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## **Background and Key Objectives**

With the support of the Board of Education, and Frederick County Government, the Frederick County Public Schools are in the midst of a capital plan to add capacity to support increasing enrollment and to improve facilities. While the facilities plan calls for a new Jordan Springs elementary school (500 student capacity) by Fall 2020, there is also a need to address overcrowding at Redbud Run and Stonewall Elementary Schools for the Fall 2021 school year. This project will be done with the primary objectives of creating a new zone and relieving overcrowding these two schools, while keeping the overall impact at a minimum.

## **FCPS Student Realignment Study Criteria**

Frederick County Public Schools has developed a body of criteria to guide this elementary school rezoning study. The following criteria are not listed in any particular order of importance:

- **Balance building utilization.**
  - Schools should be at similar percentages of capacity when the next elementary school is planned to be opened. Allow for increasing attendance in high growth areas. Keep future capital projects in mind.
  - Building utilization does not include the use of portable or semi-permanent spaces in the total building capacity.
  - Adjust boundaries in a way that avoids additional rezoning before the next elementary school opens.
  - Economic, cultural, and ethnic diversity should be considered to ensure schools are inclusionary and not adversely affected by realignment decisions.
  - Special needs populations should be evenly distributed across all schools in a manner consistent with sound educational practices.
- **Minimize impact on students.**
  - Minimize the number of students impacted by a boundary adjustment.
  - Establish a clean feeder pattern system; reduce the number of schools at the next level any single school feeds. When splits are necessary, the attendance zone should be divided in a balanced manner, so that students continue to the next level with their peers. Eliminate existing splits and/or improve split balance.
  - Minimize the number of times any single child must be moved by rezoning during their school career.
- **Minimize impact on communities.**
  - Minimize the division of clearly identifiable community components (i.e. villages, settled areas, etc.) Keep all students from each neighborhood/community together at the same school.
- **Maximize student transportation efficiency.**
  - Account for school bus routes when determining a boundary adjustment.
  - Minimize travel times and costs. Students should be assigned to the school closest to their homes when possible.
  - Use major roads and natural boundaries when feasible to define attendance zones. Minimize the number of students crossing major intersections and other barriers to maximize their safety and security. Contain bus routes within natural boundaries to avoid traffic delays and late arrivals.
  - Make all effort to establish contiguous attendance zones. Avoid creating satellite zones, which are not connected to the primary attendance zone. Attempt to eliminate existing satellite zones.

## **Public Information Session Survey**

From September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 through midnight September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019, an online survey will be available to provide insight on the public's thoughts about the DRAFT Options. This survey is not intended to gauge which option gets the most votes from the public. The best feedback is constructive comments regarding changes that better adhere to the project objectives and rezoning criteria. The online survey can be found on [www.fcpsvare zoning.com](http://www.fcpsvare zoning.com), or by scanning the QR Code below.

