REGULATION ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: AC, JA, JA-RA, JAA
Responsible Office: OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

REDISTRICTING AND ATTENDANCE AREAS

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for redistricting and the formation or adjustment of school attendance areas for Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

B. BACKGROUND

In accordance with State law, a county board of education may establish a public school. Pursuant to State law and with the advice of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) shall determine the geographical attendance area for each school established in the county.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. ***Redistricting Advisory Committee*** – a committee comprised of parents/guardians of students who attend schools impacted by potential redistricting, as determined by the Superintendent. The Redistricting Advisory Committee is charged with developing and presenting redistricting recommendations to the Superintendent. AACPS staff provides and facilitates technical support to the Redistricting Advisory Committee.

2. ***School Attendance Area*** – the geographic boundary area within which a school's students are located.

D. PROCEDURES

The Board, having received the recommendation of the Superintendent, shall establish schools and determine the attendance areas and boundaries of all schools.

1. **Redistricting Proposals**

   Redistricting proposals may be proposed by:

   a. The Board;

b. The Superintendent;

c. The school administration;

d. AACPS staff or redistricting consultant; or

e. A member of the public.

2. **Timeline**

In accordance with the accompanying policy, the AACPS redistricting timeline is as follows:

a. ***September of year prior to redistricting action by Board***– the redistricting process typically commences upon a review of the *AACPS Educational Facilities Master Plan*.

b. ***May of year of redistricting action by Board*** – if the Superintendent recommends redistricting, the recommendation shall be presented to the Board no later than the first public meeting of the Board in May of the school year in which Board action is to be considered.

c. ***August of year of redistricting action by Board*** – Board review of the Superintendent's recommendation as well as any Board member proposals. No later than August 31 of the school year in which such Board action is to be considered, determination on what proposal shall move forward through the redistricting process will occur.

d. ***November of year of redistricting action by Board*** – Board vote on a final redistricting plan will occur no later than November 30.

3. **Community Input and Establishment of a Redistricting Committee**

a. The Superintendent may form a Redistricting Advisory Committee for the purpose of providing community input and advising the Superintendent during the planning phase of the redistricting process.

b. The principal of each impacted school, as determined by the Superintendent, shall advertise to their respective school communities that volunteers for the Redistricting Advisory Committee are being sought in order to ensure that all interested parents/guardians of students attending each impacted school, as determined by the Superintendent, are afforded an opportunity to apply for membership. The Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and School Performance of each impacted school, as determined by the Superintendent, shall

approve the membership of the Redistricting Advisory Committee through an application process that reflects AACPS' commitment to nondiscrimination in accordance with Policy AC – Nondiscrimination and strives to ensure that the membership of the Redistricting Advisory Committee consists of individuals who collectively reflect the diversity of the citizenry of Anne Arundel County. Reasonable efforts will be taken to ensure that geographic and active duty military representation are considered during the application process.

i. Interested parents/guardians shall complete an application which shall be available on the AACPS website and in schools and publicized in advance via press release.

ii. Parents/Guardians who apply by the deadline stated on the application shall be considered for membership on the Redistricting Advisory Committee.

iii. Redistricting Advisory Committee membership shall be:

   a) Comprised of three parent(s)/guardian(s) from each impacted school, as determined by the Superintendent, who are familiar with the impacted school communities and able to represent the entire school communities' views and concerns;

   b) Recommended by the principal of the school in which their child(ren) attends; and

   c) Approved by the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and School Performance for the school which their child(ren) attends.

iv. When a Redistricting Advisory Committee is formed:

   a) The Redistricting Advisory Committee shall receive an overview of the redistricting goals, process, and timelines from AACPS staff at its initial orientation and organizational meeting.

   b) The Redistricting Advisory Committee shall also elect a chairperson and secretary from among its members at the organizational meeting. The Committee shall also establish the Committee norms at the organizational meeting.

   c) To commence, AACPS staff shall generate and provide the Redistricting Advisory Committee with viable options for redistricting. The Committee shall consider the proposed redistricting options along with relevant data and demographics.

d) In addition to community input, the Redistricting Advisory Committee shall consider the following factors. While each of the following factors shall be considered, it is important to note that it may be impractical to reconcile each and every school attendance area adjustment with each and every factor. Factors to be considered are:

i) Efficient use of available space;

ii) Long-range enrollment and capacity needs;

iii) School building State Rated Capacity and scheduled capital improvements;

iv) Fiscal responsibility to minimize capital and operating costs whenever feasible;

v) Areas that are, as much as practical, made up of contiguous communities surrounding the school;

vi) Use of natural or man-made boundaries such as railroads, creeks, major highways, existing school boundaries, and location of feeder schools and adjacent schools;

vii) Maximization of walkable access to the school;

viii) Impact on the number of students bused and the distance bused students travel;

ix) Maintenance of feeder school patterns from elementary school to middle school and middle school to high school to maintain students from the same school communities together;

x) Impact on specialized or regional programs such as magnet, special education, and prekindergarten programs;

xi) Minimization the number of times any one student is reassigned; and

xii) Any potential grandfathering considerations for students currently attending schools in an area that is proposed for redistricting.

v. The Redistricting Advisory Committee shall accept public input in the form of verbal or written testimony, reviews, and comments. The Superintendent may modify the redistricting plans as appropriate based on the public input, staff recommendations, and any other such relevant information or advice that is

available.

vi. Summary notes of the Redistricting Advisory Committee shall be taken and made available to the public at the impacted schools, via the AACPS website, and through other appropriate methods.

vii. The Redistricting Advisory Committee shall make its recommendation to the Superintendent no later than April 1. Only members of the Redistricting Advisory Committee may vote. All options voted upon by the members of the Redistricting Advisory Committee will be presented to the Superintendent.

4. **Periodic Systemwide Review**

The Superintendent shall conduct a periodic systemwide review of attendance areas. Such a systemwide review shall occur as soon as practicable after the occurrence of a scenario that could impact facility planning, including the approval of the General Development Plan for Anne Arundel County and the opening of a new high school in the County.

5. **Emergencies**

a. An emergency circumstance is when the decision to redistrict a school, due to unforeseen circumstances, cannot be announced at least 90 days before the date a school is scheduled to be redistricted or before November 30 of any school year. Emergencies include natural and man-made disasters, including fire, flood, safety hazards, amongst other unforeseen emergencies.

b. In an emergency circumstance, the Superintendent shall take immediate and temporary action until the Board meets to address the situation and adopts a plan of action to handle the emergency.

Regulation History: Issued 04/20/11; Revised 03/02/16; 02/02/22; 10/21/26

Note Previous Regulation History: None

Legal Reference: Section 4-109 of the Education Article