

Regulation

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: Policies: JA and JAA
Responsible Office: Chief Operating Officer

REDISTRICTING AND ATTENDANCE AREAS

A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for the formation and adjustment of school attendance areas.

B. BACKGROUND

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) recognizes that enrollment patterns, program changes, school openings/closings and additions are dynamic and may require student attendance areas to be adjusted over the course of time. The Education Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, and the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board), through Policy JAA, recognize the need for an orderly and public process for the formation and adjustment of school attendance areas.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. *Redistricting Committee* is comprised of community members and staff appointed by the Superintendent, to advise and make redistricting recommendations to the Superintendent.
2. *School Attendance Area* refers to the geographic area from which a school's students are drawn.

D. PROCEDURES

1. The Board, with advice of the Superintendent, shall establish schools and determine the attendance boundaries of all schools.
2. Time Frame
 - a. If the Superintendent recommends redistricting, then the Superintendent shall present the recommendation to the Board following receipt of the September 30 enrollment figures, but no later than the first Board Meeting in December of the school year in which action is to be considered. At the meeting when the

Superintendent presents a recommendation, or at any meeting thereafter but before the end of January, a Board Member may propose that a school or schools be redistricted.

- b. The Board shall review the Superintendent's recommendation and any Board Member's proposals, and determine, no later than the end of January in each school year that such action is to be considered, which school(s) shall go forward to public hearing for school redistricting.
- c. The Board shall publicly announce its intention to consider redistricting and shall conduct a public hearing(s).
- d. At a meeting of the Board subsequent to the public hearing, but not later than April 30 of any school year, the Board shall make and announce its decision in public session. The Board reserves the right to utilize all information received during the redistricting process to formulate a final decision on redistricting, which may differ from the recommendations or proposals that the Board initially moved to public hearing. If a revision of the recommendations or proposals occurs, then the Board shall hold an additional public hearing on the revision prior to a final decision.

3. Community Input

- a. The Superintendent may form a Redistricting Committee for the purpose of advising the Superintendent during the planning phase of the redistricting process.
 - (1) The Redistricting Committee shall take public input in the form of testimony, review, and comments. The Superintendent shall modify the redistricting plans as appropriate based on the comments.
 - (2) Summary notes of the Redistricting Committee shall be taken and made available to the public in the offices of the effected schools, via the AACPS website, and other appropriate methods.
 - (3) The Redistricting Committee shall make its recommendation(s) to the Superintendent no later than November 7. Only community members on the Redistricting Committee shall have a vote. In the event a consensus is not reached among the members, all views voted upon by the members will be presented.
- b. The Board of Education shall provide opportunities for public input through its hearing process (see Paragraph D.2c).

4. Emergencies
 - a. An emergency circumstance is one where the decision to redistrict a school(s) because of unforeseen circumstances cannot be announced at least 90 days before the date a school is scheduled to be redistricted or before April 30 of any school year. Emergencies include natural and man-made disasters including, but not limited to, fire, flood, safety hazards, etc.
 - b. In an emergency, the Superintendent shall take immediate and temporary action until the Board meets to address the situation and adopts a plan of action to handle the emergency.

Regulation History: Developed by Superintendent 3/2/11
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Note previous regulation history: None