

2022-2023 BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT FAQs

Q: When will the approved boundary adjustments take place?

A: The middle and high school boundary adjustments will take place at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Q: How do I know if I live within a change area?

A: If you are unsure if you reside within a change area, you can visit the Balancing Enrollment Webpage at <https://www.hcps.org/community/balancingenrollment/> and view the map books or enter your address into the Balancing Enrollment Web Map to see if your address falls within a change area. Additionally, if your student is impacted for the 2022-2023 school year by a middle or high school approved boundary adjustment, you will receive a letter sent by mail via the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Q: Our home is located within an approved middle/high school change area; we have a student(s) currently enrollment in middle or high school. What should we expect next?

A: Parents and guardians of students impacted by the middle & high school boundary adjustments will receive a letter sent by mail via the United States Postal Service (USPS). If parents/guardians choose to have their student(s) attend the new assigned school, no further action is required. Parents/guardians who wish for their child to remain at the currently assigned school will need to complete the provided form <https://registration.hcps.org/> and submit it online or via USPS.

Q: Will these boundary adjustments impact students currently enrollment in a magnet/technical program at another high school.

A: No, students enrolled into a magnet/technical program will continue within their program; no action is required.

Q: What does “grandfathering” mean?

A: The term “grandfathering” means allowing pre-existing conditions to continue regardless of a later decision. In context of the balancing enrollment process, grandfathering will allow some existing students to remain at their current schools.

Q: Who is eligible for the approved grandfathering provisions and permitted to remain at the school they started?

A: Eligibility for grandfathering provisions depends on multiple factors as described below. It is important to note that all families wanting to take advantage of these provisions must complete a declaration form and provide their own transportation. The school administration and the school system must be prepared for the shift in student population; therefore, we are asking all families who wish to remain at the school in which they are currently enrolled to notify us by **March 31, 2022.**

- Students residing in a middle or high school change area: Students enrolled in a middle or high school on the last day of school, June 2022, with an active address within a change area, will be eligible to continue at that school.

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- Middle to high school: If a student takes advantage of the grandfathering provisions in the middle school, they may continue through the feeder system into the associated high school.
- Younger siblings: Students starting 6th grade in September 2022 (2022–23 school year), with an older sibling attending the middle school during the 2021-22 school year and taking advantage of the above secondary grandfathering options to remain at that middle school, will be eligible to attend that same middle school and continue within the same feeder system. A boundary exception application will need to be completed and submitted to the Pupil Personnel Worker for the requested school.

Q: Will transportation be provided for families choosing to take advantage of the grandfathering provisions?

A: No, HCPS will only provide transportation to the school for the attendance area a student resides. All families wanting to take advantage of the grandfathering provisions must provide their own transportation to and from school. The school administration and the school system must be prepared for the shift in student population; therefore, we are asking all families who wish to remain at the school in which they are currently enrolled to notify us by **March 31, 2022**

Q: How do I request my child be allowed to remain at the same school through the grandfathering provisions.

A: Any parent or guardian wishing to have their child remain at the same school must complete the declaration form mailed to their home or linked below and either submit online or mail to the address below. The school administration and the school system must be prepared for the shift in student population; therefore, we are asking all families who wish to remain at the school in which they are currently enrolled to notify us by **March 31, 2022.**

<https://registration.hcps.org/>

Mailing information

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Q: Will students whose parents/guardians chose to take advantage of the grandfathering provisions for middle school qualify to continue through the same feeder system into high school?

A: Yes, if a student takes advantage of the grandfathering provisions in the middle school, they may continue through the feeder system into the associated high school. However, transportation will not be provided.

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Q: Will our family need to request to be grandfathered for the feeder school in subsequent years?

A: No, once a family has elected to remain at the school under grandfathering provisions, that student will continue to remain within that feeder pattern until they graduate, or a parent or guardian request a school change.

Q: What if a student approved through the grandfathering provisions can no longer provide his/her own transportation?

A: If the ability to provide transportation to and from school changes, and the student would require a bus to/from school, the student will need to transfer to the school for which they are zoned. HCPS will not provide transportation to schools outside of a students assigned attendance area.

Q: What if I purchase a home in a middle/high school change area after the 2021-2022 school year, will my child still qualify for grandfathering?

A: No, grandfathering is only offered to students living within a change area and enrolled in the school prior to the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Q: How will staffing decisions be made with boundary adjustments? Will staffing be added as programs are added?

A: In general, teachers, administrators, and other instructional staff are allocated to schools based upon the programs offered at the school and student enrollment. Once boundary adjustments are approved by the Board of Education, staffing will be adjusted based on the revised forecast. Staffing for each school is re-evaluated every year and adjustments are made to reflect program and enrollment changes.

Q: How do the boundary changes affect class size?

A: The goal is to keep classrooms at or under the State recommended maximum class size while ensuring enough space at each school for students in specialized programs (Pre-K/Special Education/CTE).

Q: Why are you implementing these changes during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: Between 2015 and 2019 HCPS saw an increase in enrollment and special program needs (special education and Pre-Kindergarten). These increases have resulted in overcrowding at some schools, while others are underutilized resulting in limits to program locations, larger class sizes, and increasing portable needs. While some capacity concerns could be addressed with portable classrooms, shared spaces such as the cafeteria and hallways become an issue for scheduling and student transitions through hallways.

Boundary adjustments are necessary to optimize facility utilization, or more simply, to make sure our buildings are being used to serve students in the best way possible. The planning, funding, and contracting portion of the project was in progress prior to the pandemic. As students return to school, HCPS is facing the same capacity issues impacting class sizes and staffing decisions.

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Additionally, it is essential that HCPS continues to plan for and is prepared to meet the future needs of our students. This process will assist HCPS in the facilities planning to ensure our school buildings are best serving the needs of students.

Q: Were the recommended changes evaluated with the 2021 enrollment data before the final decision was made by the BOE?

A: Yes, while the pandemic and virtual option did impact the enrollment numbers for the start of the 2021 school year, overall HCPS enrollment increased by 594 students when compared to the 2020 school year. Additionally, the schools with the major capacity concerns remain over capacity. The annual enrollment reports are available online at <https://www.hcps.org/schools/Enrollmentreports.aspx>.

Q: How will parents be notified of the potential changes to bus drop-off and pick-up times once the plan is final?

A: Prior to the implementation school year, the HCPS communications office will execute a multi-media communication plan to help prepare the community for any changes in student transportation services. At that time, parents/guardians will be advised that HCPS bus stops, and schedules may be impacted by the boundary adjustments and that all bus routing information can be found on the HCPS bus locator link on the HCPS website, or they can contact the school for updated information.