John R. Lewis 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 (i.e. young families moving into neighborhoods), new development, and traffic does the district consider when drawing the district lives?

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 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. 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. Why is redistricting being conducted every year for three years? How is the current redistricting process accounting for the future redistricting processes?

District policy is to consider a redistricting process in the school year before a new school opens to students. John R. Lewis Elementary will open Fall 2019. The new Cross Keys North Elementary will open Fall 2020. The New Cross Keys High School, the New Cross Keys Middle School (in the current Cross Keys High School building), and the addition to Chamblee High School will all open Fall of 2021. District staff must keep future and previous redistricting processes in mind when developing the plan for John R. Lewis Elementary to avoid moving the same community of students multiple times. For example, because of the location of the new Cross Keys North Elementary, it is likely that a large portion of Dresden Elementary will be redistricted to the new school.

7. Why are students in the Chamblee Cluster being redistricted?

Because the new John R. Lewis Elementary is located within the current Ashford Park Elementary attendance zone, some Ashford Park Elementary students may be redistricted to:

1. Comply with the geographic proximity primary redistricting criteria
2. Create a contiguous attendance area that minimizes travel times to school
3. Provide relief to over-crowding at Ashford Park Elementary which currently has ten (10) portable classrooms and increasing student enrollment.

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.

9. Is a split-feeder pattern being considered?

The feeder pattern of redistricted areas will be discussed in Rounds 2 and 3 of this Redistricting Process.

10. Why was the site chosen to construct John R. Lewis Elementary? Cross Keys High?
The criteria for school site selection include:

- Availability of Land
- Proximity to students
- Potential for relief of over-crowded schools
- State approval requirements
- Financial and logistical suitability

11. **Will the students who were redistricted to Fernbank Elementary from Montclair Elementary in 2015 remain at Fernbank Elementary?**

The redistricting in 2015 was intended to be a temporary, emergency measure to relieve the growing over-crowding at schools in the Cross Keys Cluster. Cross Keys Cluster students attending Fernbank Elementary and Briar Vista Elementary will be Redistricted back to the Cross Keys Cluster schools.

12. **Will the new facility have space to relieve over-crowding at all schools in the area?**

The new John R. Lewis Elementary and the New Cross Keys North Elementary (Opening Fall 2020) will bring more than 1800 seats to the area.