

BOARD MEMO

Date: June 15, 2023

For ACTION ____

For INFORMATION X

Board Agenda: Yes X

No ____

FROM: Dr. Marcia Jackson, Chief of Student Services and Equity
Dr. Alicia Hart, PMP, Chief of Facilities and Operations
Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Chief Technology Officer

THROUGH: Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent of Schools

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

TOPIC: SY 2023-2024 Parent Choice in Student Capacity Reassignments

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

FY 2023 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Transportation

Communications Support

SUMMARY:

In accordance with School Board policy JC/JCD and regulation JC-R/JCD-R, ACPS is to notify families of capacity reassigned students of the choice to return to their boundary school if capacity is available the following school year. For the 2023-24 school year, ACPS will provide the families of 72 students the option of remaining enrolled at their current school or moving to their boundary school as capacity has become available. In either case, transportation will be provided as long as adequate drivers are available to transport students who opt to remain at the school outside of their boundary school. If drivers are unavailable to transport students, families will be given the option of providing their own transportation if they opt to remain at the school outside of their boundary school. Impacted families will be notified during the week of June 19, 2023.

During the 2023-24 school year, ACPS will examine the capacity reassignments in relationship to other important factors (i.e., bus driver staffing, amount of time students are spending riding buses to school, social emotional development, parent choice, class size caps) that affect students being a part of their zoned school community.

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BACKGROUND:

School Board policy JC/JCD and regulation JC-R/JCD-R address classroom capacity and outlines that students are transferred out of their boundary school if the grade level at their boundary school exceeds the classroom caps set by the Superintendent. As a result, there are approximately 200 students who are enrolled each year in a non-boundary school due to grade level capacity at their boundary school being at capacity. The process of capacity transfers adds significant amounts of time to a student's morning and afternoon bus routes with some students spending 55 additional minutes each way to attend their capacity reassignment school. Additionally, the impact on budget and transportation resources is significant, especially in light of the national shortage of bus drivers. According to policy JC/JCD and regulation JC-R/JCD-R, ACPS is required to evaluate elementary capacity in the fall and at the end of each school year to determine which schools now have capacity for transferred students to return.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the information pertaining to family choice notification regarding capacity reassignments.

IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

None

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