Loudoun County Public Schools
Dulles South Area Secondary School Attendance Zone Change Process

Frequently Asked Questions

Question #1. Why is the School Board reviewing (in spring 2019) the current Dulles South area middle and high school attendance zones?
Answer #1. Lightridge High School, located off Lightridge Farm Road at 41025 Collaboration Drive in Aldie, will open in fall 2020 - with the start of the 2020-2021 academic year. The opening of Lightridge High School requires the formation of new secondary school attendance zones in the Dulles South area. With the opening of Lightridge High School, Willard Intermediate School will transition to Willard Middle School and serve students in grades six, seven, and eight; this process will also establish a formal attendance zone for Willard, as a middle school.

Question #2. When will the school attendance zone changes take effect?
Answer #2. The secondary school attendance zone adjustments for the Dulles South area will take effect in fall 2020 (2020-2021 academic year), with the opening of Lightridge High School.

Question #3. My daughter will be a senior the year Lightridge High School opens. If our high school attendance zone changes, will she have to change schools for her last year of high school?
Answer #3. No. School Board Policy 8160, Exceptions to School Assignment Due to Attendance Zone Change, states students who will be entering grade twelve at the time of the implementation of an attendance zone change shall remain at their current school of assignment through graduation.

Question #4. What specific school communities will be involved with the process of establishing attendance zones for Lightridge High School and Willard Middle School?
Answer #4. The current attendance zones for J. Michael Lunsford Middle School/Freedom High School and Mercer Middle School/Willard Intermediate School/John Champe High School will be reviewed.

Question #5. This school year (2018-19 year), my son is attending John Champe High School. Next fall (2019-20 year), our high school attendance zone is changing and he
will be assigned and attending Independence High School. Are the attendance zones serving our home going to change again when Lightridge High School opens?
Answer #5. If your neighborhood is zoned to attend Independence High School, beginning fall 2019, you will not be impacted by this attendance boundary process for Lightridge High School and Willard Middle School.

**Question #6. Does the School Board already have an attendance zone plan for the Dulles South area secondary schools?**
Answer #6. No. The School Board has scheduled a series of meetings to receive input from the public and staff in formulating the necessary attendance zone changes for the Dulles South area middle and high schools.

**Question #7. Why do school attendance areas change?**
Answer #7. School attendance areas (commonly referred to as attendance boundaries or attendance zones) typically change because of the opening of a new school or to balance significant over or under enrollment of existing schools.

**Question #8. Who determines the attendance zone changes?**
Answer #8. The Loudoun County School Board establishes all public-school attendance zones through its legislative authority granted to it by the Code of Virginia.

**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 Dulles South area secondary school attendance zones and establishing attendance zones for the new schools?**
Answer #10. Strong community engagement is an important component in an attendance zone change process; the School Board and staff welcome involvement from Loudoun residents. All attendance zone meetings outlined on the School Board adopted calendar are open to the public and interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The attendance zone meetings will also be broadcast live on Comcast channel 18 and Verizon Fios channel 43, as well as webcast via the LCPS website, whenever possible.

Members of the public are encouraged to share their thoughts and concerns with the School Board and staff by attending the work sessions, 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 secondary school attendance zone changes will be accessible on the LCPS website (www.lcps.org, utilize the ‘Planning/School Attendance Zones–Attendance Zones Under Review’ quick link located in the lower right portion of the homepage).

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 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 Lightridge High School and Willard Middle School, in fall 2020?
Answer #11. Projected student enrollments for Lightridge High School and Willard Middle School will be available only after attendance zones for the schools are adopted by the School Board.

Question #12. What elementary schools will ‘feed’ or advance students to Willard Middle School?
Answer #12. Until the School Board adopts new secondary school attendance zones for the Dulles South area, the elementary schools that will advance (in whole or part) to Willard Middle School cannot be determined.

Question #13. Will any elementary school attendance zones change as a result of this Dulles South area secondary school attendance zone change process?
Answer #13. No. This attendance zone process only involves middle and high school attendance zones.

Question #14. How will the students and families prepare if their middle and/or high school attendance zone changes?
Answer #14. The respective school principals will work together with their communities to facilitate the fall 2020 (2020-2021 academic year) transition for students and families.

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 Ashburn 20148 zip code. Does my zip code area bind the School Board in establishing what schools serve my residence?
Answer #16. No. School attendance areas are not determined or bound by postal zip code zones.

**Question #17. Why doesn’t the School Board take steps to control growth?**

Answer #17. The School Board is not directly involved in the decisions regarding Loudoun County’s (or its incorporated towns’) growth. School staff provides information and data to the Loudoun County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, as well as to Loudoun’s incorporated towns, regarding the impact of all proposed residential developments in the county.

**Question #18. How can parents and interested citizens give input on secondary school attendance zone proposals that will be reviewed by the School Board?**

Answer #18. All parties may speak at the identified public hearings and/or address the School Board members via letters and/or email.

Public hearings, at which the public is invited to address the School Board specifically about the secondary school attendance zone change process, have been scheduled for February 25, March 11, and April 2; the hearings will be held at the LCPS Administration Building (21000 Education Court, Ashburn) and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Please review the School Board’s attendance zone meeting calendar for the full schedule of work sessions, informational and action item meetings planned in addition to the 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.

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 up to the point that a plan is adopted by a vote of the School Board.

**Question #19. I have an attendance zone proposal that I would like to share with the School Board and community. Who should I contact?**

Answer #19. On Tuesday, February 19, 2019, a base school attendance zone proposal(s) will be presented by staff. All subsequent attendance zone suggestions will be proposed by School Board members. Excluding the base school attendance zone proposal(s), only School Board originated attendance zone proposals will be posted on the LCPS website. Members of the public are encouraged to share their thoughts with the School Board. While you may contact School Board members directly, all written proposals received by LCPS Division of Planning Services will be forwarded to each School Board member for their review and consideration.
Question #20. I would like to speak at an attendance boundary public hearing. How can I sign up in advance of the meeting?

Answer #20. Advance speaker sign up is available and encouraged for all attendance zone public hearings. Online speaker registration will be available at least one week prior to the specific public hearing date, on the LCPS website (www.lcps.org, utilize the ‘Planning/School Attendance Zones–Attendance Zones Under Review’ quick link provided on the lower right side of the homepage).

To register by telephone, contact LCPS Division of Planning Services at 571-252-1050 prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the public hearing.

Speakers may also sign up in person at the specific hearing, between 6:00 and 6:25 p.m. Please refer to School Board Policy 2520, Participation by the Public, for full details (www.lcps.org, utilize the ‘School Board’ link provided at the top of the homepage).

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.

Contact LCPS Division of Planning Services at 571-252-1050, at least five (5) working days prior to a public hearing date, should translation services or assistance due to a disability be needed to enable you to participate meaningfully and equally in an attendance zone meeting.

Question #21. Who should I contact with additional questions about the school attendance zone process?

Answer #21. Throughout the secondary 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, utilize the ‘Planning/School Attendance Zones–Attendance Zones Under Review’ quick link located in the lower right portion of the homepage) 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 speak with their School Board representatives at the public meetings and hearings, or by contacting School Board members directly. School Board member contact information is posted on the LCPS website (www.lcps.org, utilize the ‘School Board’ link located at the top of the homepage).
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