

My name is Daniel Mehaffey. Our family lives just south of Monroe Avenue. Our daughter attends Jefferson-Houston. We are Jaguars because we live in the district and we took a chance. As it turns out, we like the girl our daughter is becoming under the roof of the new building, the friends she makes within its walls, and the knowledge that she carries out its doors. And not for nothing, we like ourselves as Jaguar parents, too.

My wife and I aren't naïve. We know the test scores at Jefferson-Houston and we know the socio-economic breakdown of those scores. They show how our city is failing students at the margins. We know that Jefferson-Houston has a disproportionately high level of students at the margins. The Jefferson-Houston zone, as both drawn and practiced, exacerbates the problem.

Because we know these things, we are surprised that the Jefferson-Houston district remains unchanged. Even during a very public three year improvement plan for Jefferson-Houston, the overlapping redistricting conversation has produced maps for Jefferson-Houston, Maury, and Lyles Crouch that look exactly like they did at the start of the process. This is a disservice to the school and our city.

If we fail to redraw lines for Jefferson-Houston as part of this process, I encourage the committee to at least honor the lines that do exist. Please design a grandfathering process that puts students in the zones we have agreed on.

Thank you.