

## Justification for Plan 8

### Proposed by Jeff Morse and Beth Huck

**Introduction:** Plan 8 is similar to plan 2 with minor changes: it includes the use of additional space at Champe for Mercer Annex (227 students) for 2017, it includes the intermediate school solution for the Mercer/Champe footprint in 2018: grades 6-7 go to Mercer; grades 8-9 go to MS-7; and grades 10-12 go to Champe. It includes the addition of four trailers at Freedom in 2017. It postpones the Mercer/MS-7 attendance zone changes to a future date, aligning with the Champe/HS-9 attendance zone changes (expected around 2019-2020). Finally, it provides for the retention of all zones South of RT 50 to remain South of RT 50. The only zone changing from Plan 2 to this plan is DN 36.15 (moving to Stone Hill): it currently has no children.

**Facilities:** Policy 2-32 states that the Board shall, “utilize projected student enrollment and facility capacity as principle measures”. Several other plans being considered are based on a Board member’s conjecture about whether enrollment projections are right or wrong, with no staff research upon which to defend their plan, whereas Plan 8 is based on the staff provided projections and future construction.

There are three critical areas of growth in our boundaries discussion: the two areas in Dulles North (one centered in the Brambleton area, one in the Moorefield Station/Loudoun Station area (around future metro stops)), and one in Dulles South around Braddock Road.

First, we address the two in Dulles North. Our projected Cohort Survival calculation for Stone Hill appears to be facing rapid expansion in the years just outside the CIP, when it has **by far** the largest number of residential units approved but not yet built. Breakdown by school zone of residential units in the Dulles North area still to be completed is as follows:

- Eagle Ridge – 471 residential units
- Brambleton – **1569** residential units
- Stone Hill – **6072** residential units

In Plans 4, 5 and 6, the effort to push students out of Eagle Ridge (and thus reducing its enrollment to as low as 88%-93% and **decreasing**) while predicting Stone Hill’s enrollment (to be between 90%-112% and **increasing**) and Brambleton’s enrollment (to be between 116%-133% and **increasing**) moves all three schools in the wrong direction, and sets up a likely rebalancing, especially given the 8 years until the next middle school is constructed to serve this area. If rebalancing occurs, it would likely pull those **same** students back into Eagle Ridge to provide relief for Stone Hill. Let’s look at what that means for the students in DN 34.1/34.2:

2006: Eagle Ridge  
2007: Stone Hill  
2013: Eagle Ridge  
2016: Stone Hill  
201?: Eagle Ridge

The families in 34.1 and 34.2 universally request to stay at Eagle Ridge and Briar Woods.

Plan 8 is consistent. The short term crowding situation existing in Eagle Ridge and Briar Woods in Dulles North is mirrored with the short term crowding in Lunsford and Freedom in Dulles South. Plan 8 handles the situations in a **consistent** manner: Schools adjacent to the growth (Lunsford/Freedom) are being flexed to provide space for the explosive growth in the Mercer/Champe footprint. Again, using staff's data, it appears that the populations at both Lunsford and Freedom will be leveling off/declining just outside of the enrollment projected years, similar to Eagle Ridge/Briar Woods. This will permit Mercer/Champe and MS-7/HS-9 to focus their resources on the massive growth area in Dulles South that exists within today's Mercer/Champe boundary. As with Eagle Ridge/Briar Woods, Lunsford/Freedom will be minimally impacted by boundary changes if any are required, and Lunsford/Freedom will not be affected by the Intermediate school boundaries required in all plans for Mercer/MS-7/Champe students.

**Plan 8 is a strategic plan for our facilities, whereas other plans are inconsistent in their approach to the Dulles North/Dulles South overcrowding and seek short term gains in lieu of long term stability.**

**Proximity:** Plan 8 brings as many students as possible from the Northeast corner of the Champe footprint (Blue Springs and Tall Cedars) into Freedom to provide better proximity for the students and additional relief to Champe for the upcoming growth. The East Gate community will continue to be included in their current cluster, which means attending Mercer/MS-7, and Champe.

Plan 8 gives up some enrollment balance for proximity: DS 11.1 will stay with DS 8.1 and 8.2 (see below). DN 36.15, the only zone moved from Plan 2 to Plan 8, will be zoned to Stone Hill with the other Creightons Corner children. The balance will be 124% to 94% in 2021, and therefore may require an adjustment (if projections hold).

**Community:** Plan 8 keeps the North Willowsford community together (the Grange in DS 11.1 and the Grant in DS 8.1 and 8.2) moving to Brambleton. The South portion of Willowsford stays at Mercer/MS-7/Champe. Otherwise the community splits currently in place remain.

**Demographics:** This area of the county shows incredible diversity at every school...we will need to see the demographics to ensure there are no significant disparities among our schools.

**Accessibility, Stability, and Cluster Alignment:** Plan 8 attempts to minimize splinter feeds and retain alignments that make sense. For the Dulles South area South of RT 50, the movement of Blue Springs and Tall Cedars to Lunsford pairs them with existing classmates from Cardinal Ridge already slated to attend Lunsford. The remaining Cardinal Ridge families in DS 9.1, DS 9.3, and DS 16.1 account for about 150 students (climbing to over 200), and they are remaining in their current cluster.

One cluster alignment issue is the alignment of DS 11.1 with Brambleton and DS 11 with Stone Hill. It creates a split feed, with 66 children from Madison's Trust attending Stone Hill. The enrollment in this area is projected to double in size within the next four years following rezoning. DN 36.15 will attend Stone Hill, where a significant number of their classmates at Creightons Corner children will attend.

Note that there currently are no children in DN 36.15, and therefore none will be affected by this change.