DULLES AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ZONE PROCESS

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Posted 19 October 2020

Q1. I am looking for a spreadsheet that used to be posted with an attendance zone change. It has the actual and projected students by DS and development over a 5 year period. Existing and new developments are included (eg, Willowsford, Lenah Mill, etc.). I assume you used this data set to make your projections. Please let me know if it is posted on the Fall 2020 ES Attendance Zone Change webpage and I missed it. Otherwise, I would appreciate it if you can please send the information.

A1. Actual and projected resident student counts, by planning zone, are posted on the Fall 2020 - Elementary School Attendance Zone Change Process webpage – please view Dulles Area Resident Elementary Students by Grade & Planning Zone, September 2020 and Dulles Area Elementary School Planning Zone Projections links respectively.

Specific to existing and approved (but unbuilt) residential development, in addition to the posted Dulles Area Elementary School Attendance Zones - Residential Development Maps, a link to a LCPS Interactive Residential Development Map is accessible that provides residential development information by planning zone and/or residential project including development name, building status (e.g., complete, active), percent built as of September 2020, residential unit type(s) (e.g., single family detached, single family attached/townhome, multifamily), and number of active and final building permits.

Posted 21 October 2020

Q2. Why will some Willowsford kids be bused to Buffalo Trail rather than attend the new elementary in the neighborhood?

A2. Currently, two Willowsford communities (The Grant and The Grange) are within the Madison’s Trust Elementary School attendance zone, one (The Grove) is within the Goshen Post Elementary School attendance zone, and another (The Greens) is within the Buffalo Trail Elementary School attendance zone. Based on the reference to Buffalo Trail Elementary School in your question, this response will focus on the two Willowsford communities located south of Route 50/John Mosby Highway.

In this Dulles area elementary school attendance zone process, to establish an attendance zone for Hovatter Elementary School, additional plans are anticipated as School Board members meet with and discuss the needed changes with their constituency and Dulles area communities.

To relieve current and projected overcrowding at both Goshen Post Elementary School and Buffalo Trail Elementary School, without extreme overutilization of Hovatter
Elementary School over the next five years, the **Staff Plan** presented on October 14 proposes the assignment of four current Goshen Post Elementary School planning zones (DS06.6/Westbury Glen, Arcadia Sunberry; DS06.7/Aldie Estates, Rosedale; DS07.4/The Grove at Willowsford; and DS10/Lenh Run) to Hovatter Elementary School. The Staff Plan also recommends four Buffalo Trail Elementary School planning zones (DS06.8/Enclave at Tanglewood, Arbors at Tanglewood, portion of The Greens at Willowsford; DS07.3/portion of The Greens at Willowsford; DS07.6; and DS07.11/McIntosh Farms) attend Hovatter Elementary School. To provide additional enrollment relief for Buffalo Trail Elementary School, planning zones DS03, DS07.9/Loudoun Crossing, and DS13.5/portion of Cedar Hunt are also being proposed to attend Cardinal Ridge Elementary School, Pinebrook Elementary School, and Hutchison Farm Elementary School respectively with the Staff Plan.

While the Staff Plan does not move all of The Greens at Willowsford to Hovatter Elementary School, it does provide stability for the residents in DS07.1 in that their attendance zone would not change – they would remain zoned to attend Buffalo Trail Elementary School.

The next elementary school (ES-32) for the Dulles South area is anticipated to open in fall 2025 (2025-2026 school year). It is likely that in establishing an attendance zone for ES-32, communities within the current/proposed Buffalo Trail, Goshen Post, and Hovatter Elementary School attendance areas would be reviewed to address future student enrollment and school overcrowding.

**Q3. Please help us understand why DS07.1 would be excluded from attending Hovatter.** We wrote this email to express our thoughts, facts, and opinions on the matter. We would like to know how to formally appeal this decision.

**Please tell us what we can do as families and as a community to change the Attendance Zones to include ALL of The Greens in Willowsford, so they may attend Hovatter Elementary School next Fall. We are happy to get signatures to show that this is important to all of the residents of The Greens.**

**A3.** Please review the response to the preceding question, Question 2.

The School Board wants to receive input from the public and staff in formulating an attendance zone for both Hovatter Elementary School and Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School. Staff recommended a plan for consideration on October 14. The School Board is not bound to adopt the **Staff Plan** but instead is seeking comment and suggestions on not only this plan but also feedback from the public as to what changes should be considered as attendance zones are established for both new schools.

As the attendance zone change process progresses, individuals, neighborhoods and/or communities may suggest plan ideas to their respective School Board members that staff will in turn be asked to map – and provide the associated student enrollment projections.

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 – with two remaining on 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.

It is important for parents to follow the entire attendance zone process so they are aware of changing circumstances.

**Posted 23 October 2020**

**Q4. I live in the Grove at Willowsford and my children attend Goshen. My question is about the PBL format at Goshen and whether a similar format will be adopted by Hovatter. We are fortunate to be in a LCPS school district with many resources, and I'm certain Hovatter will also be an impressive school. For families attending Goshen that appreciate and are invested in the PBL format at Goshen, can you share plans on Hovatter's culture/format and whether it will use Goshen as a model?**

**A4. Personalized and project based learning experiences are an important part of the LCPS instructional model in all elementary schools; the Department of Instruction is committed to implementing daily authentic learning experiences for all LCPS students. Presently, we are working toward advertising the Hovatter Elementary School principal position; following interviews and appointment, the principal will begin planning the school's opening, including the vision of the school to include Project Based Learning (PBL) opportunities.**