank you Covid) and don't want to expand Peachtree Middle?		
I appreciate your willingness to consider unique grade configurations, but I have serious concerns about having only a few schools in any given cluster with K-8. I would rather see all elementary schools move to K-6 with a shuffling of students than see 1 or 2 schools in a cluster become K-8. I think that can negatively impact dynamics for our students and can introduce another element of potential inequity into the schools within clusters.		Thank you for your suggestion. The K-6 feeder pattern is being reviewed by our team and DCSD staff. The upcoming draft CMP presentation will be another opportunity to provide feedback on the presented options.
How will these elementary schools be equipped to handle middle school classes, activities/clubs and sports?		Thank you for your feedback. DCSD leadership and staff will work to ensure all students have access to the same sports and activities regardless of the attending school. Please attend the draft CMP presentation for more details on the recommendations and options.
If austin Es becomes a k-8 will those 6-8 kids get the same extra curricular activities as the kids at Peachtree.		
It seems to make more sense to do K-6 or 4-8 - than putting 8th graders in the same building as kindergartners		
Does DCSD not have to do traffic studies when "reconfiguring"?		The planning and implementation of redistricting includes traffic studies and a collaborative effort with the Transportation department.
I agree with the magnet moving to 4-8 model, makes a lot of sense.		
Performing Arts Academy needs to offer production tech program and feed into the studios through internships. Atlanta doesn't need more actors. It needs more key grips, prop masters, set dressers, etc.		
As a member of AES PAC, I have heard that the k-6 option for all PCS feeder ESs is far more popular than limited K-8.		
Kingsley is not a good spot for an ELC based on its location as the Northeastern most spot in the district (it is not a central enough location)		
DCSD has neglected DeKalb School of the Arts to the point of destroying it. Hope someone out there gets it.		
The Shallowford site does not seem to be big enough to house what is being proposed for that location.		
What other buildings could be available for the early learning center instead of Kingsley? Maybe closer to a more underserved area in region 1.		Based on feedback we have received from community members and Kingsley PAC, the CMP team is considering moving the recommendation of an ELC to a different location.
Does expand mean building onto the existing Kittredge facility or a new facility altogether? Need to ensure same space is not re-utilized as that means smaller slots for students.		Expande Kittredge means to the school will have students from grades (4-8). This expansion will be at a new facility.

Question or Comment	In-Chat Response	Response
I like the idea of Early Learning Centers. However, does it make sense to place them in the northern area of the district? Wouldn't it make more sense for them to be centrally located so the Region as a whole can benefit?		Based on feedback we have received from community members and Kingsley PAC, the CMP team in considering moving the recommendation of an ELC to a different location.
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO, not Kingsley...back to a traffic study. Now everyone will be driving through our quiet neighborhood to get the little to Early Learning. I guess that's why we didn't get new sidewalks during the pandemic.		
Do you have any data on the likelihood of usage of an ELC that requires traveling across the region? Kingsley is so far away from so much of Region 1.		The recommendation for ELCs in each region comes from the lack of seats available at the Early Learning Center at Terry Mill site. Based on the applications received the consideration to open ELCs in each region would provide more access to ELC across the District.
What is the timeline for moving Ashford Park to the Cross Keys Cluster?		CMP has recommendations renovate the Ashford Park ES facility and address several facility improvement needs. The upcoming Draft CMP presentation will present a timeline and schedule for recommendations.
Also, how does moving Ashford Park to Cross Keys affect the German Immersion students?		The CMP team is working with Academics and Special Programs to decide the direction of school choice and special programs.
Ashford Park to CK cluster has been an age-old fight. Not gonna be easy.		
No doubt Ashford Park needs a new facility however moving it to the Cross Keys Cluster does not appeal to many parents.		
Where does the Cross Keys cluster go to middle school?		The CMP recommendation is to build a new Cross Keys Middle school.
Kingsley doesn't want an early learning center in its neighborhood. How about putting regional programs near a road that has more than 2 lanes?		Based on feedback we have received from community members and Kingsley PAC, the CMP team in considering moving the recommendation of an ELC to a different location.
Apparently the overcrowding at Peachtree Middle School and Dunwoody HS is anticipated but we aren't planning for it.		
Having only a few K-8 in a HS feeder pattern introduces inequity at the grade 6-8 level. Also, how do sports, foreign language, STEM, art academy, etc. work at the middle school level when those grades are spread out within a cluster? I think this introduces more inequity for these grades.		Thank you for your feedback. DCSD leadership and staff will work to ensure all students have access to the same sports and activities regardless of the attending school. Please attend the draft CMP presentation for more details on the recommendations and options.
The existing Kingsley building also has an extremely low FCA score, but there's no mention of rebuilding it. It's also a horrible location for a regional early learning center, so far away from the rest of the region and almost on the border of Fulton and Gwinnett Counties, and hidden in a neighborhood away from major access roads. A better site would be almost anywhere centrally located. In addition, would DCSD be providing bus transportation to students at the early learning centers? So we're supposed to put our 3-4 year olds on buses that could take up to 45 minutes to reach Kingsley? Or are we relying on our parents and community to transport their own children, creating traffic and mobility issues within the neighborhood and surrounding area?		Based on feedback we have received from community members and Kingsley PAC, the CMP team in considering moving the recommendation of an ELC to a different location.
In the next draft proposal I would like to see traffic studies, improvements and equity in regards to athletic fields (esp. in the K-8 proposed sites), and parking.		
They would need to build a new cross keys middle—in the 5-10 year plan		
Are students in Dunwoody city limits going to stay at Dunwoody high and Dunwoody schools? I feel it is important for Dunwoody city limit kids to stay in Dunwoody and not be bused out.		The CMP redistricting recommendations will be presented at the upcoming Draft CMP presentation.
Ashford Park seems to have one of the lowest FCA score. It also appeared to be one of the most overcrowded schools in the county. Why isn't that a priority like some of the other schools?	I Agree - Why is a 53 fca and 168% utilization not warrant a priority rebuild?	Ashford Park ES has projects in the CMP to address facility improvements. The Draft CMP presentation will present information on facility improvements needs.
Can you expand on how the early learning centers are funded?		The upcoming Draft CMP presentation will go detail regarding funding and financial analysis of the projects in this recommendation.
It's suggested that Ashford Park will get a rebuild. The school capacity will greatly increase as a result.		
Where will you build the new Cross Keys HS?		The new Cross Keys High School will be built on the same site as the current facility.

Question or Comment	In-Chat Response	Response
Do not move the new Dunwoody ES to Chamblee. We are very close to DHS. My children safely walk home from DHS. We should not be driving over 285 to a far away school. It is not as safe, cheap, environmentally friendly for our community to travel there for school.		
Is it possible for Dunwoody HS to acquire the Vanderlyn property to address overcrowding? Andd the new property across from Vermack Swim/Tennis could be used to build a new elementary school? Does Dunwoody really need another park??		Thank you for the suggestion. The CMP does not currently have a recommendation to close Vanderlyn ES as the need for elementary seats in Region 1 is high.
Do the suggested Early Learning Centers in each Region replace the Pre-K classes that are at each elementary school now?	I've asked that and haven't gotten a clear answer, but I think no. It sounds like the pre-K Bright from the Start programs would be maintained in the elementary schools and the ELCs would be supplemental. But don't quote me on that.	Pre-K programs in schools will remain with the addition of new Early Learning Centers in each region.
What is being proposed to go in the Former Nancy Creek school buidling? (Asked by stakeholder Stacy Armistead)		A recommendation of the CMP is to turn the former Nancy Creek facility into a "swing space" a temporary school location for schools that are being remodeled or rebuilt.
If Kingsley becomes an early learning center, neighborhood traffic might become super congested. All surrounding roads are small roads.		Based on feedback we have received from community members and Kingsley PAC, the CMP team in considering moving the recommendation of an ELC to a different location.
Has there been a study on how ELCs would be utilized? Where the demand is highest, and distance to ELCs?		The ELC by region will follow a similar pattern to the of the current DCSD Early Learning Center at Terry Mill which has been very successful over the years.
Where do the Kingsley students K-5 going?		Based on feedback we have received from community members and Kingsley PAC, the CMP team in considering moving the recommendation of an ELC to a different location.
Is the Midvale land parcel larger than the Livsey Parcel?		The CMP recommendation is to merge Midvale and Livsey elementary schools on the Livsey site. For more information please visit the CMP website and watch the Region 2 Options & Recommendations presentation.
I didn't see an APES rebuild on the suggested list of projects for SPLOST VI, so will probably be a while until that happens.		
Does establishing early learning centers at existing schools result in the 'closure' of the existing schools as k-5 schools? Will those students be moved to other schools or the cluster or will they cohabitate with the ELC?		The transitions to Early Learning Centers will result in closure of the existing schools. Students and teachers will be moved to new schools.
When are you planning to move APES to the Cross Keys Cluster? How does this in any way benefit the children in this district?	Mainly addresses overcrowding and what makes sense geographically.	The upcoming Draft CMP presentation will go detail regarding timelines and schedule to completion. The move to Cross Keys cluster will provide relief to overcrowded Chamblee HS and provide the students of Ashford Park ES a new facility in Cross Keys MS & HS.
Will Dunwoody Elementary continue to use the Upper Campus for 4-5 grades in the CMP?		Fall 2022 Austin ES will be moving back to one facility on Dunwoody ES campus.
Will the ELC's be lottery? OR will their be a socio-economic component to acceptance?		The CMP recommendation on the Early Learning Center are based on location and need by region. DCSD leadership and staff will design how students will be selected for attendance.
Where are the numbers on how much is forecasted to be saved?		The Data Matrix on the CMP website has the FCA, ESA, and forecast reports. https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/comprehensive-master-plan/data-dashboard/
How are you going to make sure all k-8's offer all the same programs, world languages, advanced classes, athletics,etc, that current middle schools offer?		Thank you for your feedback. DCSD leadership and staff will work to ensure all students have access to the same sports and activities regardless of the attending school. Please attend the draft CMP presentation for more details on the recommendations and options.
Can you share redistricting maps?		The redistricting information including report and maps will be presented at the upcoming Draft CMP presentation.
Where is the underlying data supporting the decisions? Is it accessible to the public? Maybe I just missed it, but wanted to see if the FCA raw assessments, raw feedback (scrubbed for identity of course), etc, were made available.		The Data Matrix on the CMP website has the FCA, ESA, and forecast reports. https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/comprehensive-master-plan/data-dashboard/
I have a question how are you merging Dresden and Cary Reynolds's?		The CMP recommendation is to expand Dresden ES facility to that the facility can support the merge. The facility will be expanded and once construction is complete Cary Reynolds ES and Dresden ES will merge.
Question - is there no plan for Dunwoody HS overcrowding even in 10 yr forecast. Was this an oversight?		The CMP recommendations at the High School level in region 1 will be to build a new cluster in the region via Sequoyah HS and rebuild Cross Keys High school. This will provide relief to the region and open seats.

Question or Comment	In-Chat Response	Response
<p>I've asked multiple times where Kingsley students would go, and heard varied answers - 1) all Kingsley students would go to Hightower (which would then be immediately overcrowded, and mean that our kids would be redistricted into the Chamblee cluster); 2) that students would be split between some combo of Hightower, new Dunwoody, Chestnut, and Dunwoody ES; and 3) that the kids on Winter's Chapel would be rezoned to Hightower and the other kids split between Dunwoody schools. You know what that last option would do? It would destroy our diverse community and horribly disproportionately effect our limited English proficiency community.</p>		<p>Thank you for your feedback. Based on feedback the CMP team is reconsidering the recommendation of a Early Learning Center at Kingsley ES.</p>
<p>Based on AES PAC feedback, what about moving Kingsley ELC to Cross Keys/sequoia, moving Vanderlyn ES to Kingsley (referring to population as part of redistricting), and merge Vanderlyn property to DHS for expansion of campus.</p>		<p>Thank you for your feedback. The CMP team is still fine tuning the options and will work to provide the District with the best recommendations.</p>
<p>How does overcrowding at Dresden factor into the proposal to merge Dresden and Cary Reynolds? The community is constantly dealing with overcrowding.</p>		<p>The CMP recommendation is to expand Dresden ES facility to that the facility can support the merge.</p>
<p>What are the plans for the magnet program currently hosted at Chamblee High School?</p>		<p>The CMP has no changes to the magnet program at Chamblee HS.</p>
<p>So, funding for all of these ideas comes from SPLOST funds, correct? What happens if SPLOST VI doesn't pass? How would that impact the first five years of the CMP?</p>		<p>The District is looking for other funding sources to fund the projects included in the CMP recommendations. The Draft CMP presentation will provide more detail on the funding options.</p>
<p>Would Shallowford elementary feed into Chamblee or Dunwoody Elementary?</p>		<p>The new elementary school Dunwoody/Chamblee ES will be in the Dunwoody cluster.</p>
<p>How does it make sense to send students who live on the Fulton County line to Chamblee for high school. This is a flashback to 1960.</p>		
<p>What will you do with the space where the trailers currently are at Dunwoody High School?</p>		<p>The recommendations in the CMP process provide a guide and schedule for DCSD. Once approved by the Board of Education, the design and planning of these projects will provide a more detailed scope of work.</p>
<p>What steps are being taken to prevent zoning changes that will split students and potentially send them to schools outside of the community/city they live in?</p>		<p>As it pertains to redistricting geographic proximity is most important. There will be separate redistricting meetings outside of the recommendations in the CMP process for public engagement and feedback on redistricting options.</p>
<p>Is it cost effective to duplicate STEM, foreign language, art, extracurriculars and athletics at K-8 middle school levels instead of expanding those programs at the existing middle school?</p>		<p>Thank you for your feedback. At the current size of DCSD middle schools, the CMP team would not recommend expanding them much more than the current enrollment numbers.</p>
<p>The Druid Hills HS expansion / renovation disturbs me. The campus is difficult to access due to Emory traffic congestion. The campus is located on the very edge of the attendance zone and might be annexed in the City of Atlanta some day... I wonder if the property might be needed by Emory U? If so, DCSD could sell at an attractive price and redeploy those dollars on a new Druid Hills HS located closer to the center of the cluster? North DeKalb Mall??</p>		<p>This CMP recommendations do not consist of selling any DCSD property. The CMP teams recommends DCSD leadership and operations to conduct a study as to what lands the District should sell or swap with Dekalb County municipalities.</p>
<p>Creating K-8 in only a few of the Dunwoody cluster creates significant inequities for our children. We need to be more creative with how we fill empty seats. Please consider sincerely a better way to redistrict elementary schools to keep them full or to shift to K-6.</p>		
<p>wondering where there is space to install football and baseball fields at Austin and the proposed Dunwoody-Chamblee school. I'm skeptical there is land</p>		<p>Thank you for your feedback. DCSD leadership and staff will work to ensure all students have access to the same sports and activities regardless of the attending school. Please attend the draft CMP presentation for more details on the recommendations and options.</p>
<p>Why can't you shift clusters now and redistrict? The seats wont be far away in a cascading redistricting scenario. It is completely unacceptable to leave these schools so crowded when it's been this way for so long.</p>	<p>So we wait until 2031 for overcrowding relief?</p>	<p>The CMP recommendations have redistricting for Fall 2022 but major redistricting without building new schools will only move the overcrowding rather than addressing the need to more space and seats in Region 1.</p>
<p>Could the merged Hawthorne and Henderson Mill be a K-8?</p>		<p>One of the CMP recommendations is to merge Hawthorne ES and Henderson Mill ES. Henderson Middle School is forecasted to decrease in enrollment over the next decade. K-8 would not be the best option for the merge of HES & HMES</p>
<p>Do not tear down Vanderlyn for DHS, please</p>		<p>Thank you for your feedback. It is currently not a recommendation in the CMP to tear down Vanderlyn Elementary School.</p>