

The Policy Committee approved changes in blue at its public work sessions on May 4, and June 15, 2022.

File: JCA

## ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS

### I. Purpose

Policy JCA states the Board of Education's basis for determining the geographical attendance area for public schools.

### II. Background

The Annotated Code of Maryland gives the Board of Education authority to determine the geographical attendance area for each public school. The ~~Washington County~~ Board of Education is responsible for maintaining throughout Washington County a system of public schools that is designed to provide educational opportunities for all children.

The ~~Washington County~~ Board of Education ~~shall have authority~~ is authorized to establish public schools and their geographical attendance areas, subject to the bylaws, rules, and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education. Upon approval by the State Superintendent of Schools, any elementary, middle, or senior high school, or any school or combination of grades thereof, so established, shall become a part of the State program of public education.

### III. Policy Statement/Procedures

- A. The ~~Washington County~~ Board of Education ~~with the advice of the Superintendent is responsible for~~ will determine the geographical attendance area and its boundaries for each public school. ~~The county shall be divided into appropriate school attendance areas by the Board.~~ The Superintendent shall keep records of such attendance areas.
- B. ~~The Washington County Board of Education will also consider recommendations made by the Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee.~~ In determining geographical attendance areas and their boundaries, the Board of Education may request the Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee (FEAC) to provide recommendations to the Board for consideration. The Board will forward any recommendations made by the FEAC to the Superintendent for study in accordance with the procedures outlined in the accompanying administrative regulation.
- C. In the event administrative adjustments to school attendance areas are necessary, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to formulate recommendations for the Board's review and approval in accordance with the procedures outlined in the accompany administrative regulation.
- D. The ~~Washington County~~ Board of Education is committed to the use of long-range planning techniques to minimize the necessity for frequent boundary changes.
- E. Considerations guiding the establishment or change of school attendance areas include:
  - 1. the educational opportunity afforded to students in each school involved;
  - 2. the long-range enrollment projections including consideration of anticipated future residential development/construction;
  - 3. the state and local rated capacity of affected schools;
  - 4. the geographic location of each school in relationship to the surrounding population areas;
  - 5. the current and projected student travel time and student transportation needs;
  - 6. ~~continuing~~ the continuation of the feeder school patterns;

7. the opening of a new school or, the necessity to close a school;
8. the need to maintain racial balance in a school and/or the school system;
9. the socio-economic composition of affected schools;
10. the cost associated with the various options.

~~While each~~ All of the above factors will be considered, however, reconciling it normally may be impractical to reconcile each and every boundary line alternative with each and every factor may not be possible.

- F. The Superintendent is authorized to promulgate an administrative regulation that will set forth the processes to be followed for the creation of recommendations for the establishment of, or administrative adjustments to, school attendance areas for consideration by the Board of Education.

#### Process to be Followed for Administrative Adjustments to School Attendance Areas

~~When, the placement of houses in new developments and/or the establishment of new roads, public, or private, or the creation of a new school requires interpretation and administrative adjustment to existing boundaries, the Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate staff, may formulate recommendations on administrative adjustments to existing boundaries. A public meeting will be scheduled by the Superintendent to provide an opportunity for parents and residents to be informed of and to offer comments on proposed administrative adjustments to boundaries. The Superintendent or his/her designee will determine the school district placements and advise staff, parents and residents as appropriate, with Board of Education review and approval.~~

#### Process to be Followed With Regard to the Establishment of School Attendance Areas

~~The process to be followed with regard to the establishment of school attendance zones is set forth in JCA-R.~~

Legal Reference: Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Sections 4-108, 4-109, and 4-120 ---  
2004

Policy adopted: December 17, 1974. Amended: February 4, 2003. Revised: October 3, 2006. Revised:  
Board of Education of Washington County