

WCPSS 2024-2025 Enrollment Plan

Draft #2

A Multi-year Approach to Growth Management

Prepared by the Office of Student Assignment

Board of Education Work Session
October 17, 2023

Purpose

Staff is here today to share the second draft of the 2024-2025 Enrollment Plan.

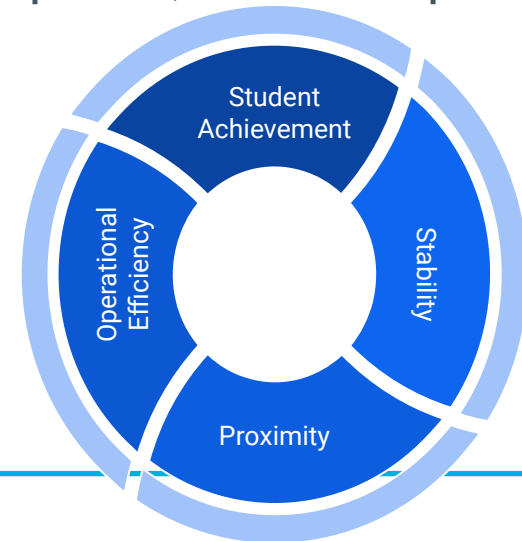
Our goal for today's meeting is to share updates from our public engagement activities and solicit feedback from the Board to assist staff in preparing a Final Draft of the 2024-2025 Enrollment Plan for approval by the Board.

WCPSS Board Policy 4150: School Assignment and Transfers

Section A. Drawing of School Attendance Areas

1. The assignment areas will be developed by balancing, to the extent reasonable, the goals and factors set forth below and will include target ranges, where appropriate, to accomplish these goals and factors:

- a. **Student Achievement**
- b. **Stability**
- c. **Proximity**
- d. **Operational Efficiency**



- **Updates**

- Public Engagement Progress
- Review Current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Review Recommended Stability Rules for 2024-2025

- **Timeline / Next Steps**

- **Addendum**



Updates



Public Engagement Progress



Information & Updates

www.wcpss.net/2024enrollmentproposal

ThoughtExchange Results - Draft #1

ThoughtExchange: Participation

September 19 - October 6, 2023:

"What are your thoughts and questions about the proposed changes?"

 Participants


1,739

 Thoughts

1,999

 Ratings

55,689

 Ratings ratio

28

Which of the following best describes your role?



1404
Responses

%		Answer (Multi-select)
94%	(1315)	Parent/Guardian
1%	(15)	Student
6%	(90)	Community Member
3%	(36)	Staff

What is your race/ethnicity?

%		Answer
1%	(12)	American Indian or Alaskan Native
42%	(643)	Asian
4%	(67)	Black or African American
3%	(51)	Hispanic or Latino
0%	(2)	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
4%	(65)	Two or More Races/Ethnicities
40%	(603)	White
5%	(81)	Other

Which of the following best describes where you live within Wake County?


%		Answer
5%	(71)	Central Area
2%	(35)	Eastern Area
3%	(41)	Northern Area
4%	(61)	Northeastern Area
34%	(480)	Northwestern Area
8%	(115)	Southern Area
10%	(138)	Southeastern Area
17%	(239)	Southwestern Area
16%	(227)	Western Area

ThoughtExchange: Top Rated Thoughts

Changing schools is so stressful for both parents and students. WCPSS should care about the mental wellness of their students and parents. Changing school impacts negatively on student's mental wellness.

4.3  (40 )
Ranked #1 of 1998

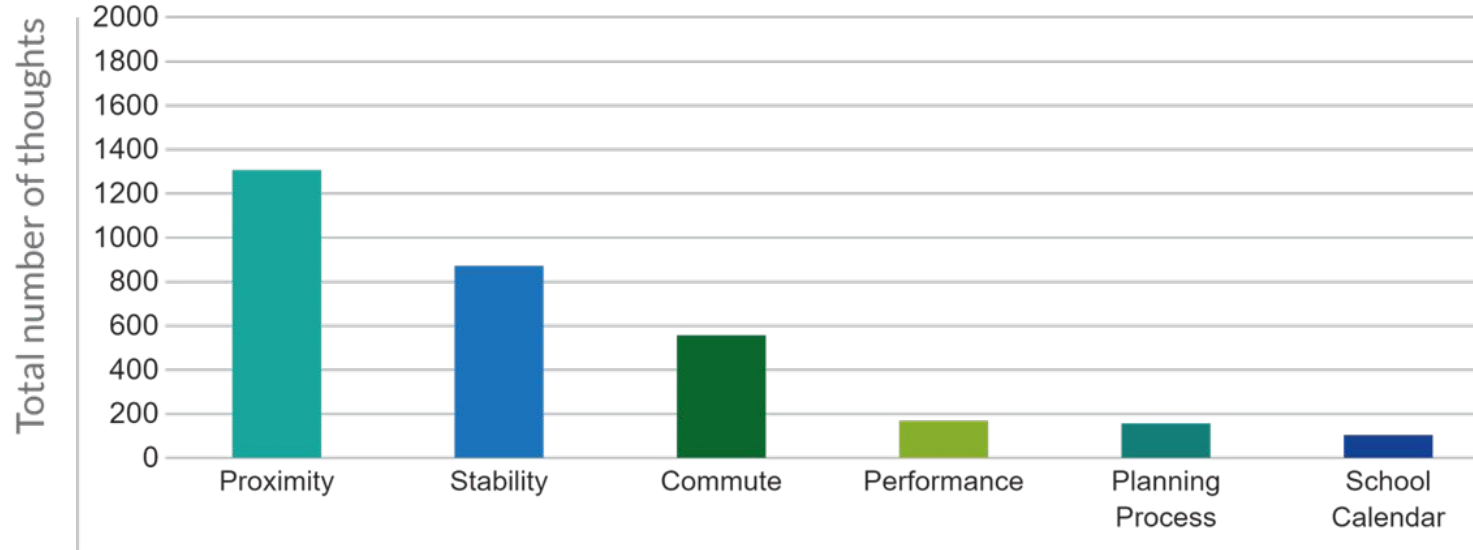
Kids have already forged friends in their classes. My son will be the only kid to move. This is the equivalent of moving homes/cities without a choice

4.3  (39 )
Ranked #2 of 1998

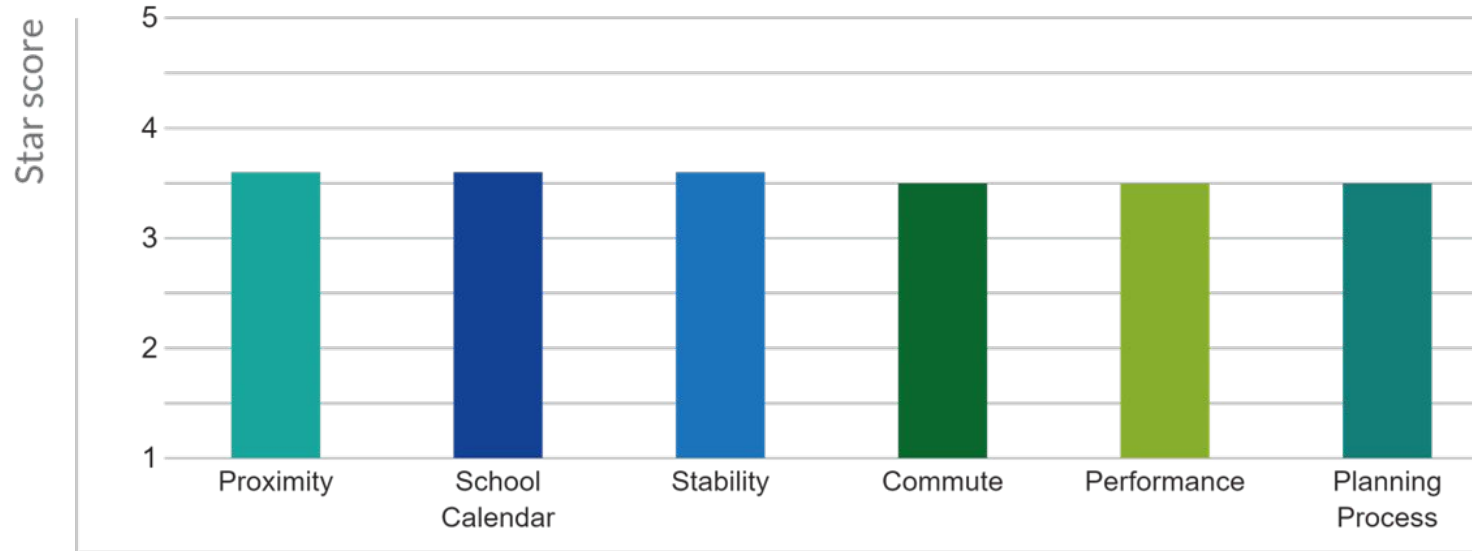
More Stability Options Needed Give students affected by a traditional to year-round, or vice versa, move the choice to remain in their current school. Regardless of grade.

4.3  (39 )
Ranked #3 of 1998

ThoughtExchange: Summary Data - Counts



ThoughtExchange: Summary Data - Ratings



ThoughtExchange: Themes

→ Proximity

- ◆ prefer to be assigned to schools close to home; concerns about longer commutes

→ School Calendar

- ◆ prefer to maintain calendar application schools with transportation; concerns about changing calendars; concerns about calendar alignment

→ Stability

- ◆ prefer for students to start and finish at the same school; concerns about disruption caused by frequent assignment changes; preference to not approve proposed changes

→ Commute

- ◆ Prefer new families be impacted by assignment changes rather than existing families; concerns about increased commute times and traffic congestion

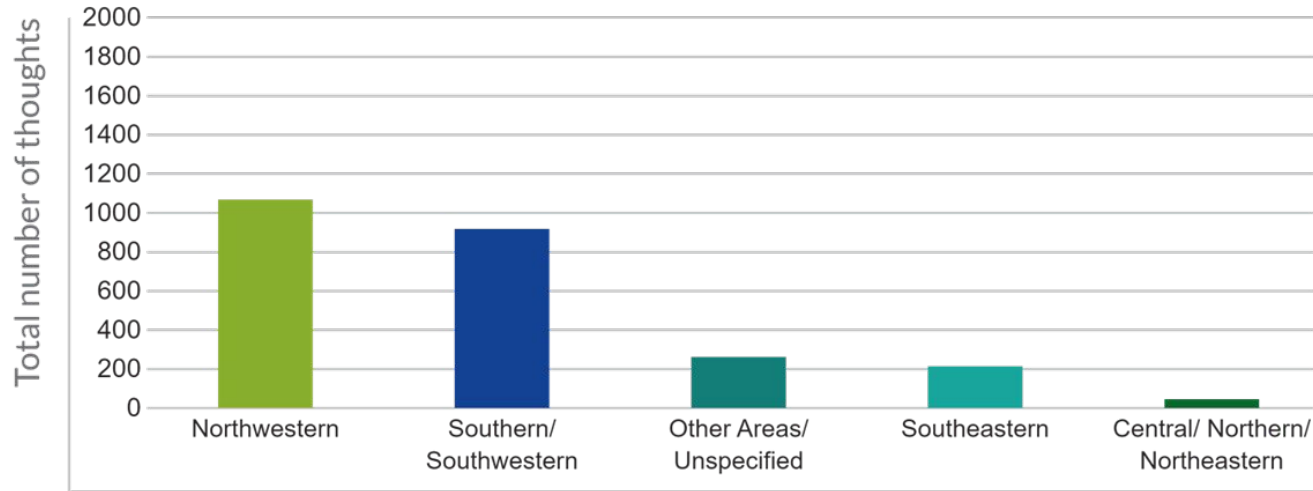
→ Performance

- ◆ concerns that changing schools will negatively impact student performance; concerns about performance differences between schools

→ Planning Process

- ◆ desire to have options for the school calendar that is best for individual families; questions about the planning & decision-making process

ThoughtExchange: Regional Data



ThoughtExchange: Key Takeaways

- Strong desire for stability and continuity in the education of students
- Concerns about the distance of the new base school and performance differences between schools
- Concerns about the lack of choice in calendar options
- Concerns about the impact of the proposed changes on students' social and emotional well-being
- Support for assignment to schools that are more proximate to home
- Support for stability rules that keep siblings together
- Concerns about stability transfers not including district-provided transportation

Public Information Sessions - Draft #1

Public Information Sessions: Participation

Session	Date	Areas	Participants (Live)	Views (Recording)*
1	September 26	Northwestern	186	60
2	September 28	Central, Northern & Northeastern	9	82
3	October 4	Southern & Southwestern	140	50
4	October 5	Southeastern & General Overview	68	46
Totals			403	238

**as of 5:00 pm on October 10, 2023*

Public Information Sessions: Key Takeaways

Session 1 - Northwestern Area

- *Stability*: Concerns about the frequency of school reassignments
- *Stability*: Concerns about the impact on established communities and families who moved to their neighborhoods based on the school assignments
- *Stability Rules*: Clarifications regarding stability rules and how they apply to individual situations
- *Calendar Alignment*: Concerns about the impact on students and families of changing school calendars

Public Information Sessions: Key Takeaways *(continued)*

Session 1 - Northwestern Area *(continued)*

- *Year-Round Option*: Requests for Pleasant Grove Elementary to be converted to a multi-track year-round school to provide stability of calendar and K-8 calendar alignment
- *Transportation Issues*: Concerns about traffic patterns, congestion and potential for longer bus routes
- *Transportation Issues*: Desire to have transportation provided for stability transfers

Public Information Sessions: Key Takeaways *(continued)*

Session 2 - Central, Northern & Northeastern Areas

- *Changes*: No concerns expressed regarding recommendations in these areas
- *Stability*: Clarifications regarding stability rules and how they apply to individual situations
- *Feeder Pattern*: Request from some neighborhoods currently assigned to Barton Pond Elementary to be reassigned into Leesville Road Middle or West Millbrook Middle for feeder pattern alignment

Public Information Sessions: Key Takeaways *(continued)*

Session 3 - Southern & Southwestern Areas

- *Stability*: Concerns about impact of proposed changes on students' social lives, special education needs, and educational continuity
- *Stability*: Concerns about the impact on families of changing from a traditional to a year-round calendar school
- *Stability*: Concerns about the frequency of school reassignments in the area
- *Stability Rules*: Clarifications about the stability transfer process, timeline and eligibility criteria
- *Transportation Issues*: Concerns about the lack of transportation for stability transfers

Public Information Sessions: Key Takeaways *(continued)*

Session 3 - Southern & Southwestern Areas *(continued)*

- *Calendar Alignment*: Requests to allow siblings to attend schools on the same calendar
- *Growth*: Questions about the impact of new housing developments on overcrowding and future school reassignments
- *Traditional Option*: Requests for Woods Creek Elementary to open on a traditional calendar
- *Traditional Option*: Requests for a traditional calendar option with transportation if Woods Creek Elementary opens as a year-round school
- *Feeder Pattern*: Request from some neighborhoods to be reassigned into Apex Friendship Middle for feeder pattern alignment

Public Information Sessions: Key Takeaways *(continued)*

Session 4 - Southeastern Area & General Overview

- *Stability*: Concerns and frustration about the proposed reassignments from Bryan Road Elementary to Aversboro Elementary
- *Stability*: Concerns about the impact on established communities and families who moved to their neighborhoods based on the school assignments
- *Stability Rules*: Clarifications on how to apply for stability transfers and the criteria for approval
- *Stability Rules*: Requests for current residents not yet attending Bryan Road Elementary to be eligible for stability transfers
- *Growth*: Questions about accommodating forecasted growth in the area and the possibility of building new schools

Public Information Sessions: Key Takeaways *(continued)*

Session 4 - Southeastern Area & General Overview *(continued)*

- *Communication*: Some frustration over a lack of advance notification about the proposed changes to new communities and the impact on housing decisions
- *Transportation Issues*: Concerns about lack of transportation with stability transfers
- *Transportation Issues*: Concerns about the impact of proposed reassignments on traffic congestion
- *Year-round Calendar Option*: Suggestion for Bryan Road ES to convert to a year-round calendar

Questions & Answers - Draft #1

Questions & Answers: General

Question:

Why are Fuquay-Varina Middle and Baucom Elementary not included in the proposal?

Although Fuquay-Varina Middle is scheduled to move into its new facility for the 2024-2025 school year, and Baucom Elementary is scheduled to return to its renovated campus, no changes are being proposed for the base attendance areas for these schools at this time.

Note: Enrollment projections and residential growth will be monitored in both areas to determine if these schools should be included in the 2025-2026 enrollment plan.

Questions & Answers: Stability Rules

Question:

If I have a rising 2nd grade student that is impacted by the assignment plan (excluding Woods Creek Elementary and Pleasant Grove Elementary) will they be allowed to stay at their current school?

Yes

Current elementary students impacted by assignment changes (excluding Woods Creek Elementary and Pleasant Grove Elementary) are eligible to remain assigned to their current school with transfer status (no district-provided transportation) through the 5th grade

- Rising Kindergarten siblings of eligible students are eligible to join their older siblings with transfer status (no district-provided transportation) through the 5th grade

Questions & Answers: Stability Rules *(continued)*

Question:

My student is currently in a certification program at Leesville Road High and is in the proposal to be reassigned to Broughton High, can my student stay at Leesville Road High through 12th grade?

Yes

Current high school students impacted by assignment changes in the 2024-2025 enrollment plan are eligible to remain assigned to their current school with transfer status (no district-provided transportation) through the 12th grade

- Rising 9th grade siblings of eligible students are eligible to join their older siblings with transfer status (no district-provided transportation) through the 12th grade

Questions & Answers: Stability Rules *(continued)*

Question:

Once I submit a stability transfer, will I need to re-submit the request each year thereafter?

No

Stability transfers are valid through the terminal grade of the school

- Elementary school stability transfers are **valid through the 5th grade** and do NOT need to be requested each year
- Middle school stability transfers are **valid through the 8th grade** and do NOT need to be requested each year
- High school stability transfers are **valid through the 12th grade** and do NOT need to be requested each year

Questions & Answers: Stability Rules *(continued)*

Question:

Why is transportation not being provided with stability transfers?

Base attendance areas proposed to be impacted by this proposal are projected to continue to grow in the next several years. If we are re-assigning the area to another base school, offering bus service for Stability Transfers will put an additional burden on the transportation routing system.

Questions & Answers: Stability Rules *(continued)*

Question:

If my student is not eligible under the Stability Rules, can I still request that they be able to stay at their current school?

Families not eligible for stability transfers may submit a request during the official transfer window and explain their hardship reasons for requesting the transfer. Requests for transfer are evaluated in accordance with Board Policy 4150, and if approved are approved without district-provided transportation.

More information on this process can be found at www.wcpss.net/changeyourschool.

Questions & Answers: Woods Creek Elementary

Question:

My neighborhood is much closer to Oakview Elementary than the new Woods Creek Elementary. Why are you recommending assigning us to a school farther away?

For the neighborhoods along Old Holly Springs Apex Rd, Woods Creek Elementary, while not the most proximate school, is the most proximate school with available capacity to support these neighborhoods over time.

In addition, these neighborhoods are not located in a “no transportation zone” for Oakview Elementary.

Questions & Answers: Woods Creek Elementary *(continued)*

Question:

Why is Woods Creek Elementary recommended to open as a year-round school?

Woods Creek Elementary is recommended to open as a multi-track year-round calendar school to address the current overcrowding at nearby schools, and to accommodate the continued growth in the proposed attendance area. At this time, there are no additional new schools projected to open in this area, and opening Woods Creek Elementary as a year-round calendar school will allow the school to manage the projected enrollment growth in the proposed attendance area for the foreseeable future.

Questions & Answers: Woods Creek Elementary *(continued)*

Question:

Why are you including a middle school change in the proposal for the areas being assigned to the new Woods Creek Elementary?

The middle school changes in the proposal for this area are to align the K-8 feeder pattern for Woods Creek Elementary and to relieve the crowding at Apex Friendship Middle & Apex Middle.

Apex Friendship Middle is a capped school and its existing base attendance area continues to grow, and Apex Middle is an overcrowded school and its existing base attendance area continues to grow.

Questions & Answers: Woods Creek Elementary *(continued)*

Question:

If the proposal is approved for Woods Creek Elementary to open as a year-round school, is there an option for these students to request a traditional calendar elementary school?

Families wishing to request a school other than their base school may submit an application during the magnet application period and/ or during the transfer request period for a different school.

We encourage families to visit our website at www.wcpss.net/magnet for more information on our magnet programs, and www.wcpss.net/changeyourschool for more information on our request for transfer process.

Questions & Answers: Woods Creek Elementary *(continued)*

Question:

My student is currently attending Laurel Park Elementary as a year-round calendar application student (the base school for our address is currently Apex Elementary). Our address is in the proposal to be assigned to the new Woods Creek Elementary, will my student be allowed to stay at Laurel Park Elementary?

In the current proposal, only students rising into 4th or 5th grade that are impacted by the recommendations for Woods Creek Elementary are eligible for stability transfers. In addition, younger siblings (existing students that are rising into 1st through 3rd grade) of these students are also eligible for stability transfers.

Once the final plan is approved by the Board, impacted families will be contacted with specific instructions on how to submit their requests to remain at their current school without district-provided transportation. Transfers approved through this process are valid through the terminal grade of the school.

Questions & Answers: Pleasant Grove Elementary

Question:

Why are some Alston Ridge Elementary and Parkside Elementary families proposed to be assigned to Pleasant Grove Elementary?

Although Alston Ridge Elementary and Parkside Elementary may be more proximate for some families, these schools are currently capped and the existing base area for these schools continues to grow. Pleasant Grove Elementary is the closest elementary school with available capacity that can provide sustainable relief to these capped/overcrowded schools.

Questions & Answers: Pleasant Grove Elementary *(continued)*

Question:

Since Alston Ridge Elementary and Parkside Elementary are capped schools, if the proposal is approved will students that are currently attending the overflow school be allowed to 'come back' to their base school?

At this stage in the planning process, it is difficult to accurately predict how many students will take advantage of the proposed stability rules and remain assigned to their current school of Alston Ridge Elementary or Parkside Elementary for the 2024-25 school year. However, the goal for this area is to significantly reduce the number of overflow students for the 2024-25 for these schools and, ultimately, to remove the caps at both schools over time.

Questions & Answers: Pleasant Grove Elementary *(continued)*

Question:

If the proposal is approved, is there an option for Pleasant Grove Elementary to be a year-round school?

Staff will evaluate this recommendation to allow for calendar continuity for families that are recommended for assignment to Pleasant Grove Elementary.

See next slide for additional information

Questions & Answers: Pleasant Grove Elementary *(continued)*

Converting Pleasant Grove Elementary from a traditional calendar to multi-track year-round calendar would:

- allow families recommended to be assigned from Alston Ridge and Parkside Elementary stability of calendar
- allow for K-8 calendar alignment for a large majority of families impacted by the current proposal
- change the calendar for existing Pleasant Grove Elementary students that remain assigned to the school
- sufficiently accommodate future projected growth in the area
- require substantive preparation from school staff to adjust to the new operating calendar
- increase the capacity of the school from 616 to 814 (see projected crowding comparison in chart below)

Calendar	Capacity w/ Trailers	2024-25 Util w/ Trl*	2026-27 Util w/ Trl*
Traditional	616	99%	98%
Multi-track Year-round	814	75%	74%

**Based on recommendations included in Draft #1*

Questions & Answers: Bryan Road Elementary

Question:

Our neighborhood is in the proposal to change our school assignment from Bryan Road Elementary to Aversboro Elementary. Can my students stay at Bryan Road Elementary if the proposal is approved?

Yes

Current students impacted by assignment changes related to Bryan Road Elementary are eligible to remain assigned to their current school with transfer status (no district-provided transportation) through 5th grade.

Rising Kindergarten siblings of eligible students are eligible to join their older siblings with transfer status (no district-provided transportation) through 5th grade.

Questions & Answers: Bryan Road Elementary *(continued)*

Question:

Why are some Bryan Road families proposed to be assigned to Aversboro, Rand Road or Vance Elementary?

Although Bryan Road Elementary may be more proximate for some families, the school is overcrowded and the existing base area for this school continues to grow. Aversboro, Rand Road and Vance Elementary are the closest elementary schools with available capacity that can provide sustainable relief to this overcrowded school.

Questions & Answers: Bryan Road Elementary *(continued)*

Question:

Our neighborhood is closer to Bryan Road Elementary than Aversboro Elementary, why is there a recommendation to change our school assignment to Aversboro Elementary?

The neighborhoods along New Bethel Church Road that are recommended for assignment to Aversboro Elementary are more proximate to Aversboro Elementary than other portions of the Bryan Road Elementary base. While not the most proximate school for these neighborhoods, Aversboro Elementary is the most proximate school with available capacity to support these neighborhoods over time.

In addition, these neighborhoods are not located in a “no transportation zone” for Bryan Road Elementary.

Public Engagement: Next Steps

Draft #2 Public Engagement Activities

- October 17:
 - District website is updated with Draft 2 information (wcpss.net/2024enrollmentproposal)
- October 17 - November 3:
 - Open NEW ThoughtExchange: wcpss.net/draft2feedback
- October 24:
 - Virtual Public Information Session, 6:00-7:30 pm - General Overview and Q&A
- November 8:
 - Special Called Board of Education Meeting - Public Hearing on Student Assignment Plan



Information & Updates

www.wcpss.net/2024enrollmentproposal



Review Current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

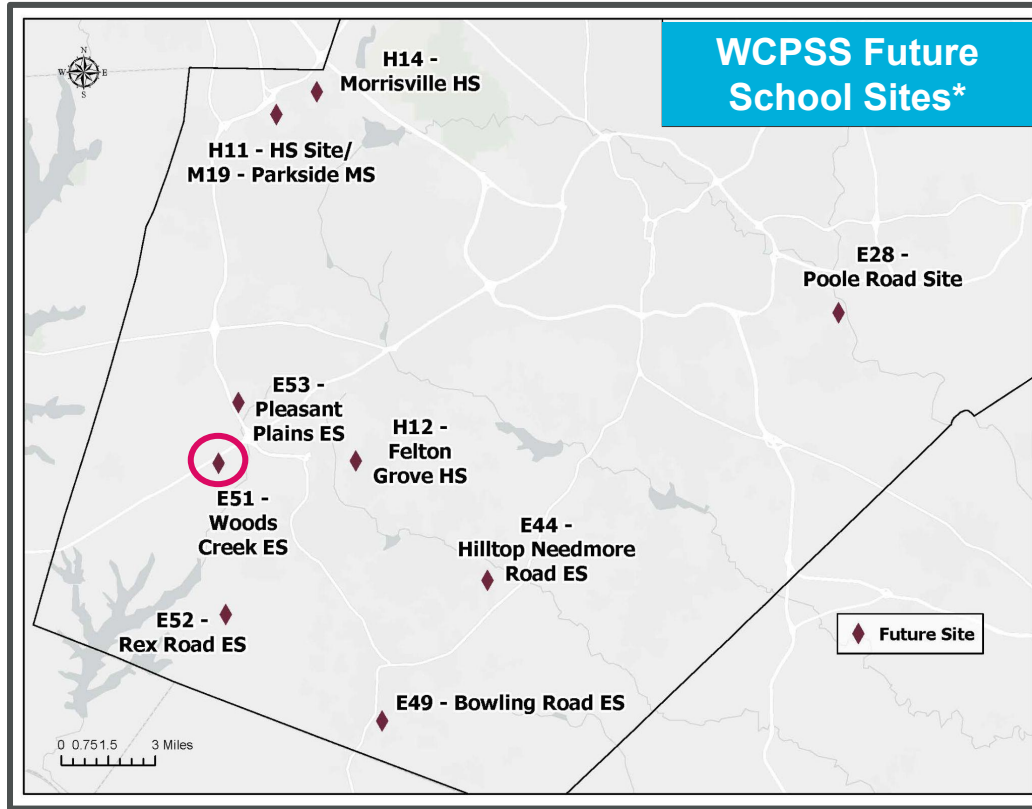
Review of Current CIP: Seven-year Plan for Future School Openings*

Code	School Name	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
E51	Woods Creek ES	Baucom ES	E51 ES						
E44	Hilltop Needmore ES			E44 ES					
E52	Rex Road ES			E52 ES					
E49	Bowling Road ES			E49 ES					
H12	Felton Grove HS			H12 HS					
E53	Pleasant Plains ES			E53 ES					
M19	Parkside MS/ Wake EC of Infor. & Biotech.				M19 MS/ H11 EC*				
H14	Morrisville HS					H14 HS			
E28	Poole Road ES								E28 ES
	Swing Space: A new school serves as a swing space for an existing school's renovation before opening with its own population.								
	New school opening with unique base attendance area								

This seven-year plan is designed with flexibility, so that it may be reviewed annually by WCPSS staff and Wake County Planners.

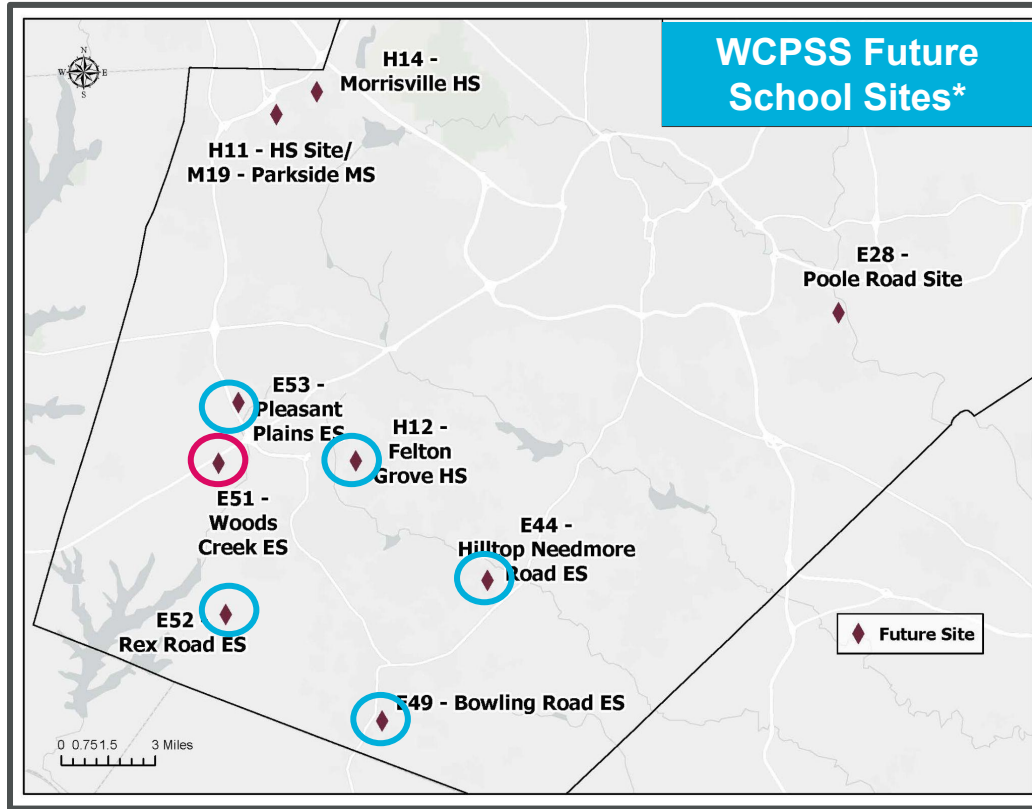
**Note: Market volatility, scope changes & design/ construction schedules have the potential to impact scheduled project completion dates.*

Future School Sites*



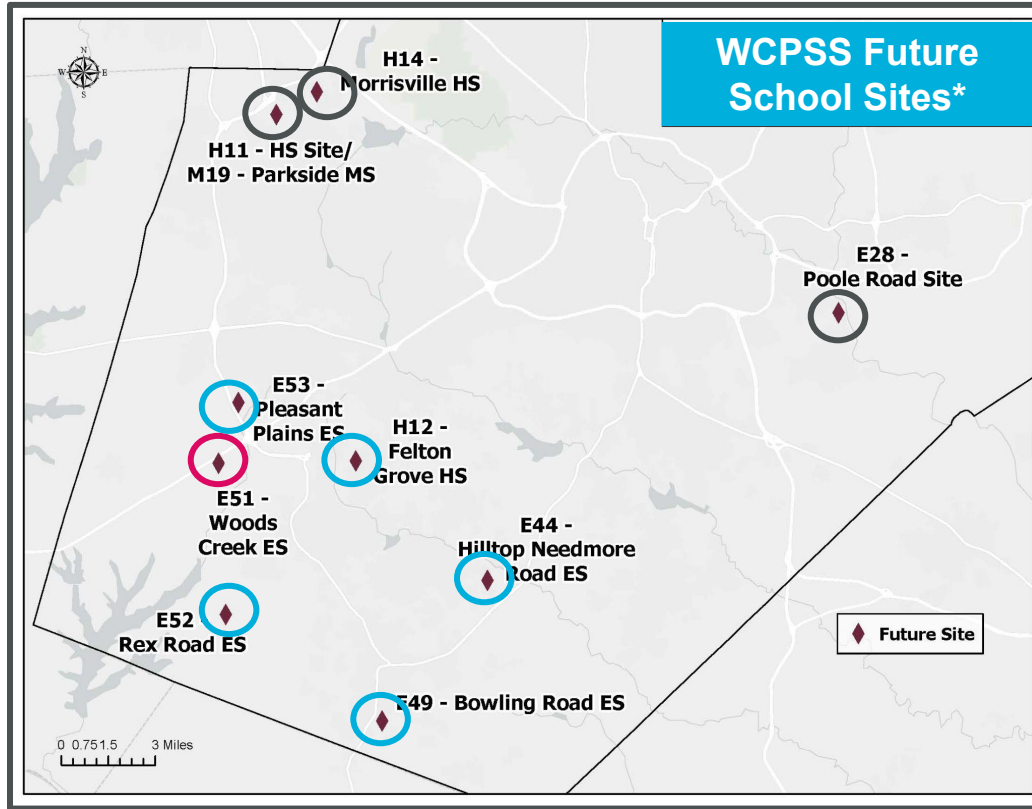
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Future School Sites*



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Future School Sites*



**Note: Market volatility, scope changes & design/ construction schedules have the potential to impact scheduled project completion dates.*



Review Recommended Stability Rules for 2024-2025

Stability Rules: Recommendations

Opening a New School (Woods Creek Elementary)

- Students proposed to be assigned from an existing school to the NEW **Woods Creek Elementary**
 - *Current students rising into 4th or 5th grade are eligible to remain assigned to their current school with transfer status (no transportation) through the terminal grade of the school*
 - *Rising Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd or 3rd siblings of eligible rising 4th and 5th grade students are eligible to join their sibling with transfer status (no transportation) through the terminal grade of the school*

Families potentially impacted by the recommendations included in this draft will be contacted this week with information regarding the process and timeline for requesting stability transfers for existing eligible students and for eligible siblings.

Stability Rules: Recommendations *(continued)*

Changing an Existing School's Base Area (Pleasant Grove Elementary)

- Students proposed to be assigned from **Pleasant Grove Elementary** to an existing school
OR
- Students proposed to be assigned from an existing school to **Pleasant Grove Elementary**
 - *Current students rising into 4th or 5th grade are eligible to remain assigned to their current school with transfer status (no transportation) through the terminal grade of the school*
 - *Rising Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd or 3rd siblings of eligible rising 4th and 5th grade students are eligible to join their sibling with transfer status (no transportation) through the terminal grade of the school*

Families potentially impacted by the recommendations included in this draft will be contacted this week with information regarding the process and timeline for requesting stability transfers for existing eligible students and for eligible siblings.

Stability Rules: Recommendations *(continued)*

All other Existing School to Existing School Changes

- Students proposed to be reassigned from an existing school to an existing school
- OR
- Students impacted by calendar application changes
 - *Current students impacted by assignment changes (excluding Woods Creek ES and Pleasant Grove ES) are eligible to remain assigned to their current school with transfer status (no transportation) through the terminal grade of the school*
 - *Rising Kindergarten, 6th or 9th grade siblings of eligible students are eligible to join their sibling with transfer status (no transportation) through the terminal grade of the school*

Families potentially impacted by the recommendations included in this draft will be contacted this week with information regarding the process and timeline for requesting stability transfers for existing eligible students and for eligible siblings.



Timeline / Next Steps

Timeline 2024-2025 Enrollment Plan

May 2, 2023 - Initial Planning Discussion [BoE Work Session]

- March-May - Staff hosts regional public engagement sessions
- May-June - Staff continues outreach (website updates, focus groups, etc.)
- May-June - Staff works on developing Draft 1

June 20, 2023 - Update on Progress of Public Engagement [BoE Work Session]

- June-August - Staff continues outreach
- June-September - Staff continues work on developing Draft 1

September 19, 2023 - Presentation of Draft 1 [BoE Work Session]

- September-October - Staff hosts public engagement activities
- October - Staff refines original draft

October 17, 2023 - Presentation of Draft 2 [BoE Work Session]

- October - Staff hosts final public engagement activities
- November - Staff prepares final draft

November 8, 2023 - Public Hearing [Special Called Session]

November 21, 2023 - Presentation of Final Draft for Review & Approval [BoE Work Session & Meeting]

Public Engagement: Next Steps

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Information & Updates

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Discussion & Feedback

Requesting feedback from the Board to assist in preparing a Final Draft of the 2024-2025 Enrollment Plan



Addendum

Prior Presentations

Included in the Agenda Attachments for the Work Session:

- Draft #1: WCPSS 2024-2025 Enrollment Plan (pdf file)
 - Original presentation as shared during the Board Work Session on September 19, 2023, with technical corrections included

Note: Board Policy 4150, Base Population Report and School Population Report previously posted with September 19, 2023 Board materials