POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

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

REDISTRICTING AND ATTENDANCE AREAS

A. PURPOSE

To establish an equitable process for the determination of the geographic school attendance areas in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

B. ISSUE

In accordance with State law, the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) recognizes the need for an orderly and public process for the determination of school attendance areas.

The Board recognizes that AACPS enrollment patterns, program changes, school openings and closings, facilities funding, building additions, construction, and alterations are dynamic and may require adjustments to balance the capacity and utilization of existing or planned schools. In consideration of these factors, it may be necessary from time to time to redistrict or otherwise revise attendance areas.

The Board also recognizes the value of diverse and inclusive school populations when establishing school attendance areas.

C. POSITION

1. A fundamental goal of the Board is to equitably balance the utilization of facilities and provide capacity for school programs and student services as they develop.

2. In accordance with the authority vested in the Board pursuant to State law and upon the advice of the Superintendent, the Board shall determine the attendance area for each school.

3. The Superintendent may form a Redistricting Advisory Committee or hire a consultant for the purpose of advising the Superintendent during the planning phase of a redistricting process.

4. Redistricting Advisory Committee members shall be selected through a fair and

transparent application process, in accordance with the accompanying regulation; shall reflect the Board's commitment to non-discrimination in accordance with Policy AC – Nondiscrimination; and shall consist of individuals who collectively reflect the diversity of the citizenry of Anne Arundel County.

5. The Board commits to an equitable redistricting process and timeline that is comprehensive and efficient.

6. The Board review shall be as follows:

    a. The Board shall review the Superintendent's recommendation as well as any Board member recommendations and determine, no later than August 31 of the school year in which such Board action is to be considered, what proposal(s) shall move forward through the redistricting process.

    b. The Board may take any or all of the following actions:

        i. Accept the Superintendent's recommendation;

        ii. Modify the Superintendent's recommendation; and

        iii. Propose its own recommendation.

    c. Following the Board vote in August, AACPS shall conduct a public briefing to provide an overview of the recommendation proposed. The public may ask clarifying questions at this briefing; however, testimony will not be taken at the briefing.

    d. At a public meeting of the Board following the public briefing, the Board shall set a hearing(s) for community input. The community input may be submitted to the Board via verbal or written testimony. Written testimony may be submitted to the Board Office. The Board shall consider the community input received.

    e. The Board may accept or amend the Superintendent's recommendation. If the Board amends the Superintendent's recommendation or any recommendation that was initially brought to a public hearing(s), paragraphs c. and d. shall be repeated.

    f. At a public meeting of the Board following the Board's public hearing, but no later than November 30 of the school year in which Board action is to be considered, the Board shall make and announce its decision on a final redistricting plan.

6. The redistricting timeline shall be 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*** – the Board shall review the Superintendent's recommendation as well as any Board member recommendations and determine, no later than August 31 of the school year in which such Board action is to be considered, what proposal(s) shall move forward through the redistricting process.

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

7. The Superintendent shall conduct a systemwide review of attendance areas 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.

D. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

Policy History: Adopted on 03/02/16; Revised 02/02/22; 10/21/26

Note Previous Policy History: Replaces Policy 900A, adopted 10/12/94 and revised 05/16/01 and 04/20/11

Legal Reference: Section 4-109 of the Education Article