Druid Hills Cluster Elementary Redistricting
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*This FAQ will be updated with additional questions and answers from all three rounds of public input during the Redistricting process.

1. Which neighborhoods and schools will be affected by the Redistricting? When will the District publish proposed options?

Three Redistricting scenarios will be presented at the second Redistricting meeting on October 25th, 2018 at Druid Hills Middle School. The three options will show the neighborhoods that are being considered for Redistricting and the impact on enrollment at each school given each scenario. The presentation and data for each option will be published to the Redistricting website after the second Redistricting meeting.

2. Who will be allowed to stay at the current school after Redistricting?

Board Policy “AD” states:

*When attendance lines are altered, all students must attend the school serving their new attendance area, except that students rising into the highest grade available in an elementary school or middle school or rising into grades 11 or 12 in a high school will have the option of either continuing in their former school with no transportation provided by the District or attending the new home school with transportation provided under Policy ED. Students who choose the Board Policy AD: School Attendance option of remaining in their former school may later transfer to their new home school. Once the student has transferred to the new home school, the student cannot transfer back to the former school.*

Fourth-grade students this year who will be fifth graders when this Redistricting takes effect, will have the option to continue in their former school, the school they are in right now, but with no transportation provided. This includes students currently in Fernbank Elementary and Briar Vista Elementary who will be redistricted back to schools in the Cross Keys area. Board Policy “AD” does include eligibility for younger siblings to remain.

3. What data on population and demographics, new development, and traffic does the district consider when Redistricting?

The District (DCSD) annually prepares an enrollment forecast for the school district. This forecast utilizes the historic October FTE enrollment data, and takes into consideration several factors including, but not limited to: historical enrollment trends, housing development, and birth rates for analysis. The enrollment forecast will be published at [www.dekalbschoolsga.org/planning](http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/planning) in early November. The forecast documentation will include methodology, data sources, and information about the development of the forecast.
The DCSD Planning Department receives regular updates from DeKalb County regarding future developments and purchases third party data to track the progress of active and future development. The DCSD Planning Department also studies the effects of new development on student enrollment, including the number of students previous developments have generated, to estimate the number of students who will be generated by future development.

The District coordinates with local and state entities on all roadway improvements and changes in traffic patterns that could impact the safe and timely transportation of students to and from school.

4. Are other DCSD properties, such as the former Medlock Elementary and William Bradley Bryant Center, being considered for an additional school in the Cluster? Can additional capacity be added to existing schools as an alternative to Redistricting?

Future public engagement as part of the planning for the next E-SPLOST program will be the opportunity to consider Facility additions. Planning for the E-SPLOST VI is expected to begin in Fall 2020.

The former Medlock Elementary is leased by the International Community School (a DCSD charter school) and the William Bradley Bryant Center currently houses the districts IT infrastructure. Neither location is being considered for a new school at this time.

5. What is geographic proximity? Will students in walking distance to their school be redistricted? Are bus ride durations considered?

The intent of the first primary criteria, geographic proximity, consider the nearest school to students by way of the road network. Neighborhoods within walking distance to the school are the least likely to be redistricted. Bus-ride durations are considered when preparing options and the recommendations to avoid excessive ride times where possible.

6. Will special programs such as the Montessori Program at Briar Vista Elementary and the International Baccalaureate Program at Fernbank Elementary change because of Redistricting?

The impact of redistricting on all special programs including the montessori program at Briar Vista Elementary and the International Baccalaureate program at Fernbank Elementary is considered as part of the redistricting process. In When presenting options or recommendations, the impact on special programs, if any, will be addressed.

7. Why was it said that no recent Redistricting has been done in the cluster when the Fernbank had a Redistricting in 2016?

The intent of the previous Redistricting criteria is to be sure areas that have recently been redistricted are specially considered in the Redistricting process. No area in the Druid Hills Cluster has been recently redistricted. Areas in the Cross Keys cluster that have been recently redistricted will be specially considered as part of the John R. Lewis Elementary redistricting process.

8. Will Regional Special Needs Classes be moved as a part of this Redistricting?

The location of Regional Special Needs classes is outside the scope of the Districts redistricting process.

10. Are future annexations by APS a factor in Redistricting?
The District tracks annexations by all cities, including the City of Atlanta and the City of Decatur. Changes to the District boundary due to annexation are included in all maps presented during the redistricting process.

11. How will district plan for immediate instructional needs based on new student needs such as increase in ESOL? (i.e. will 2019 school staffing factor in new needs) Will staff have a choice of where to relocate?

Teachers and resources follow students. If students are moved from one school to another, the sending school may need fewer teachers while the receiving school may need more. With the increase in students will come an associated increase in ESOL, ELL, Gifted, and Special Education resources and staff.

12. Will Redistricting effect eligibility for choice programs such as the Museum School and the Robert Shaw Traditional Theme School?

Changing the attendance area of a school does impact the selection process of school choice programs which include that attendance area in their selection criteria.

13. Will areas outside the Druid Hills cluster line be considered?

The scope of the Druid Hills Cluster Elementary Redistricting is elementary attendance areas in the Druid Hills Cluster. No other areas are being considered as a part of this Redistricting process.

14. Will Druid Hills Middle School and Druid Hills High School need to be redistricted in the future and does the current Redistricting account for future changes?

Future enrollment is considered in the Redistricting process. No changes to the Middle and High Schools are expected in the near future.

15. What projects are planned as part of the E-SPLOST Program?

For information regarding E-SPLOST projects please visit [www.dekalbschoolsga.org/e-splost](http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/e-splost)

16. Will the survey be sent directly to community members by email?

The Redistricting website is the primary source of information and feedback on Redistricting outside of the public meetings. As there are multiple rounds of public engagement, it is important that members of the community have the opportunity to review the most up-to-date information available on the website when giving feedback.