

## SY15-16 Attendance Zone/Boundary Changes Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. When will the new attendance zones (boundaries) go into effect?

In August 2014, the Mayor and Chancellor approved and adopted updated attendance zones and feeder patterns. Information on the changes was sent home with DCPS students and mailed to affected or reassigned addresses. The new attendance zones will go into effect next school year (SY15-16) with extensive phase-in (grandfathering) policies that are meant to help ease the transition for many families. For more information on phase-in policies please see question #2.

### 2. How will attendance zone (boundary) changes affect my children?

#### For students currently attending their zoned (in boundary) DCPS school:

- If your address was reassigned into a different school's attendance zone, your child has the right to continue at their current school AND, starting in school year (SY) 2015-16, will also have the right to attend the new school to which your address has been reassigned. If you decide to enroll in your newly assigned school, then you give up your right to attend your current school and would need to apply through the out-of-boundary process if you want to reenroll.

**EXAMPLE:** If your address was reassigned from Stanton ES to Garfield ES, your child has the right to stay at Stanton ES through 5<sup>th</sup> grade OR you may send him/her to Garfield ES starting in 2015-16 and give up your right to attend Stanton ES.

- If your address was reassigned into a different school's attendance zone and one of your children is attending the currently zoned school, then the non-attending sibling may EITHER attend the currently zoned school as long as their brother or sister is enrolled at the school at the time of their entry OR attend the newly assigned school.

**EXAMPLE:** The Smith family lives in the Stanton ES attendance zone, and they have two children – Claudia and Jennifer. Their address was reassigned from the Stanton ES attendance zone to the Garfield ES zone. Claudia attends 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Stanton ES and Jennifer is 2 years old and has not started public school yet. Starting in SY2015-16, Jennifer (the 2 year old) will have the right to attend Stanton ES, as long as Claudia is still enrolled at Stanton ES. Both Claudia and Jennifer also have the right to attend Garfield.

#### For students currently attending a DCPS school that is NOT their zoned school:

- Your child has the right to continue attending his/her current out-of-boundary DCPS school through the final grade level offered by the school AND, starting in SY 2015-16, will also have the right to attend the newly assigned DCPS school.

#### For students NOT currently attending a DCPS school and who DO NOT have a sibling in a DCPS school:

- Starting in SY 2015-16, your child will have the right to attend only the newly assigned DCPS school.

**EXAMPLE:** The Jones family lives in the Tubman ES zone, and their only child, Cecilia, currently attends a public charter elementary school. Their address was reassigned from the Tubman ES zone to the H.D. Cooke ES zone. Starting in SY 2015-16, Cecilia's school of right will be H.D. Cooke ES, she no longer has a right to Tubman ES.

### 3. How will changes to the feeder pathways to middle and high school affect my children?

If your zoned elementary school is being re-assigned to a new middle or high school feeder school, starting in SY15-16:

- All students transitioning to 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade in SY2015-16, SY2016-17, SY2017-18 will have the right to attend their current (SY14-15) feeder pathway OR the newly designated next-level school in the geographic feeder pathway.
- All students transitioning to 6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade in SY2018-19 and beyond will have the right to attend their newly designated next-level school in the feeder pathway, unless they have a sibling enrolled in their next-level school in their current (SY14-15) feeder pathway at the time of transition.

**EXAMPLE:** In SY 2015-16, Johnnie is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Eaton ES, which has been reassigned to feed into Hardy MS, rather than into Deal MS. Johnnie's sister, Jane, is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in SY1015-16. Johnnie is transitioning to sixth grade in SY2017, and if he continues at Eaton he will have the right to attend either Deal or Hardy. Jane is expected to transition to 6<sup>th</sup> grade in SY2019. If Johnnie is still enrolled in Deal in SY2019-20 when Jane is ready to start middle school, Jane will also have the right to attend either Deal or Hardy.

- If your newly designated DCPS zoned school is a school that is not yet open, your child will retain his/her current zone rights and feeder-pathway rights only until the new school opens.

**EXAMPLE:** Families re-assigned to the new MacFarland MS will continue to have rights to the middle school or PK-8 school assigned to their address until MacFarland MS opens. Once MacFarland MS opens, these families will only have a geographic right to attend MacFarland MS.

### 4. What is the difference between feeder pattern changes and attendance zone changes?

Currently, DCPS designates a middle and high school "feeder school" into which a student's current DCPS school feeds. This means that 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are given the right to attend the designated middle school. Similarly, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are given the right to attend the designated high school. To see the list of feeder schools for SY14-15 please click [HERE](#). The current feeder system is a right that is based on the school the child attends and is not determined by the home address of that child.

A child's zoned (in-boundary) school is solely based on their home address. Currently every home address has an assigned elementary, middle and high school. Currently there are some instances where multiple assigned schools exist at the same grade level, and there is no alignment between the rights a family has based on their designated feeder pattern and their home address. A family could live in-zone for a middle school and have a feeder right to another middle school. Similarly, a family could live in-zone for an elementary and middle school that is not part of

the same feeder pattern. The new attendance zones and geographic feeder patterns are now aligned – which means that a family’s zoned elementary, middle, and high school are also linked as a geographic feeder pattern.

**EXAMPLE:** The Greenberg family currently lives in-boundary for Oyster-Adams EC, Deal MS and Wilson HS. Oyster-Adams serves grade PK – 8 and feeds into Wilson HS. Their home was re-zoned for Oyster-Adams EC and Wilson HS. They no longer have multiple rights to Deal and Oyster-Adams for middle school. Judi is currently a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Oyster-Adams EC and has no older siblings. Next year (SY15-16) Judi will only have a right to attend Oyster-Adams EC for 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**EXAMPLE:** The Smith family currently lives in-boundary for Eaton, Deal, and Wilson. Their only child, Aaron, is an out-of-boundary 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at Stoddert ES. Their home address has been rezoned for Eaton, Hardy and Wilson. Eaton currently feeds Deal, but their feeder pattern has changed to Hardy. Eaton students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in SY14-15 will maintain their right to attend Deal. Since Aaron doesn’t attend Eaton, he is not covered by the phase-in policies. When Aaron is ready to transition to middle school, he will have a right to attend Hardy.

## 5. How will the new attendance zones impact the My School DC common lottery?

The lottery application for SY15-16 opens on December 15, 2014 at [www.myschooldc.org](http://www.myschooldc.org). Any family who wishes to enter PK3 or PK4, an out-of-boundary DCPS school, a selective DCPS HS, or a public charter school must submit an application through the My School DC (MSDC) lottery. The lottery system will reflect the rights families have to DCPS zoned schools, based on the updated boundaries approved and released in August 2014. The lottery application will also reflect the extensive phase-in (grandfathering) policies that allow many families to maintain their current rights to schools.

## 6. Besides new attendance zones, there are other student assignment policies that were adopted by the Mayor. When will those policies go into effect?

Not all of the recommended policies will go into effect next school year (SY15-16). To see the summary of changes for SY15-16 please visit: <http://www.dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/boundaries>.

## 7. If I have questions about the changes and how this impacts my family, who can I contact?

There are multiple resources available to help you understand the impact of the attendance zone changes. They include:

- Visiting the School Finder tool on [myschooldc.org](http://myschooldc.org) to search for your assigned school (available no later than November 15, 2014)
- Email [ChancellorsResponseTeam@dc.gov](mailto:ChancellorsResponseTeam@dc.gov)
- Call 202-442-5885