Loudoun County Public Schools

Dulles Area Elementary School Attendance Zone Change Process for Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School and Hovatter Elementary School

Frequently Asked Questions

Question #1. Why is the School Board reviewing (in fall 2020) current area elementary school attendance zones?
Answer #1. Two new schools, Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School and Hovatter Elementary School, are scheduled to open in fall 2021 (2021-2022 academic year). Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School is sited within the Arcola Center development at 24200 Pissarro Drive in Sterling. Hovatter Elementary School is co-located on the Lightridge High School site at 41135 Collaboration Drive in Aldie.

The School Board must establish an attendance zone for both elementary schools. The current attendance zones for Aldie, Arcola, Buffalo Trail, Cardinal Ridge, Creighton’s Corner, Goshen Post, Hutchison Farm, Legacy, Liberty, Little River, Madison’s Trust, Pinebrook, Rosa Lee Carter and Sycolin Creek Elementary Schools will be reviewed and may possibly change in establishing attendance zones for Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School and Hovatter Elementary School.

Question #2. If my child’s elementary school is included in the study area for establishing attendance zones for Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School and Hovatter Elementary School does that mean he/she will be going to a different elementary school in fall 2021?
Answer #2. Not necessarily. Inclusion and notification of a school community does not indicate that the elementary school attendance zone currently serving your community will change but that attendance zone adjustments may be reviewed, discussed, proposed and/or adopted by the School Board.

Question #3. Why do school attendance areas change?
Answer #3. School attendance areas (commonly referred to as attendance boundaries or attendance zones) typically change as a result of the opening of a new school or the significant over or under enrollment of an existing school.

Question #4. My community’s elementary school is not over capacity and is not projected to be over capacity in the near future. Could our school’s attendance zone still be modified in this current process?
Question #4. When would the elementary school attendance zone changes take effect?
Answer #4. Yes. It is possible that any of the identified elementary school attendance zones (Aldie, Arcola, Buffalo Trail, Cardinal Ridge, Creighton’s Corner, Goshen Post, Hutchison Farm, Legacy, Liberty, Little River, Madison’s Trust, Pinebrook, Rosa Lee Carter and/or Sycolin Creek) may change in establishing attendance zones for the two new elementary schools.

Question #5. When would the elementary school attendance zone changes take effect?
Answer #5. Elementary school attendance zone changes adopted by the School Board this fall will take effect in fall 2021, with the start of the 2021-2022 academic year, when Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School and Hovatter Elementary School are scheduled to open.

Question #6. My child will be entering grade five next fall (2021-2022 school year). Will she have to change elementary schools if our neighborhood gets zoned to a different school?
Answer #6. School Board Policy 8160, Exceptions to School Assignment Due to Attendance Zone Change, states students who will be entering grade five “at the time of the implementation of an attendance zone change, may be granted permission by the School Board to voluntarily remain at their current school of assignment (also called “grandfathered”) in order to provide greater educational continuity for those students and/or to avoid recurring school changes for the student.”

Question #7. Who determines what attendance zone changes will be made?
Answer #7. The Loudoun County School Board establishes all public school attendance zones through legislative authority granted by the Code of Virginia.

Question #8. Does the School Board already have attendance zones in mind for Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School and Hovatter Elementary School?
Answer #8. No. The School Board will receive input from the public and staff in formulating an attendance zone for both new elementary schools.

Question #9. What guides the process in establishing and/or changing school attendance zones?
Answer #9. School Board Policy and Regulation 6530, Changing School Attendance Zones, guides this legislative process of the School Board.

Question #10. How can I get involved in reviewing the area elementary school attendance zones and establishing attendance zones for Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School and Hovatter Elementary School?
Answer #10. Strong community engagement is an important component in an attendance zone change process and the School Board and staff welcome involvement from Loudoun residents.
All attendance zone meetings outlined on the School Board adopted calendar will be broadcast live on Verizon FIOS Channel 43 and Comcast Channel 18, as well as live-streamed via the LCPS website.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person attendance at School Board attendance zone meetings will only be permitted for the designated public hearings scheduled for October 20, November 9 and December 7.

Members of the public are encouraged to share their thoughts and concerns with the School Board and staff by speaking at the public hearings and contacting the School Board. Copies of all written comments received by LCPS Division of Planning Services (lcpsplan@lcps.org or 21000 Education Court Ashburn, VA 20148) will be provided to the School Board and Superintendent.

Throughout the process, information and data regarding the elementary school attendance zone change process will be accessible on the LCPS website (www.lcps.org – at the top of the homepage, click on the ‘Discover LCPS’ link located in the navigation bar, then click on the ‘School Attendance Zone’ link to go to the Planning Services webpage to access the Fall 2020 - Elementary School Attendance Zone Change Process page and posted information).

While the School Board provides opportunities for public input, the final decision on attendance zones is made by the School Board. Proposed attendance zone plans can be changed, modified and/or rescinded by the School Board, and new plans can be considered by the School Board up to the point that a plan is adopted by a vote of the School Board.

Question #11. What are the projected student enrollments for Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School and Hovatter Elementary School?
Answer #11. Projected student enrollments for both elementary schools will be available only after attendance zones are adopted by the School Board.

Question #12. What middle and high schools will students from Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School and Hovatter Elementary School proceed to after completing elementary school?
Answer #12. Until the School Board adopts an attendance zone for each of the schools, the secondary schools to which the Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School and Hovatter Elementary School communities will advance cannot be determined.

Question #13. Will any secondary school attendance zones change as a result of this current review of the elementary school attendance zones?
Answer #13. No. This attendance zone process only involves elementary school attendance zones. Middle and high school attendance zones will not be changed by new elementary school boundaries.

Question #14. Why doesn’t the School Board take steps to control growth?
Answer #1. The School Board is not directly involved in the decisions regarding Loudoun County’s (or it’s incorporated towns’) growth. LCPS staff provides information and data to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and Loudoun County Planning Commission, as well as to Loudoun’s incorporated towns, regarding the impact of all proposed residential developments in the county.

Question #15. Do promises made to a buyer by a builder or real estate agent, regarding a school’s attendance zone, in any way bind the School Board to honor those promises?
Answer #15. No. School attendance areas are not prearranged with developers, builders or real estate agencies.

Question #16. I live in the 20148 zip code area. Does my zip code bind the School Board in establishing what elementary school attendance zone serves my residence?
Answer #16. No. School attendance areas are not determined by postal zip code zones.

Question #17. How will the students and families prepare if their elementary school attendance zone changes?
Answer #17. Beginning in the second semester of the 2020-2021 academic year, the respective elementary school principals will work together with their communities to facilitate the fall 2021 transition for students and families.

Question #18. How can parents and interested citizens give input on elementary school attendance zone proposals that will be reviewed by the School Board?
Answer #18. All parties may address the School Board members via letters, email and/or speak at the identified public hearings.

Copies of all written comments received by LCPS Division of Planning Services (lcpsplan@lcps.org or 21000 Education Court Ashburn, VA 20148) will be provided to the School Board and Superintendent.

Public hearings to address the School Board specifically about the elementary school attendance zone change process have been scheduled for October 20, November 9 and December 7. The hearings will be held at the LCPS Administration Building (21000 Education Court, Ashburn) and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

While the School Board provides opportunities for public input, the final decision on attendance zones is made by the School Board. Proposed attendance zone plans can be changed, modified and/or rescinded by the School Board, and new plans can be considered by the School Board up to the point that a plan is adopted by a vote of the School Board.

Question #19. I would like to speak at an attendance boundary public hearing. How can I sign up in advance of the meeting?
Answer #19. Public hearings to address the School Board specifically about the elementary school attendance zone change process have been scheduled for October 20, November 9 and December 7. The hearings will be held at the LCPS Administration Building (21000 Education Court, Ashburn) and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Speakers are invited to sign up in advance using the Public Comment Registration form, or by contacting the Superintendent’s Office at 571-252-1020. An email may also be sent to public.comment@lcps.org, in which case the sender will receive a reply with a link to the online Public Comment Registration form for their completion. All speakers must sign-up prior to the start of the designated public hearing. Online speaker sign-up will close at 5:00 p.m. on the date of the specific hearing. Persons may also sign up to speak via a ‘no contact’ walk-in registration in the lobby of the LCPS Administration Building (21000 Education Court, Ashburn) starting 30 minutes prior to the specific hearing until five (5) minutes before the start of the meeting.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please review the information posted on the LCPS Citizen Participation page. All persons entering the LCPS Administration Building are required to wear a face covering while in the building, including while providing comment at School Board meetings.

Speakers must limit comments to the time allotted by the School Board Chair and announced prior to the public comment period. The Chair determines the time based on the number of speakers and the agenda, but not to exceed five (5) minutes per speaker.

Those who need translation/interpretation assistance or a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability in order to participate meaningfully in School Board meetings or public hearings should contact the Superintendent’s Office at 571-252-1020 at least three (3) days prior to the meeting.

Question #20. Who should I contact with additional questions about the Dulles area elementary school attendance zone change process?

Answer #20. Throughout the elementary school attendance zone change process, answers to all questions received in writing by LCPS Division of Planning Services (lcpsplan@lcps.org or 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148) will be posted on the LCPS website (www.lcps.org – on the Fall 2020 - Elementary School Attendance Zone Change Process webpage) for interested community members to view. Please review the questions/answers often as the information will be updated frequently.

Members of the public may also contact School Board member directly.

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<tr>
<td>Denise Corbo</td>
<td>At-Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atoosa Reaser, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Algonkian</td>
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<td>Harris Mahedavi</td>
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Leslee King
John Beatty
Jeff Morse
Beth Barts
Brenda Sheridan, Chair

Broad Run
Catoctin
Dulles
Leesburg
Sterling