



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 11, 2010

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY REDISTRICTING DRAFT PLAN NOW AVAILABLE ON SCHOOL SYSTEM'S WEBSITE

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) has posted its proposed comprehensive elementary redistricting draft plan on the school system's website. The plan can be found on the elementary redistricting page at hcps.org. New attendance area maps for individual schools and the district as a whole were released following five regional meetings that took place with designated Focus Groups for each school earlier this week. Focus Groups were established last year to provide the Superintendent's Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) with parameters for redistricting.

To maximize communication efforts with parents and the community, HCPS will utilize several tools to announce the availability of the draft plan. An email announcement was sent to parent subscribers yesterday, November 10th, via the school system's email notification system, Constant Contact, and an AlertNow call will be made system-wide this evening. Each elementary school's individual Edline site has been updated to include a direct link to the elementary redistricting page. In addition, the school system updated its Twitter page (@HCPSchools). Parents and community members are encouraged to subscribe to the RSS Feed on the redistricting page to receive real-time alerts when content is revised or updated as the redistricting process continues to move forward.

The Harford Cable Network will air the five Focus Group meetings every Saturday at 8:30 p.m. during the month of December on Comcast Channel 21, Armstrong Channel 7 and Verizon FiOS Channel 31. Video footage of the meetings also will be posted on the school system's website. The Focus Groups have been charged with taking information back to their respective communities to compile meaningful feedback.

Parents can also direct comments or questions to the elementary redistricting email, elementaryredistricting@hcps.org. The plan is still in draft form and has not yet been presented to the Board of Education. The STAC will consider all feedback and make any necessary changes to the plan before the proposed plan is presented to the Board at the end of the month. Parents are reminded that attendance areas for secondary schools will not be affected as a result of the elementary redistricting.

When the Board Members take over the proposed redistricting plan, they will hold regional community meetings and public hearings to gather their own feedback. Those community meetings and hearings will take place in December, January and February. Information will be forthcoming regarding dates, times and locations of those meetings.

Since 2001, approximately 15% - 43% of Harford County's elementary schools have remained at, or over, capacity; many of them surpassing the county Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance thresholds. The elementary redistricting plan will balance enrollment in these schools and support the Board of Education goal which ensures every child is comfortable going to school.