

How will track assignments be determined at the year-round schools?

Track assignments are usually sent to parents in April after schools know how many teachers they will be allotted for the school year. Everyone who is assigned to a new multi-track year-round school will be emailed a track request form in early 2019. [Here are the guidelines principals use when making track assignments.](#)

Please explain the grandfathering rules.

The full rules are here: <https://www.wcpss.net/Page/30654> Here's a summary:

- **For elementary and middle school:** Only students who will be rising 5th or 8th graders in 2019-20 will be eligible to grandfather. They will not be eligible for transportation. Any younger siblings they have that is age appropriate to attend the same school will be eligible to grandfather with them for one year. After that year, the younger siblings will be assigned to the base school for their address.
- **For high school students proposed to attend an existing school, i.e. Heritage High reassigned to Wakefield High:** All grades can grandfather without transportation. Younger siblings can stay at the grandfathered school through graduation even after older siblings graduate, provided they attend the school with the older sibling for at least one year. For example, if there is a graduating senior with an 8th grade sibling, the younger sibling would not be eligible to grandfather and would be assigned to the new school in 9th grade.
- **For high schools students proposed to attend Green Level High:** Because Green Level High is proposed to open to grades 9 and 10 only, any 11th and 12th graders living in the Green Level attendance area will necessarily stay at their current school. Any 9th and 10th grade younger siblings of these students can attend school with their older siblings and will be eligible for transportation for as long as the older sibling still attends. Younger siblings can stay on at the school through graduation without transportation after the older sibling leaves.

Why can't I have the option to attend a traditional calendar application school nearby?

There simply isn't enough room in traditional calendar schools in this area of the county to fit all the students who want to attend. Schools such as Cedar Fork Elementary, Hortons Creek Elementary, Green Hope Elementary, Weatherstone Elementary, Mills Park Elementary and Middle and Davis Drive Elementary and Middle are closed to transfers, meaning any student applying to attend from outside the base will be denied.

<http://www.wcpss.net/transferStatus/index.php>

This is why we have offered the option of Powell Magnet Elementary School for parents who want a traditional calendar application school. While we realize this isn't the closest application school, we will offer transportation to and from the school. We invite parents to learn more about Powell and its one-of-a-kind magnet theme, aimed at producing students who have a deep understanding of what they're learning. <https://www.wcpss.net/Page/36659>

I see your point about overcrowding at Mills Park, but the current plan is actually adding some new areas to Davis Drive, with the largest addition on the west side. Was there any consideration of moving that area to Salem MS instead (which it borders) to relieve overcrowding at Davis Drive?

Because our western-most schools are already severely overcrowded, and growth continues to in these immediate areas, we need to assign some students to schools farther east where there are available seats and the pace of residential growth is slower. One of our goals in this assignment plan was to provide K-8 calendar alignment for families. Assigning the students in question to Salem MS would not accomplish this goal.

I live closer to Davis Drive than East Cary. Why am I being reassigned there?

We need to relieve crowding at all of our western Wake schools, and East Cary has available seats.

Why are some students moving from Reedy Creek Middle to West Cary or East Cary Middle?

Reedy Creek is crowded and has an enrollment cap, while West Cary and East Cary have available seats. These proposals are to relieve crowding at Reedy Creek.

What will the academic and extracurricular offerings at Green Level High be in its first year if it opens 9th and 10th only?

Generally speaking, if enough students desire a course, club or sport, it will be offered.

The most recent example is Apex Friendship High School, which opened in 2015 for 9th and 10th graders. In its first year, it offered band, chorus, dance and AP Human Geography, along with the other core classes and electives. The school added more AP courses and drama in year 2, and offered the full range of AP courses in its third year. It offered varsity teams in all sports except football, and was able to field JV teams in most sports as well. At the start of the year, clubs such as Student Council, DECA and Key Club were offered, and other co-curricular and student interest clubs opened early in the school year. One other benefit to note is that freshman and sophomores will have many more leadership opportunities at the new school.

Apex Friendship High School had its first graduating class this June. Graduates are moving on to the likes of Harvard, Duke, Baylor, Meredith, UNC, N.C. State, Appalachian State, Campbell, Hampden-Sydney, Queens College, N.C. Wesleyan, Wingate and many other top colleges and universities.

What data was used in making your projections?

Residential development data from all municipal and county planning agencies in Wake County is used in WCPSS membership forecasts. These data and the resulting forecast are updated annually.

When you build a new school, can't you make it a little bigger to anticipate population growth?

Schools built within the last 15 years have been built to accommodate more students. Elementary capacity used to be 600 and was increased to 800 (though K-3 class size reduction legislation likely will reduce that). Middle schools were around 900 and increased to 1,100. High schools used to be built to accommodate 1,600, now 2,200+. The high school capacity increase required a larger cafeteria and library, but the gyms and fields did not change in size.

However, should the capacity increase to 3,000, there would need to be additional gym space and outdoor fields to accommodate the increased usage, and therefore require a larger tract. Land availability is the limiting factor for increasing school capacities. What we call the “educational program” - i.e. the school part of school - only uses about 50% of a school site. Parking, carpool loops, bus loops, etc. require significantly more space today than 15 years ago. Environmental site requirements have grown significantly. Stormwater storage and environmental buffers require significant acreage. And larger sites in Wake County are very scarce. If an existing school is being renovated, and there is room on the site, we will attempt to add capacity. For example, Apex High is being increased from 1,600 capacity to 2,262 capacity.