

## BOARD BRIEF

Date: November 5, 2021

BOARD INFORMATION:   X  

MEETING PREPARATION:       

**FROM:** Julie A. Crawford, Ed.D., Chief of Student Services and Equity

**THROUGH:** Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** The Honorable Meagan L. Alderton, Chair, and  
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

**TOPIC:** Newly-Enrolled Students Return to their Boundary Schools

**ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:**

- Goal 1: Systemic Alignment
- Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
- Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support
- Goal 4: Strategic Resource Allocation
- Goal 5: Family and Community Engagement

**SY 2021-2022 FOCUS AREA:**

Focus Area 1: Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery

**FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITY:**

Implementation of 2025 Strategic Plan  
Implementation of Equity Audit of School Board Policies

**SUMMARY:**

Each year a number of students are capacity reassigned to attend a school other than their boundary school due to physical capacity of the school and, at times, staffing challenges. This year the number of newly-enrolled (fall 2021) students who have been capacity transferred has had a significant impact on transportation and effective bus routing. Since enrollment numbers were recently updated for state reporting, ACPS staff conducted a detailed review to determine available space where newly enrolled students could return to their boundary school. This movement is in line with the School Board's philosophy and Policy JC/JCD that ACPS students should attend the closest school with capacity at that grade level. Please note that not all students who have been capacity reassigned will be able to return to the boundary school. The decision on who is being moved was based on the available spaces. It should also be noted that the majority of these students are new to ACPS and therefore have not been attending the current school for an extended period of time.

## BOARD BRIEF

The Departments of Facilities and Operations, Student Services and Equity, Technology Services and Teaching, Learning and Leadership have worked collaboratively with school administrators to provide student information and offer supportive services to allow for a smooth transition for each student. Allowing students to return to their boundary school will benefit students and ACPS in the following ways:

- Allows our students and families to come back to their zoned school and connect with their neighborhood community
- Improves the students' transportation experience, as it reduces student bus ride time from 35 minutes or more to 25 minutes or less
- Minimizes confusion for families that see students in boundary walk zones provided school bus transportation
- Increases transportation efficiency by improving arrival time for afternoon secondary runs and reduces the number of bus runs

School administrators will receive a list of the students returning to their boundary school. The non-boundary school the student is currently attending will contact the family via phone to notify them that the boundary school has availability and the student will be transitioning to their zoned school. These communications are expected to take place this upcoming week, and it is anticipated that students will transition to the boundary school upon return from Thanksgiving break.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Each year the School Board is presented with capacity reassignment data as a part of the transfer report presentation. Capacity reassignments often result in students riding the bus for longer periods of time and not being able to be as involved with the community events through the zoned school closest to the family's residence. In previous years, as capacity becomes available for students, schools reach out to families to request a return to the boundary school. Because of the changes in enrollment this year, ACPS is able to return a larger number of students to their boundary school which has the secondary benefit of reducing the number of bus routes to non-zoned schools.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review this information on the process of returning capacity reassigned students to their boundary school.

### **IMPACT:**

By returning students who have been capacity reassigned to their boundary schools, ACPS is complying with School Board Policy JC/JCD and related regulations. This return will also significantly improve the efficiency of transportation routes throughout the school division.

### **CONTACT:**

Dr. Julie A. Crawford, [julie.crawford@acps.k12.va.us](mailto:julie.crawford@acps.k12.va.us)