

McLean County, IL Unit District No. 5 2025-26 Enrollment Planning

Background Report

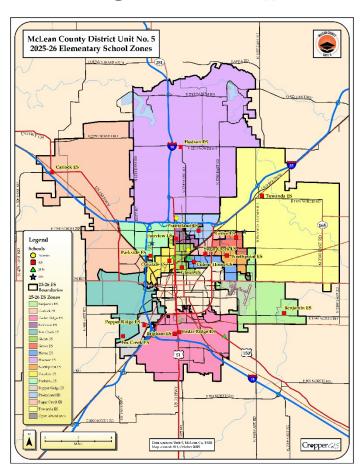






Table of Contents

Table of Contents	
Background and Key Objectives	1
Enrollment Planning Criteria	1
Enrollment Planning Process	2
Phase 1. Data Collection	2
Phase 2. Data Analysis / Assimilation	2
Phase 3. Options Development	2
Phase 4. Internal Planning Team and Public Engagement	2
Stakeholder Responsibilities	3
Process Timeline	4
Map Analysis	
Mapping Conventions	5
Series 1: Current Zone Mapping	6
Series 2: Planning Block Mapping	7_
Online Mapping	8
Appendices	
Appendix A: Live-Attend Analysis	9
Appendix B: Planning Block Maps	13
Appendix C: Enrollment and Utilization	39





Background and Key Objectives

McLean County Unit District 5 is undertaking an enrollment planning study to achieve the following objectives:

- To evaluate school utilization and programming across the district at all levels (Early Learning, Elementary, Junior High, and High School), and recommend potential boundary and facility changes that achieve the best utilization of Unit 5 schools.
- While utilization is the focus of the effort, the district also wants to ensure that the impacts on other criteria, such as feeder patterns, proximity, and demographics, are taken into account.

The outcome of this process will inform an enrollment plan for the district, with implementation scheduled for the 2026–2027 school year.

This background report was prepared to inform the internal planning team called together to lead this enrollment planning process. This report will inform team members in two ways:

- 1. It will expand the extensive knowledge each team member already has of Unit District 5.
- 2. It will help team members share a message with the community that is consistent and accurate.

Unit District 5 contracted Cropper GIS to facilitate this process. Cropper GIS has significant experience facilitating community-based enrollment planning processes, having assisted school districts of all sizes in Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, and many other states.

The "GIS" in Cropper GIS stands for "geographic information systems." Geographic information systems consist of people, computer hardware, and software. GIS is designed to store, analyze, and output geographic data to support decision making. Maps are the most common GIS output. Because school attendance zones are geographic in nature, GIS is a powerful tool promoting efficient and effective decision making when conducting enrollment planning processes.

Enrollment Planning Process Criteria

Cropper GIS has developed a body of criteria to guide this student enrollment planning process. The following criteria are not listed in any order of importance and the recommended plan will be one that best adheres to these criteria as a whole as best as possible:

- **Balance school facility utilization** Make every effort to have equitable utilization (where possible) across the district and in accordance with school capacities and funded allotment ratios in accordance with state law. Make efficient use of available space.
- Account for future growth Allow for increasing attendance in high growth areas.
- Close Proximity Students should be assigned to the school within the closest proximity to their homes where possible.
- Maximize busing efficiencies in transportation of students Make every effort to account for transportation (school bus and car rider), parent commuting patterns, balance busing travel time, and costs.
- Minimize impact on students Attempt to minimize the number of students impacted when making boundary adjustments.
- Consider economic, cultural, and ethnic diversity Ensure schools are inclusionary and not adversely affected by enrollment planning decisions.
- Make every effort to establish contiguous zones Avoid creating zones that are not connected to the primary attendance zone, where possible.
- Use major roads and natural boundaries wherever feasible to define attendance zones Minimize the number of students who need to cross major intersections and other barriers to maximize the safety and security of students and optimize transportation efficiency by containing bus routes within natural boundaries wherever possible to avoid traffic delays and late arrivals.

Enrollment Planning Process

Cropper 4/5



While the rationale behind the enrollment planning process is presented in the Background section, it is important to reiterate that:

- This process is driven by a team of experts within the district but with extensive public participation.
- The process will be facilitated by an outside consultant.
- Unit 5 staff will provide data and technical support to the internal planning team.
- Multiple forms of communication will be incorporated into the process.

This enrollment planning process has four phases:

- Phase 1. Data Collection
- Phase 2. Data Analysis / Assimilation
- Phase 3. Options Development
- Phase 4. Internal Planning Team and Public Engagement

Phase 1. Data Collection

Data availability and quality are central to this student enrollment planning process. Fortunately, Unit District 5 and McLean County GIS/planning offices have provided a comprehensive collection of system, city, and county data, including:

- A wide array of GIS data;
- Student enrollment data (historic and current);
- Current & planned school facility data;
- Pertinent System policies and procedures.

Data collection efforts have been underway through the fall, and information will continue to be collected throughout the enrollment planning process if it is deemed useful. As the process proceeds, internal planning team and general public members will provide additional information as they bring their experience and perspectives to the process. The public will also provide valuable feedback at the public information meetings and via the community survey that will follow. Finally, Unit 5 and Cropper GIS staff will provide data to the internal planning team upon request throughout the life of the process.

Phase 2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

Once data is collected, it is necessary to integrate it into GIS to enable quick and efficient analysis and options development. Data assimilation was completed quickly and efficiently because Unit 5 already had some of the data in usable formats. Cropper GIS is also preparing a 10-year enrollment forecast that will help inform the district on long range enrollment trends.

Phase 3. Options Development

To expedite the process and empower the internal planning team, the best approach is to begin with a series of baseline enrollment planning options. These options will be developed with the enrollment planning criteria in mind. Baseline options will be shared with the internal planning team during their scheduled meetings. Once the options are presented the planning team may:

- Use or disregard the baseline options.
- Improve upon the baseline options.
- Develop new options from scratch.

Phase 4. Internal Planning Team

Noted in the timeline on page 4, the internal planning team will meet regularly from October 2025 through March 2026 to analyze data, review attendance zones, and develop zone options. At public information sessions in October, December, and February 2026, the work of the team will be shared, and community members will have an opportunity to discuss planning team work with staff and planning team members. Valuable information will also be gathered via a community survey that will take place after the December and February public information sessions.

2

Cropper 4/5



Stakeholder Responsibilities

Unit 5 seeks planning team and community engagement to achieve the key enrollment planning process objectives. The table below describes the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders that will be involved in the enrollment planning process.

Outline of Stakel	nolder Responsibilities
Consultant	 Schedule and facilitate internal planning team meetings. Communicate updates with planning team, including updated handout and meeting schedule logistics. Conduct public meetings to solicit feedback related to draft options that are under consideration. Support the district in providing materials such as presentations, handouts, and online interactive maps for the public's consumption. Coordinate and summarize online feedback received from general public and internal planning team.
Internal Planning Team	 Consists of key school district administrators including central office, transportation, planning, school principals, and board representation. Group will work to review draft options that are being developed in preparation to share with the district and public. Review input provided from the consultant and general public. regarding draft options and continue to modify maps with a focus on the best solution for all students as a whole. Recommend an enrollment plan that best meets the criteria for the district.
General Public	 Informed through website. Invited to submit comments and input throughout the entire process. Invited to participate in public information sessions (both virtual and in-person), and to provide input via surveys and online general feedback form.
Board of Education	 Charge internal planning team with its responsibilities. Identify questions the planning team is expected to answer. Advise staff and the process regarding policy related considerations. Vote on enrollment plan.



anner () S Revised: 10/27/2025



Enrollment Planning Process Timeline

The following page presents the enrollment planning process timeline. The timeline places a significant time commitment on internal planning team members from October 2025 through March 2026. Internal planning team members are expected to:

- Meet at least a few times a month throughout the duration of the enrollment planning process to analyze attendance zone options.
- Help facilitate two public information sessions by answering questions that the public may have about maps and statistics.

Process & Timeline for Enrollment Planning

	Sept.	Oct. 2025	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April
	2025	Oct. 2023	2025	2025	2026	2026	2026	2026
Data Collection								
Data Analysis / Assimilation								
Demographic Study Development								
Baseline Options Development								
Planning Team Work (1-2 meetings per month)								
	I							
Public Information Session #1 : Present Project Process, Criteria, Timeline, and Objectives to Community. Web-based meeting.		10/27 (Webinar)						
Public Information Session #2: Present DRAFT Facility Concepts to General Public for Comment/Feedback. Web-based meeting to review options and q/a at end of session.				12/10 (Webinar)				
Public Information Session #3: Present DRAFT Options to General Public for Comment/Feedback. On-site meeting to review options and gallery walk at end of session.						2/19 (On-site)		
Presentation of Final Recommendations to the Board of Education							3/18	
Board of Education Votes on Plan								4/15





Map Analysis

Maps provide the opportunity to examine physical and social geography and to discover relationships between places. Maps are included in Appendix B and are given brief analysis here. While this analysis is helpful, each planning team member is urged to closely analyze these maps and share their analysis with other planning team members. The local knowledge and personal insight that each planning team member brings to map analysis will add valuable perspective to this enrollment planning process.

Mapping Conventions

When analyzing the maps in Appendix B, keep in mind these common mapping conventions used in each map.



Each map will include a graphic scale bar to indicate distance between features. A graphic scale bar is very helpful to readers who download the background report and use a "zoom" function to examine a small area of a map in detail. Each map will also contain a North Arrow that will help the map viewers determine the direction.



Each map has a legend showing common symbology used in all maps and, sometimes, symbology unique to a single map. Common symbols are used for schools. Squares are elementary schools (red, in color copies). Triangles are middle schools (green, in color copies). Stars are high schools (blue, in color copies). In addition to school location symbology, the legend also shows the color of each individual zone in the map.



5

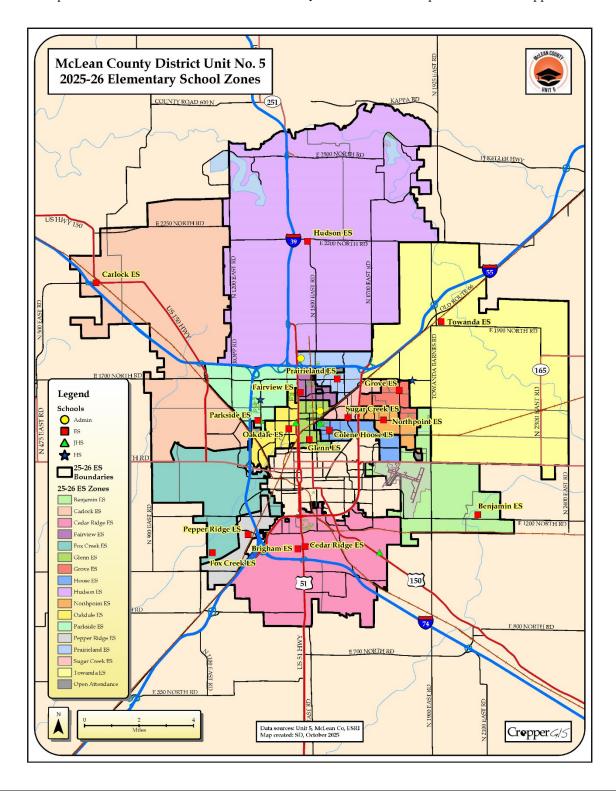
Cropper 4/5



Series 1: Current Zone Mapping

McLean County Unit District No. 5, IL, Elementary School Attendance Zones 2025-26

The image below depicts the current 2025-26 Unit District 5 elementary school zones. This map can be found in Appendix B.



6

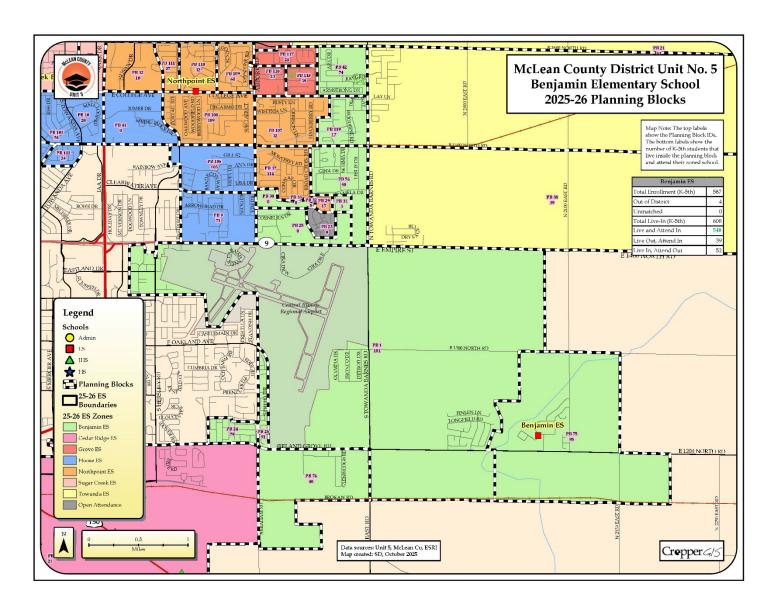
Cropper 415



Series 2: Planning Block Mapping

McLean County Unit District No. 5, IL, 2025-26 Elementary Planning Block Mapping

Map Series 2, located in Appendix B, shows each school zone within the Unit District 5. The labels in the planning blocks depict both the planning block ID number (on top) and the number of K-5th grade students that live in the planning block and attend their zoned school.



7





Online Mapping

In addition to the physical printed maps, Cropper GIS has also created an interactive online map service. This map service is available at:

https://croppermap.com/unit5/

Below are the basic components of this online mapping service for Unit District 5:

- 1. <u>Menu Options</u> Use these menus to interact with the map.
 - View School Zones: Use this menu to choose which school zone map to view.
 - Zoom to School Zones: Use this menu to zoom to a school zone.
 - **Legend:** This shows the active layers that are turned on within the map.
 - Print: Use this menu to format and print a map with a title.
- **2. Find Address:** Use this to search for an address and to determine school options.



- 3. Map Navigation: This is used to zoom in & out. If your mouse has a scroll wheel this will also zoom in and out. If you click on the map screen and drag the mouse it will pan the map.
- +



McLean Unit 5, IL

- **Basemaps:** Use this dropdown list to determine which basemap to have on in the background.
- 5. <u>Home Button:</u> Click on this button to zoom the map out to the district's full extent.
- 6. **GPS Location:** Click on this



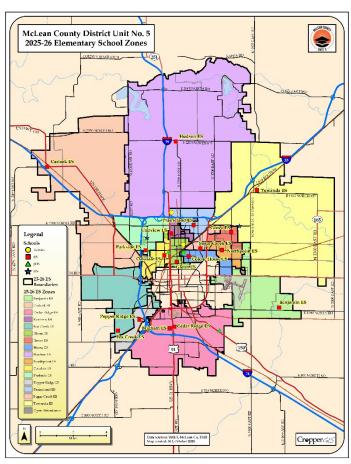
to determine your current location.





McLean County, IL Unit District No. 5 2025-26 Enrollment Planning

Appendix A: Live-Attend Analysis



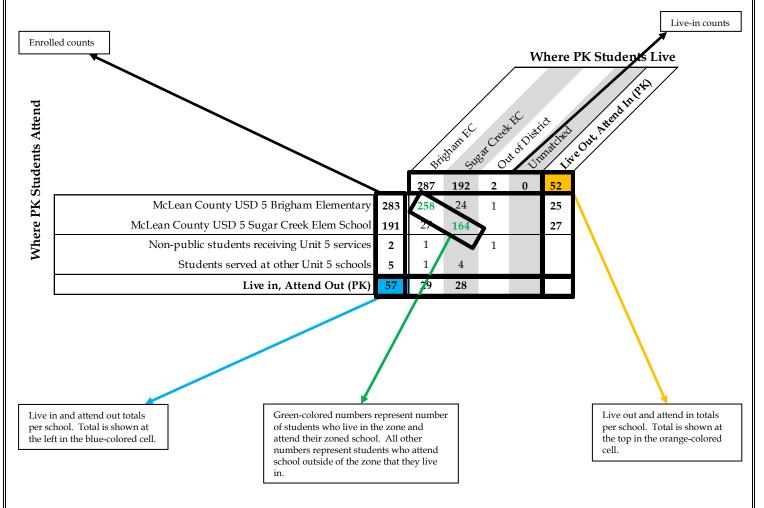




Live Attend Matrix

The table below provides details on the schools that students attend and the school zones where they live. The schools of attendance are listed on the left while the zones where students live are listed on the top line. This student data is from the September 30, 2025, Unit No. 5 2025-26 student database.

The first column of numbers to the right of the schools of attendance represents the number of students enrolled at that school. The first row of numbers below the zones where students live represents the total number of students living inside of that zone. The green-colored numbers represent the number of students who live in the zone and attend their zoned school. All other numbers represent students who attend school outside of the zone that they live in. The bottom row represents the number of students that "Live-In and Attend-Out" by school. The blue-colored cell shows the total number of students that "Live-in and Attend-Out". The farthest right column represents the number of students that "Live-Out and Attend-In" by school. The orange-colored cell shows the total number of students that "Live-Out and Attend-In".







Where K-5th Students Live

		\8 ⁱ	shight Co	atlack to	dar Rice.	itvitew fic	Clost	enn ES	ove is	ose its	idson F	nthpoit.	rdaler	ikide k	Prot Par	itielan.	gat cre	Wanda	OPAI US	OAAL	OAA3	OARA	ONAS US	OAA6	k of Div	inatche Liv
		600	92	437	291	305	169	480	361	196	425	393	319	314	403	235	188	6	138	1	29	0	0	25	3	752
McLean County USD 5 Benjamin Elem School	587	548		1					2		2	1					6		23					4		39
McLean County USD 5 Carlock Elem School	93		88		1	2							2													5
McLean County USD 5 Cedar Ridge Elem School	511	4		398	9	32	5		8		3	9	15	20	6	1								1		113
McLean County USD 5 Fairview Elem School	230	1			223							4	1		1											7
McLean County USD 5 Fox Creek Elementary School	258	2	2	5		237						4		8												21
McLean County USD 5 Glenn Elem School	263	7	1	1	2		143	2	4			39							64							120
McLean County USD 5 Grove Elementary School	476	2			2		3	458		1	1		1			3		5								18
McLean County USD 5 Colene Hoose Elem School	449	13		3	6	5	7	5	333	2	3	5	6	4	1	8	2	1	41		2			2		116
McLean County USD 5 Hudson Elem School	193	1			1					187											4					6
McLean County USD 5 Northpoint Elementary School	470	6			10			9	9		409	2	3		2	8	4		8							61
McLean County USD 5 Oakdale Elem School	348			7	8					3		293	26		2	4				1	1			3		55
McLean County USD 5 Parkside Elementary School	326	3	1	1	5	7	4	1	1	1		25	263	4	5	1								4		63
McLean County USD 5 Pepper Ridge Elementary School	322	9		12	2	16						4		275		1			2					1		47
McLean County USD 5 Prairieland Elementary School	433				7		4	1	2	2	2	2			383	4	1				22				3	47
McLean County USD 5 Sugar Creek Elem School	232			6	11	1	3	1	1			4				203								2		29
McLean County USD 5 Towanda Elem School	180	2		1											1		175							1		5
Non-public students receiving Unit 5 services	39	2		2	4	5		3	1		5	1	2	3	2	2	Ť							7		
Live in, Attend Out (K-5th)	592	52	4	39	68	68	26	22	28	9	16	100	56	39	20	32	13									1

Cropper 4/5

Where K-5th Students Attend



Where 6-8th Students Attend

Where 6-8th Students Live

Children His The Charles His Out of Thurst the

		614	812	746	585	10	2	157
McLean County USD 5 Chiddix Jr High School	670	591	17	34	27	1		79
McLean County USD 5 Evans Junior High School	784	3	775	2	2	2		9
McLean County USD 5 Kingsley Jr High School	699	5	1	682	9	2		17
McLean County USD 5 Parkside Jr High School	596	13	11	26	542	2	2	52
Non-public students receiving Unit 5 services	20	2	8	2	5	3		
Live in, Attend Out (6-8th)	167	23	37	64	43			

Where 9-12th Students Live

Where 9-12th Students Attend

ACHE ACHIES ON ON LINER

		2,047	1,523	25	1	167
McLean County USD 5 Normal Community High School	1,977	1,897	69	11		80
McLean County USD 5 Normal Community West High Schoo	1,491	81	1,403	6	1	87
McLean County USD 5 Eugene Field School	47	23	21	3		
McLean County USD 5 YBMC Charter Sch	17	9	8			
Non-public students receiving Unit 5 services	64	37	22	5		

120

Where PK Students Attend

Where PK Students Live

		/ 🔻	9			<u> </u>
		287	192	2	0	52
McLean County USD 5 Brigham Elementary	283	258	24	1		25
McLean County USD 5 Sugar Creek Elem School	191	27	164			27
Non-public students receiving Unit 5 services	2	1		1		
Students served at other Unit 5 schools	5	1	4			
Live in Attend Out (PK)	57	29	28			

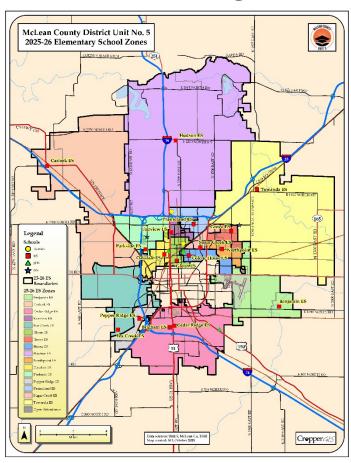
Live in, Attend Out (9-12th)



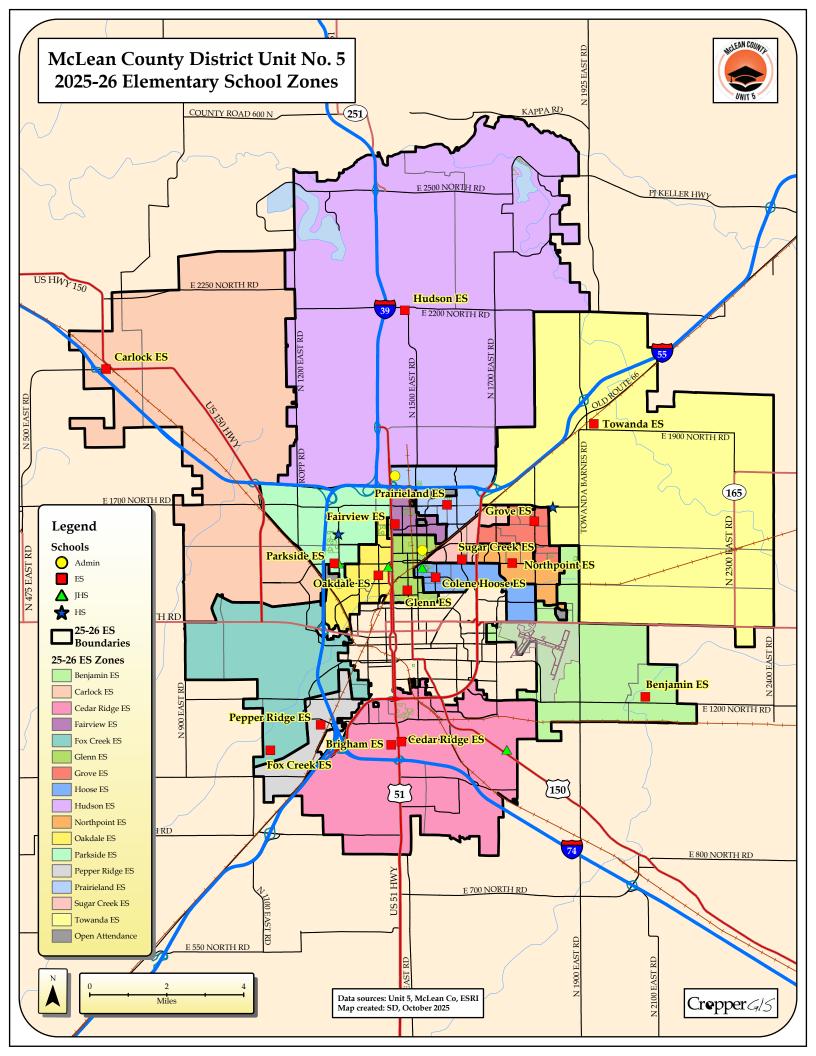


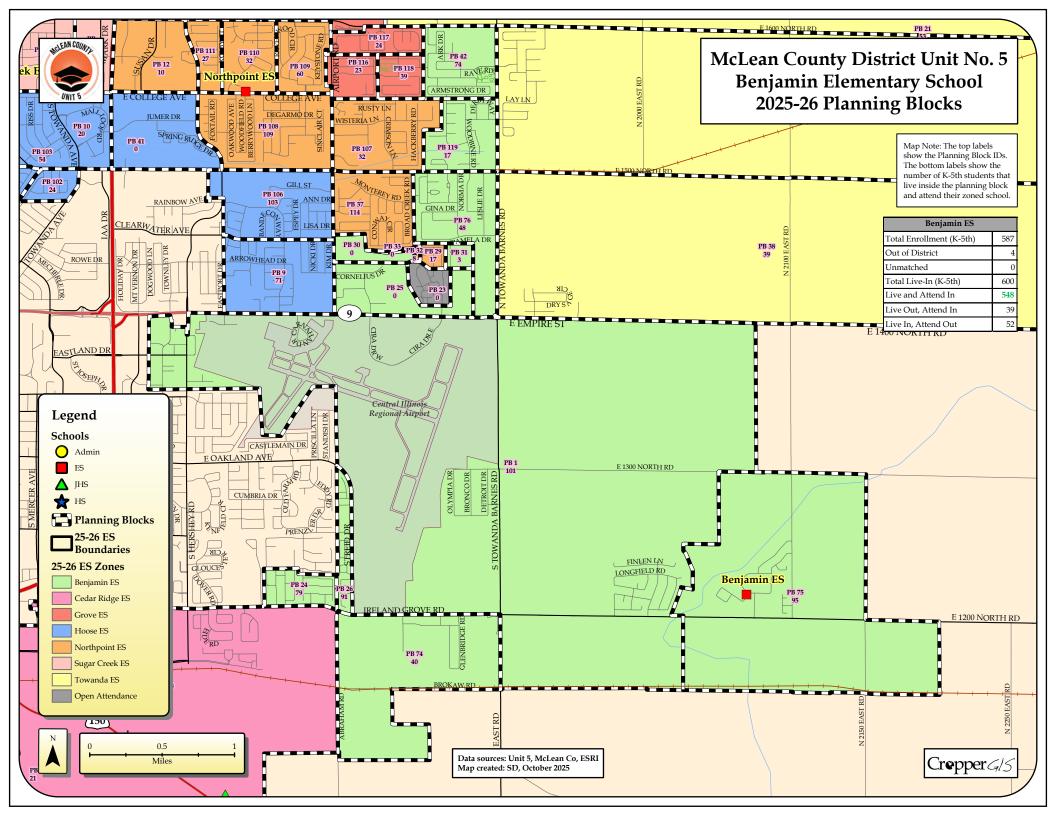
McLean County, IL Unit District No. 5 2025-26 Enrollment Planning

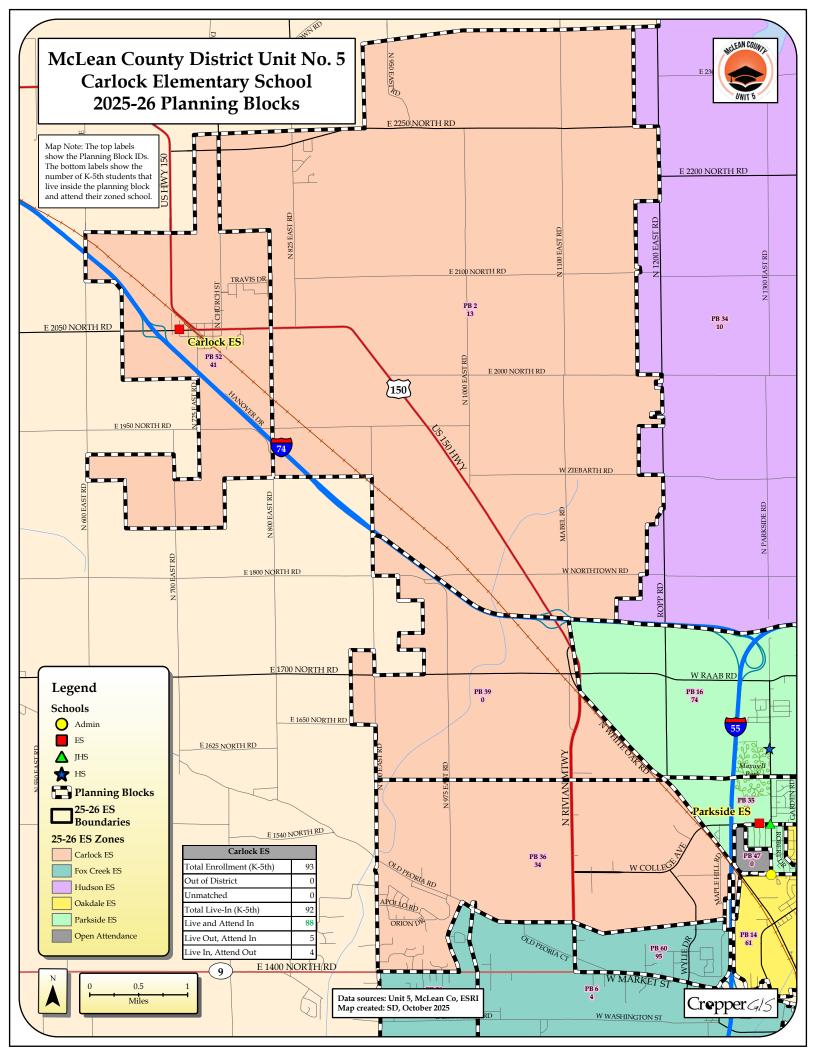
Appendix B: Planning Block Maps

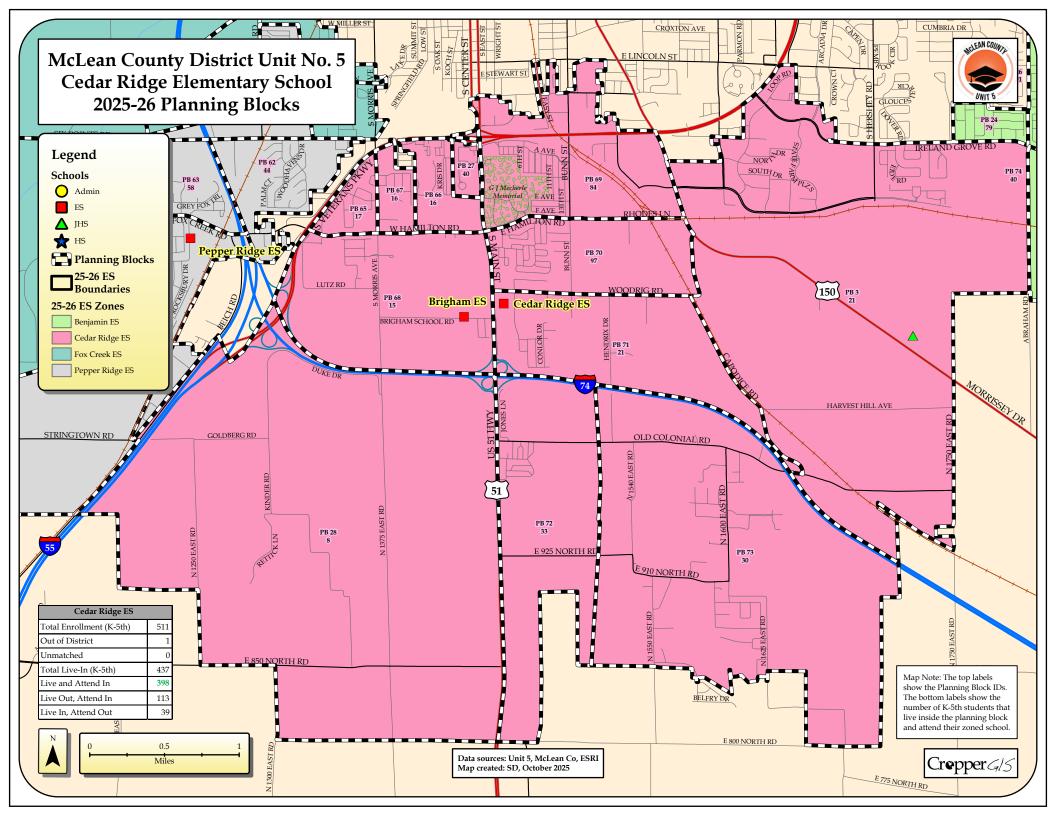


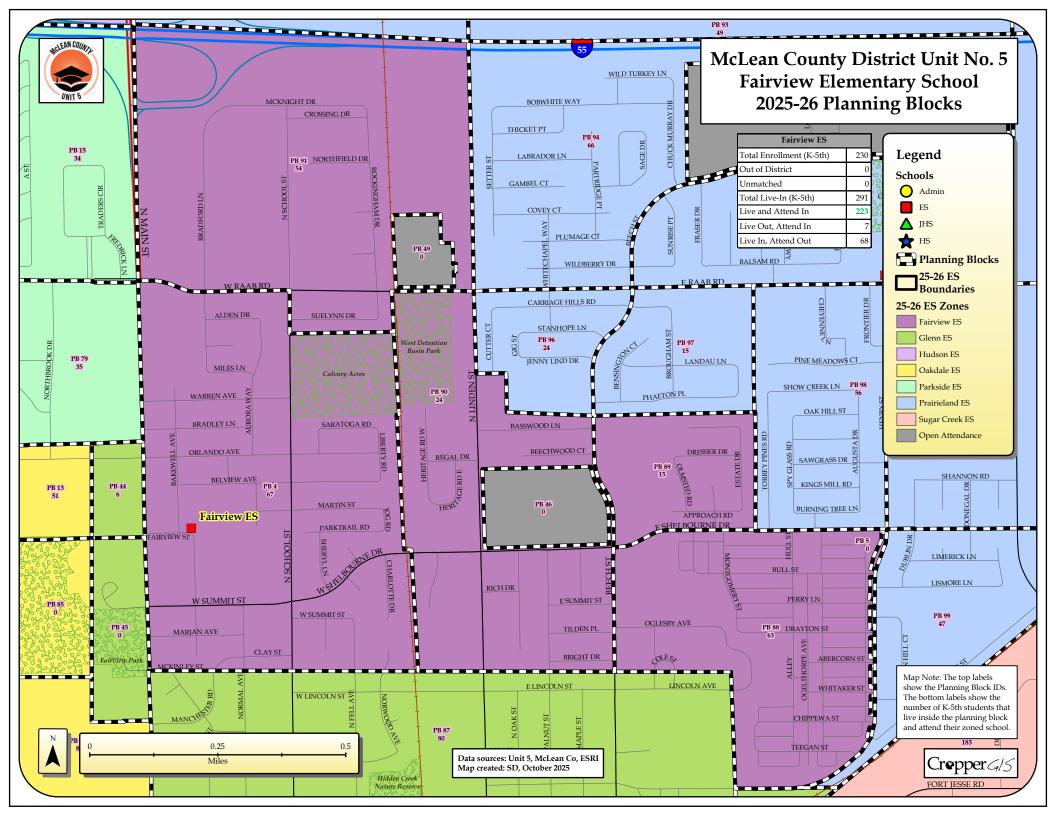


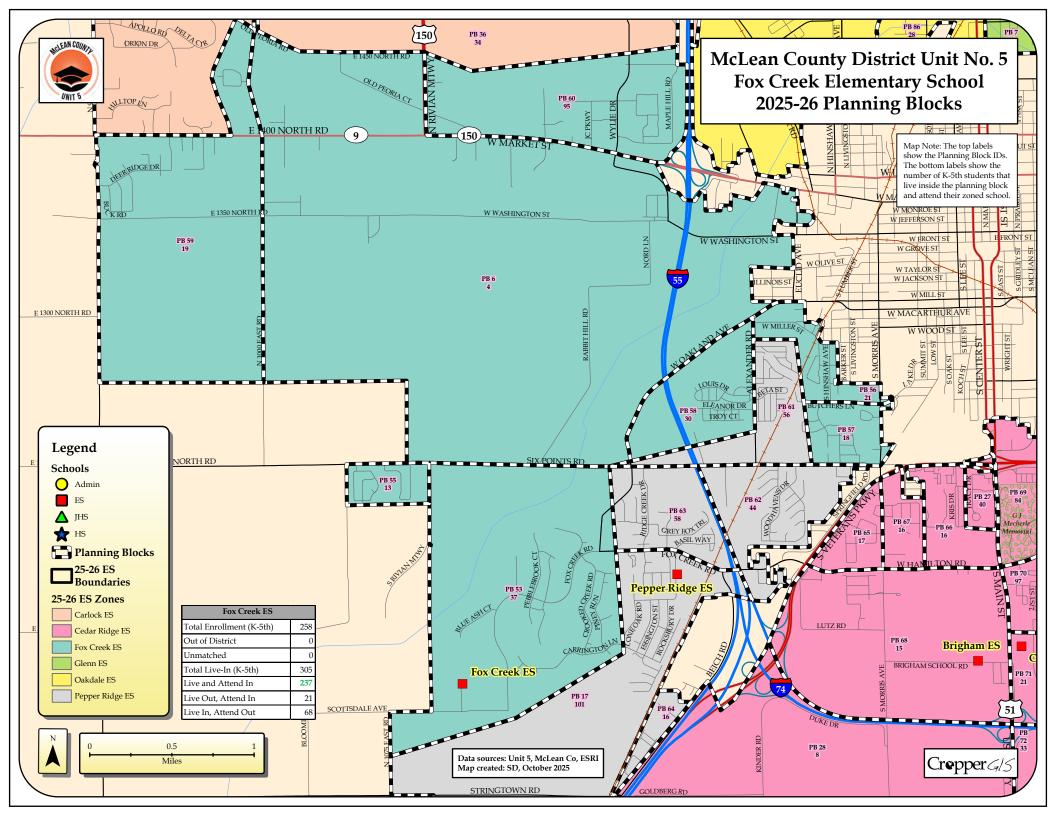


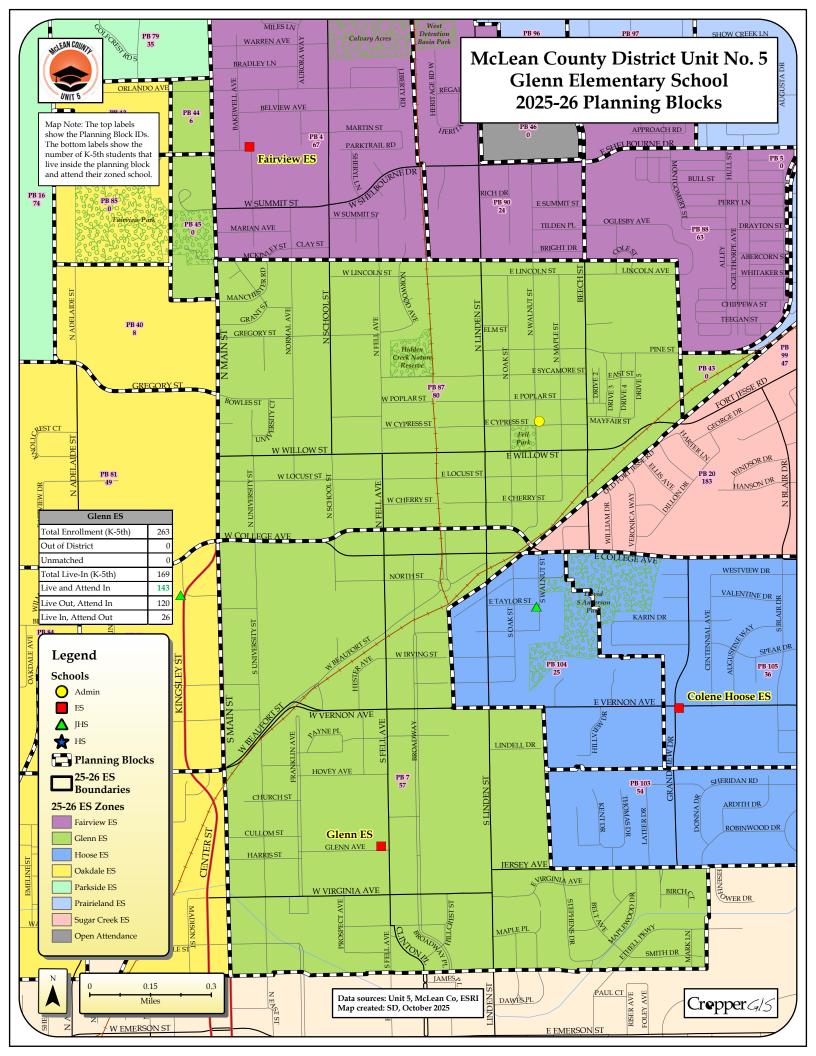


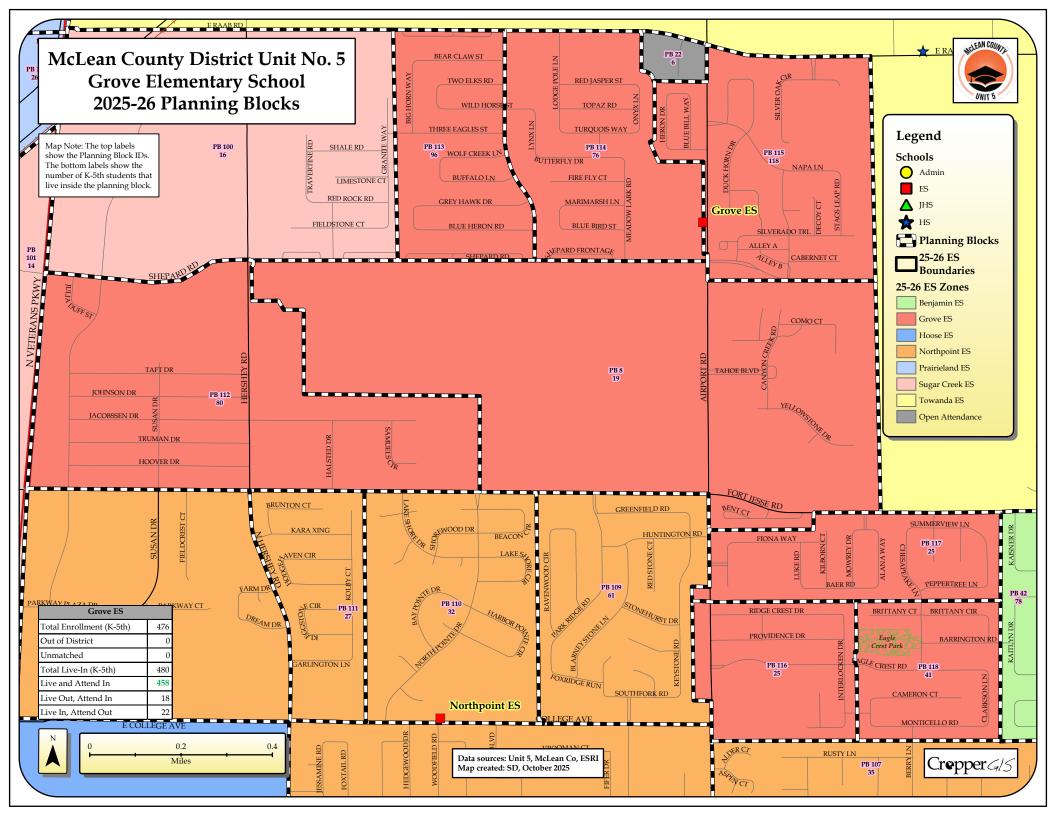


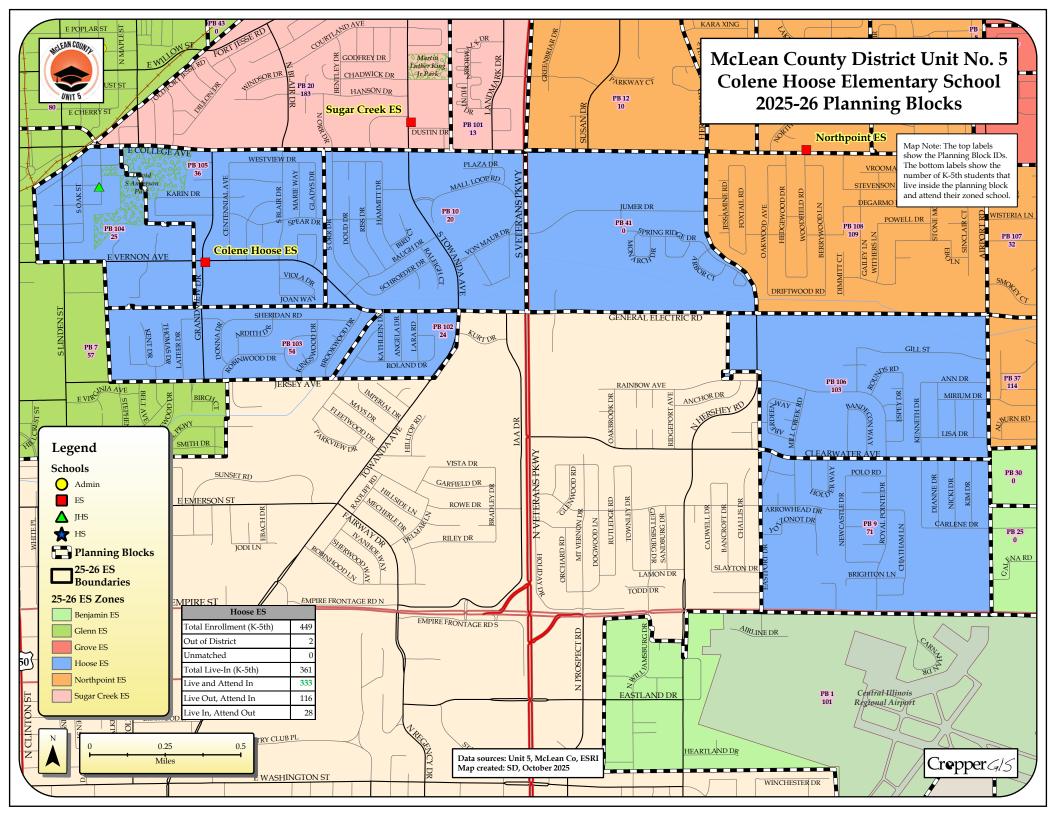


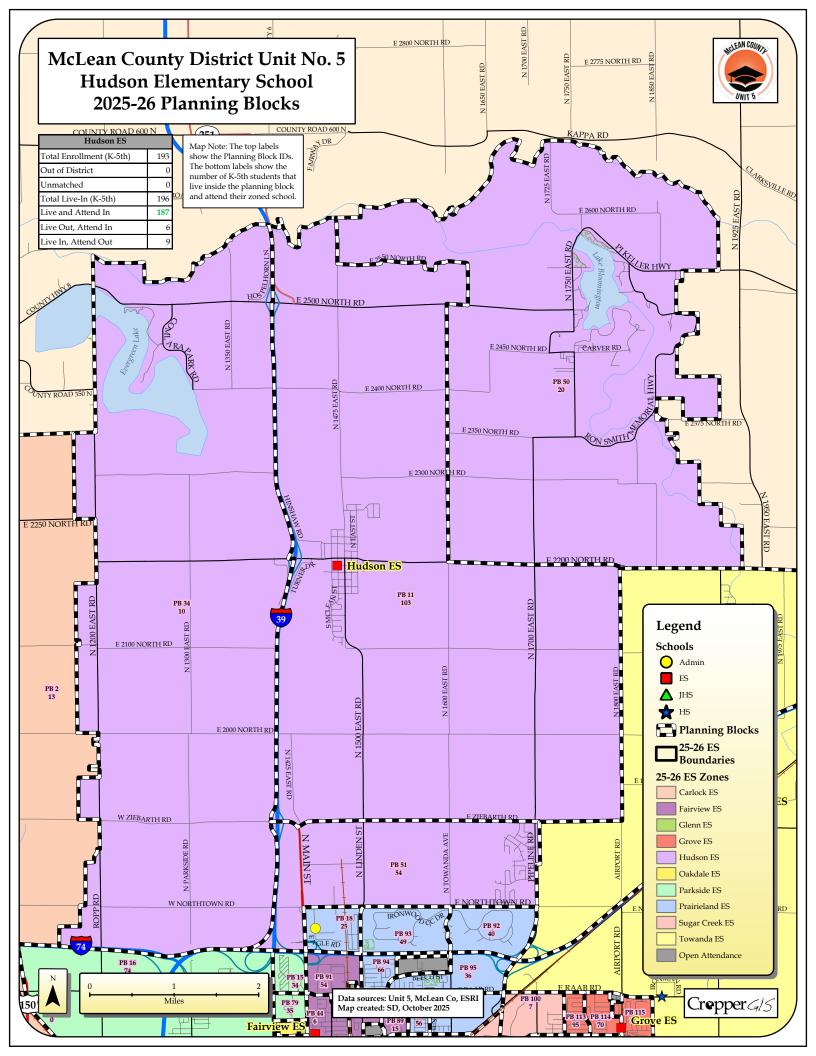


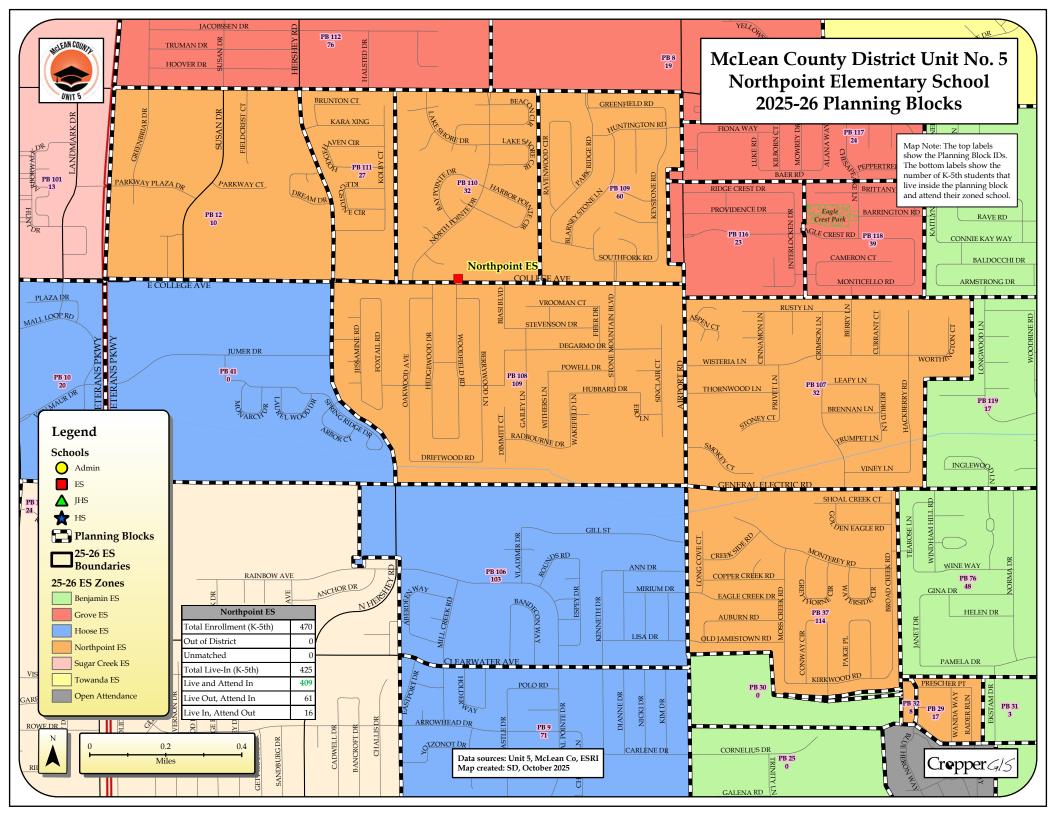


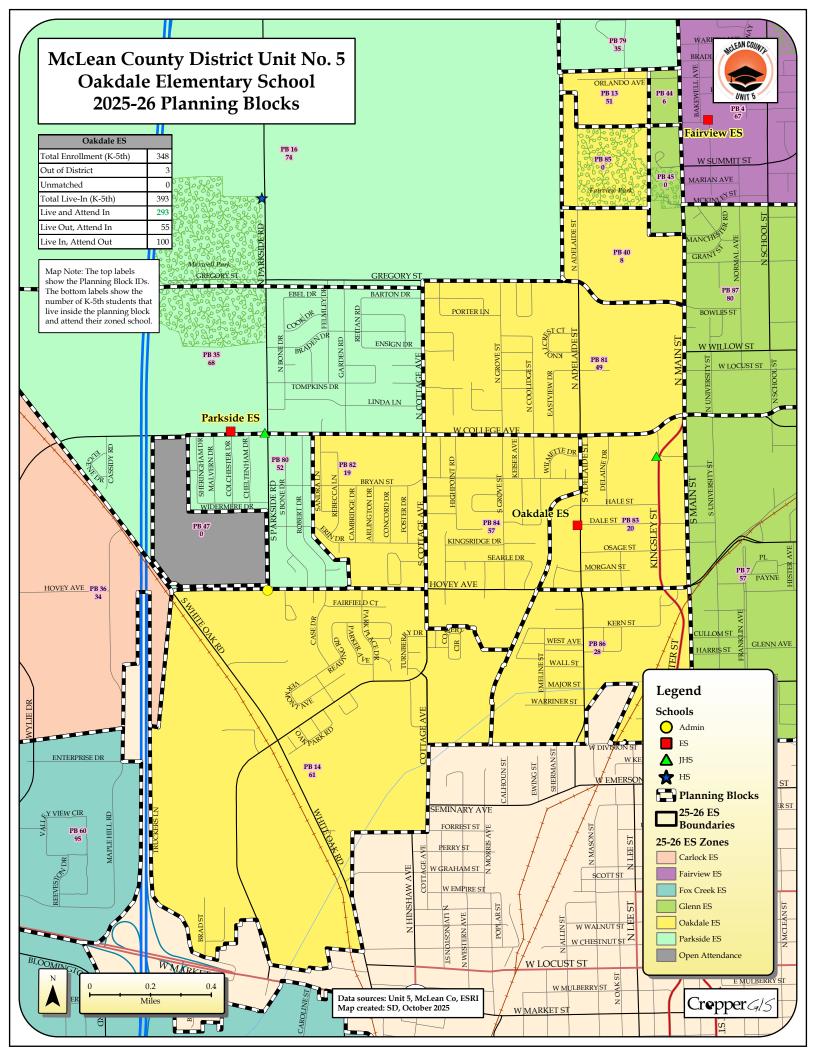


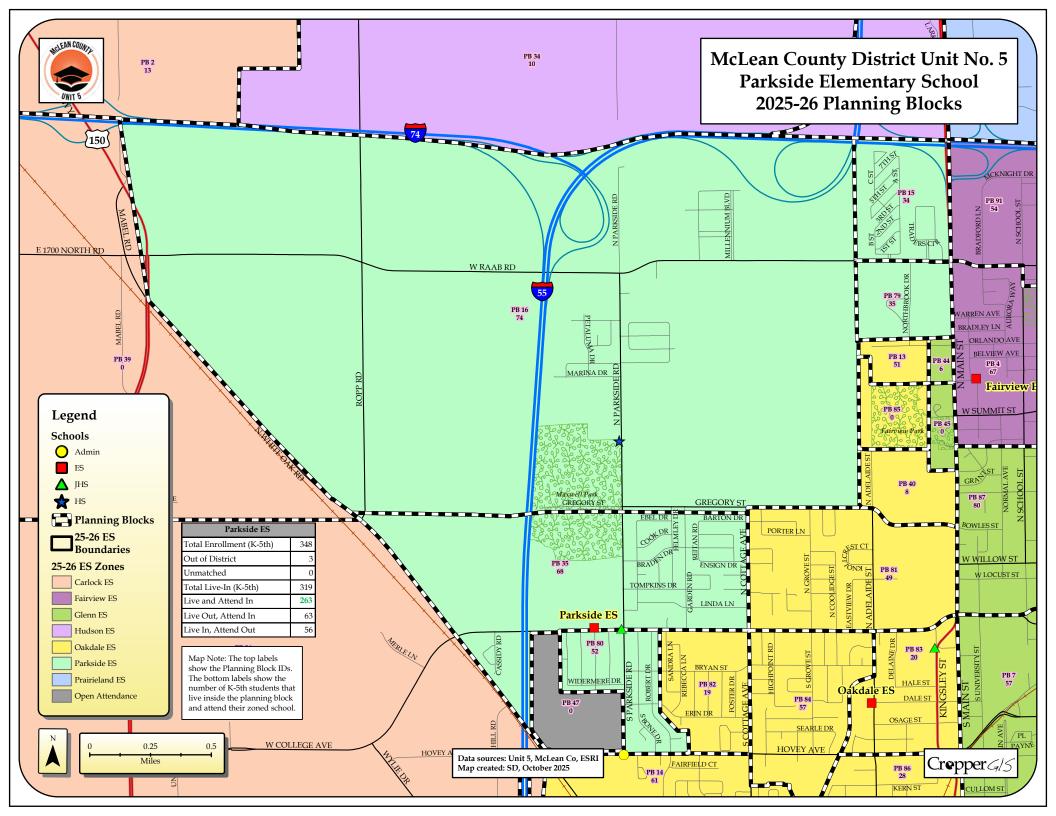


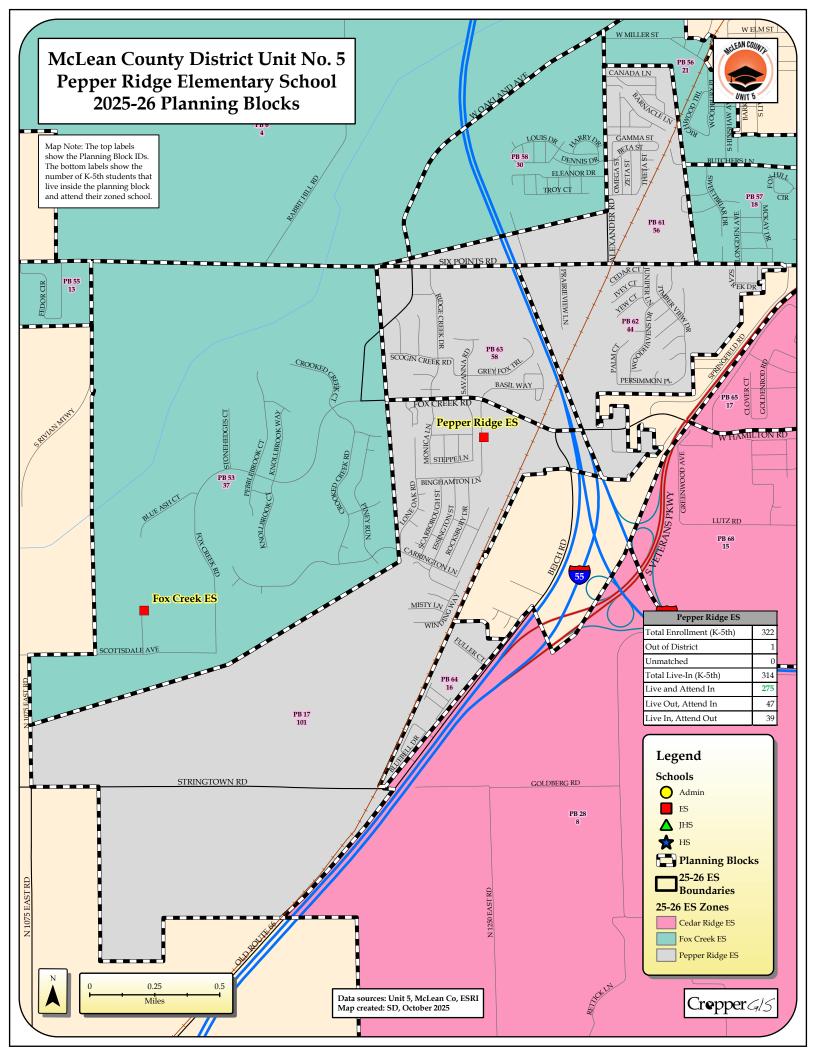


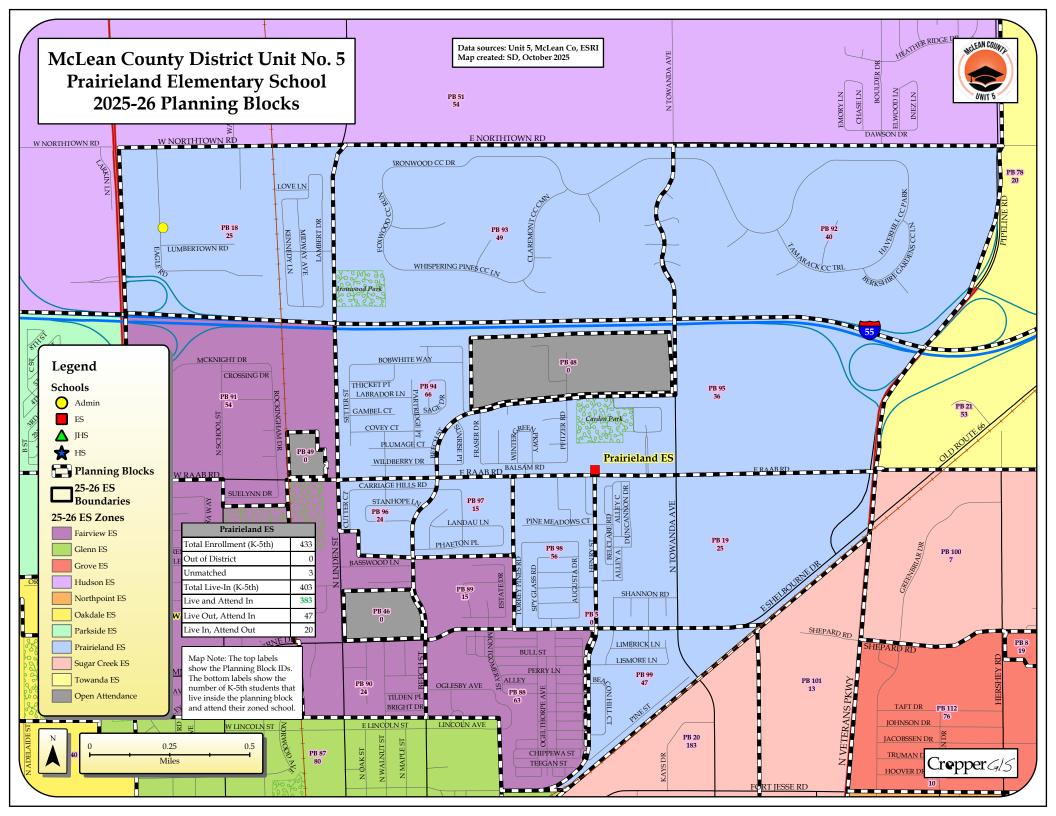


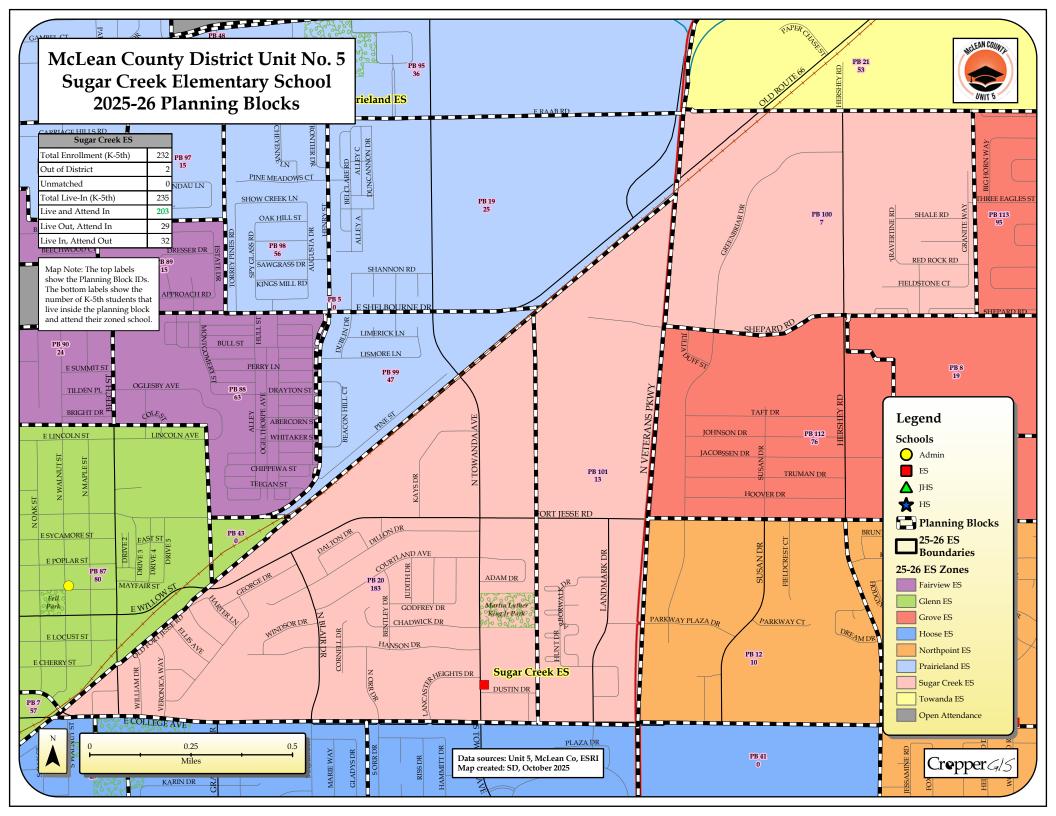


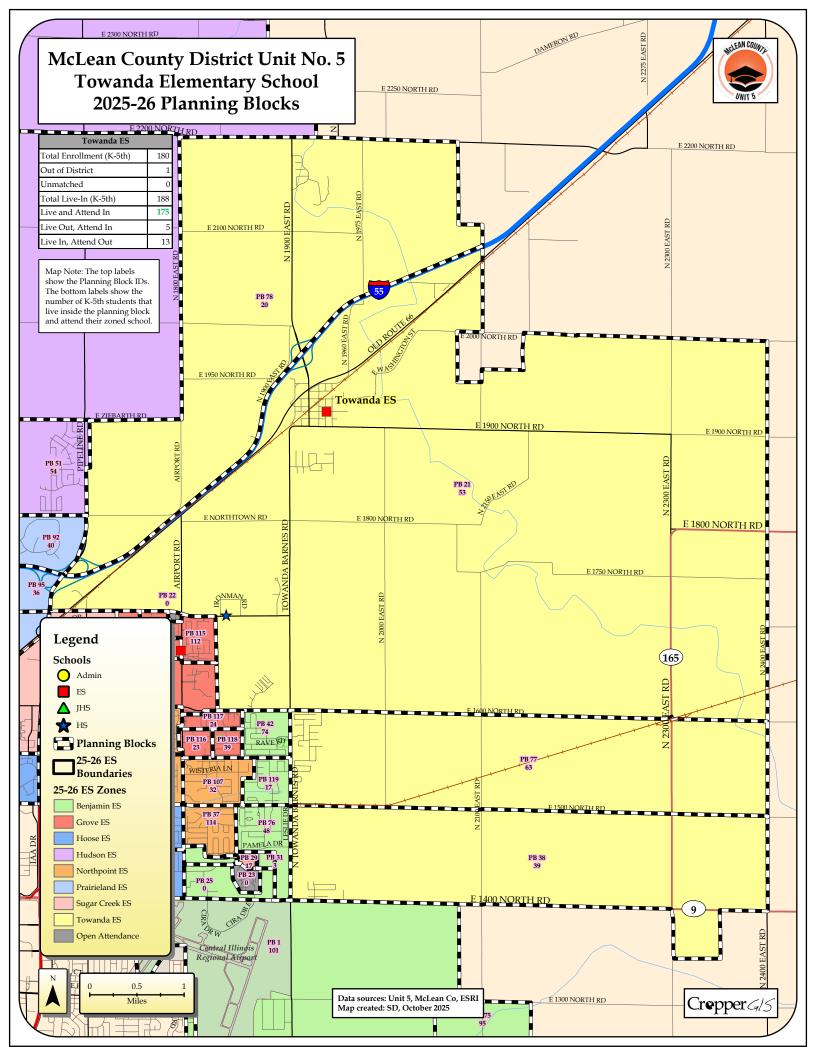


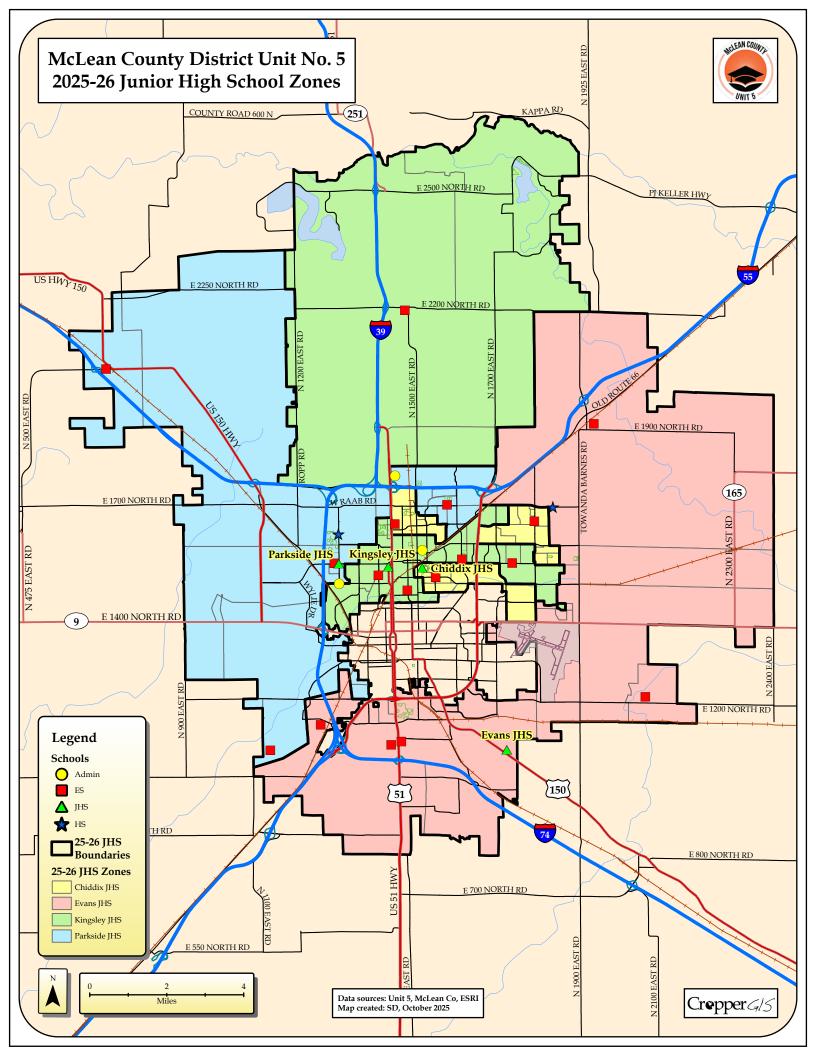


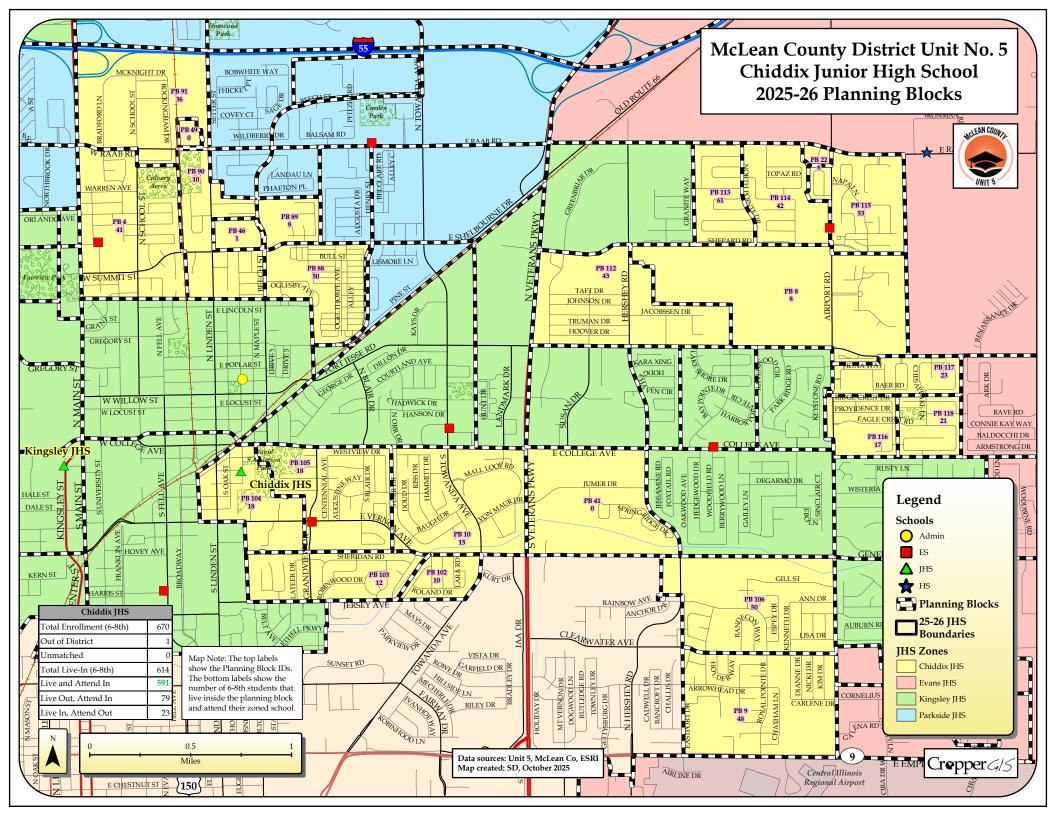


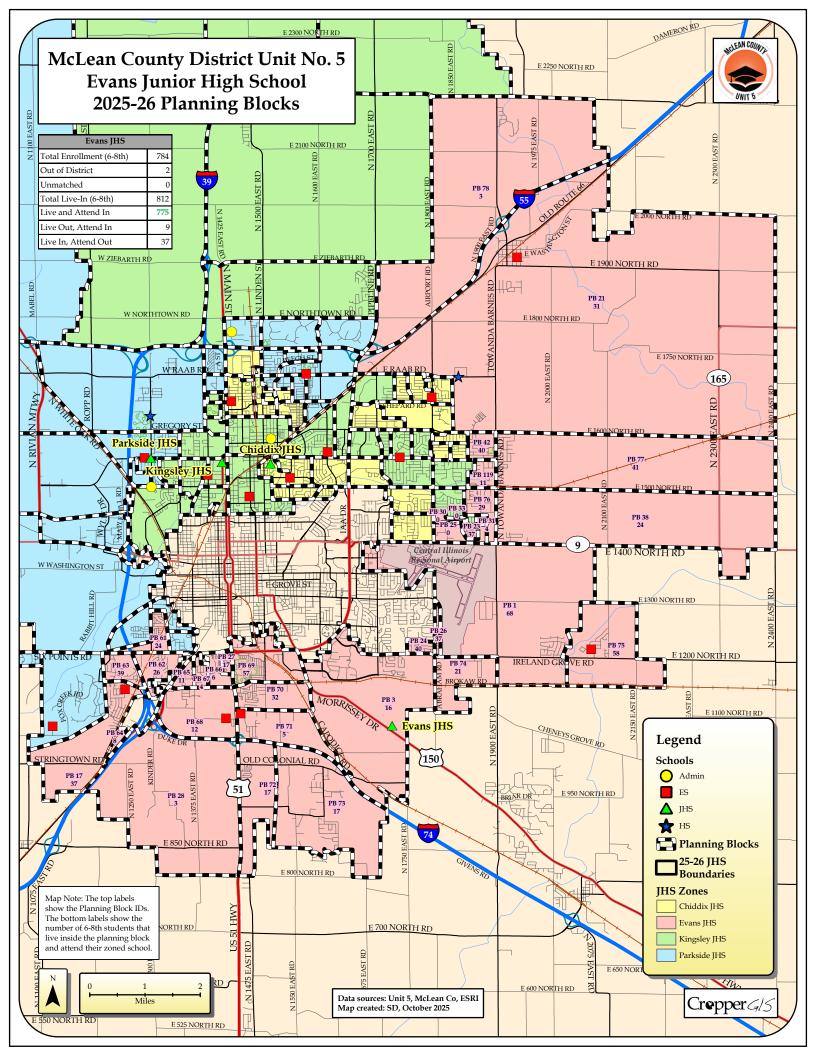


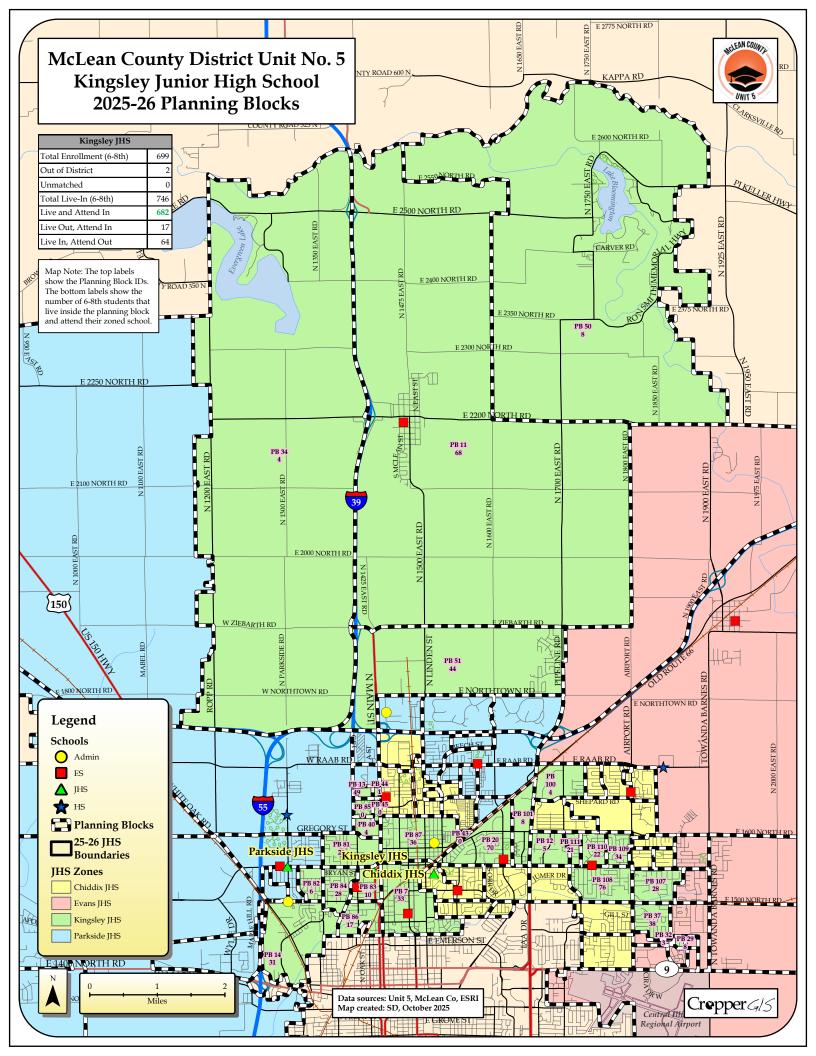


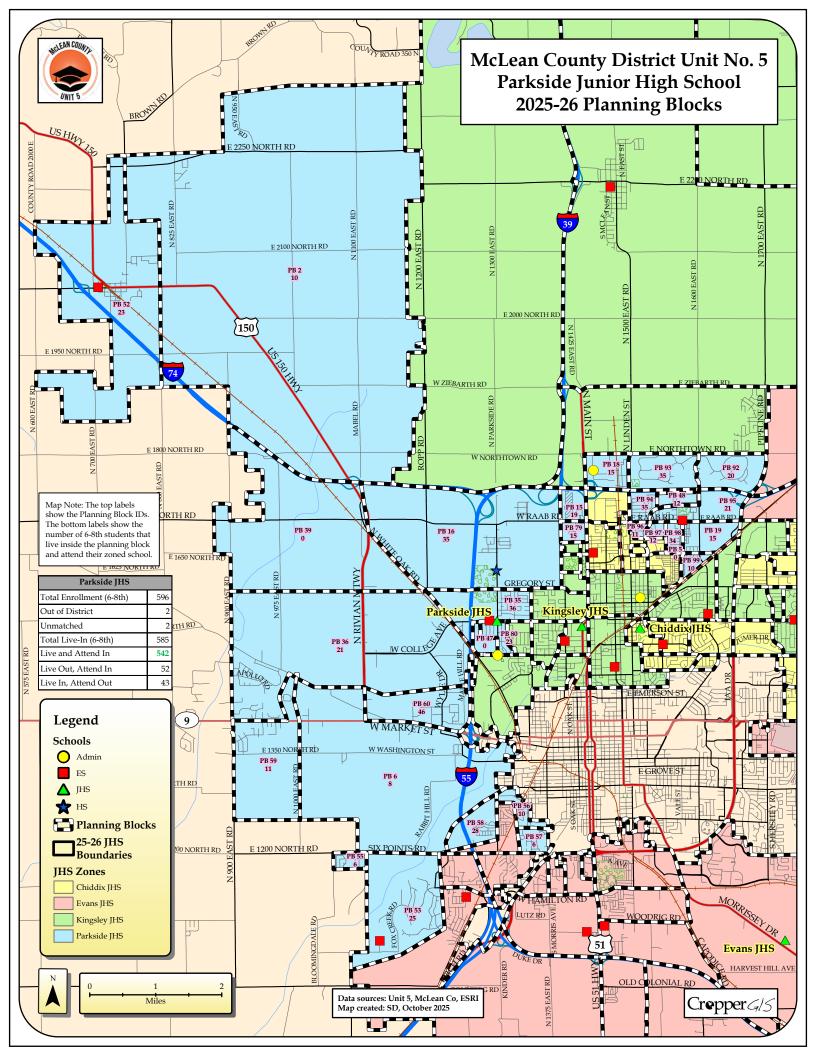


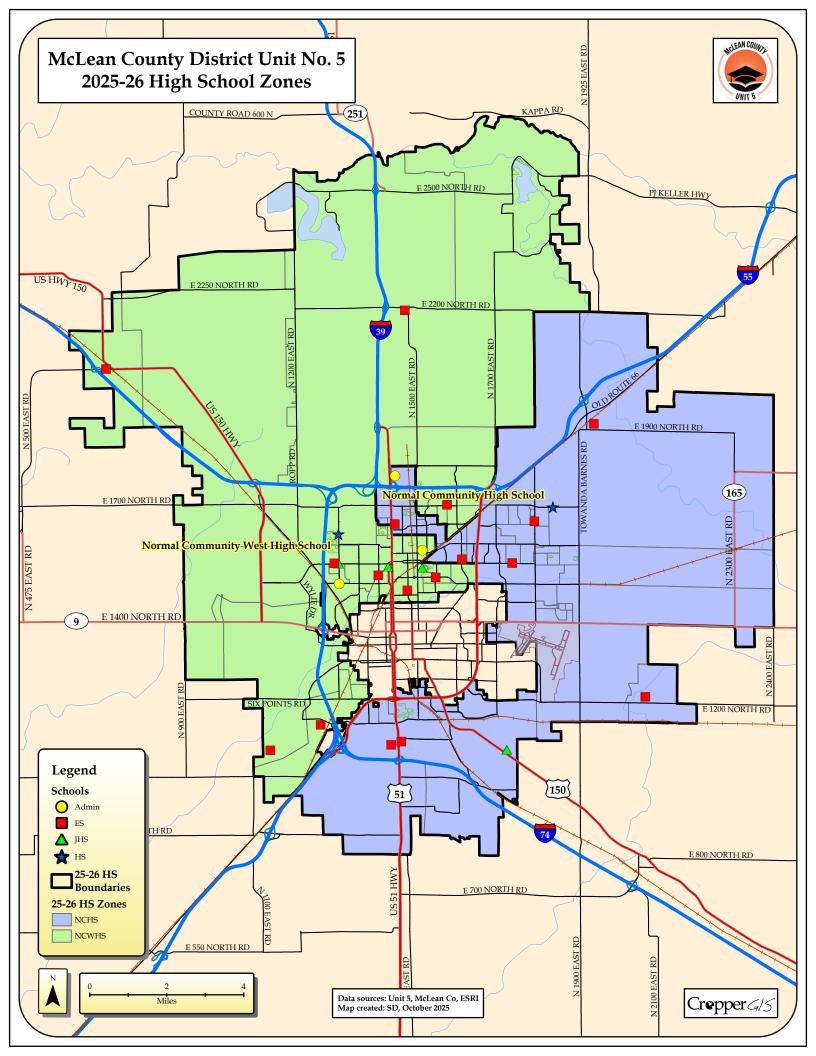


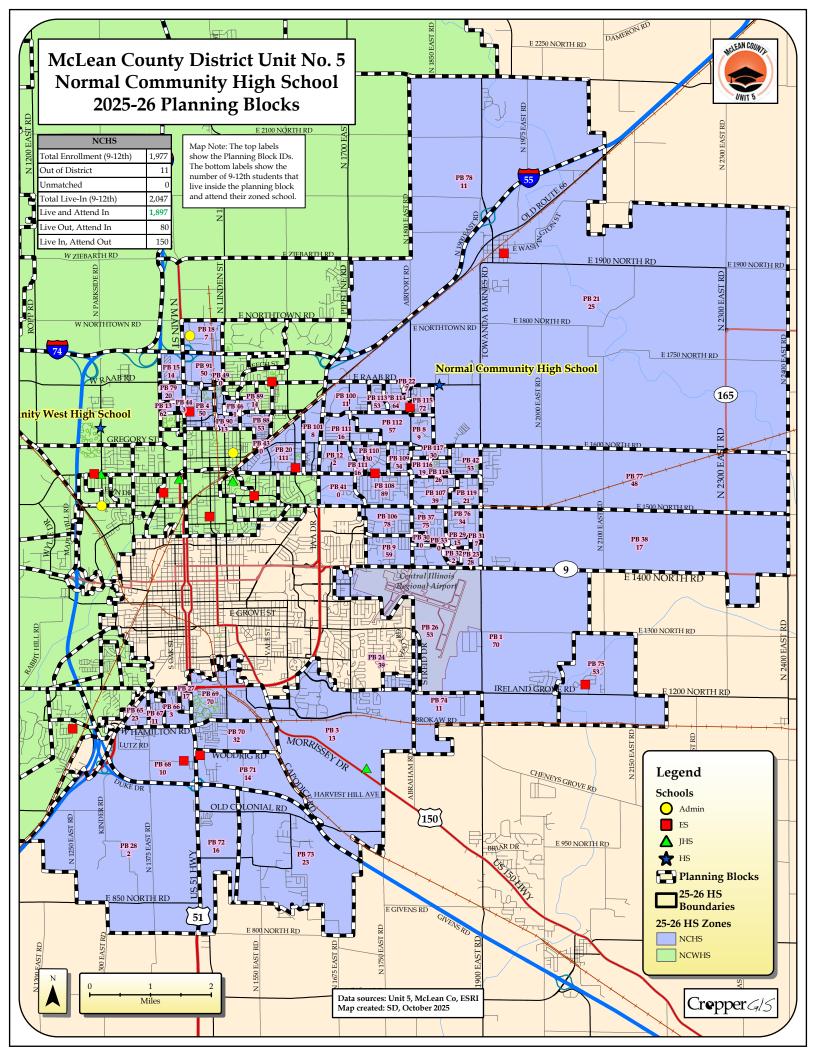


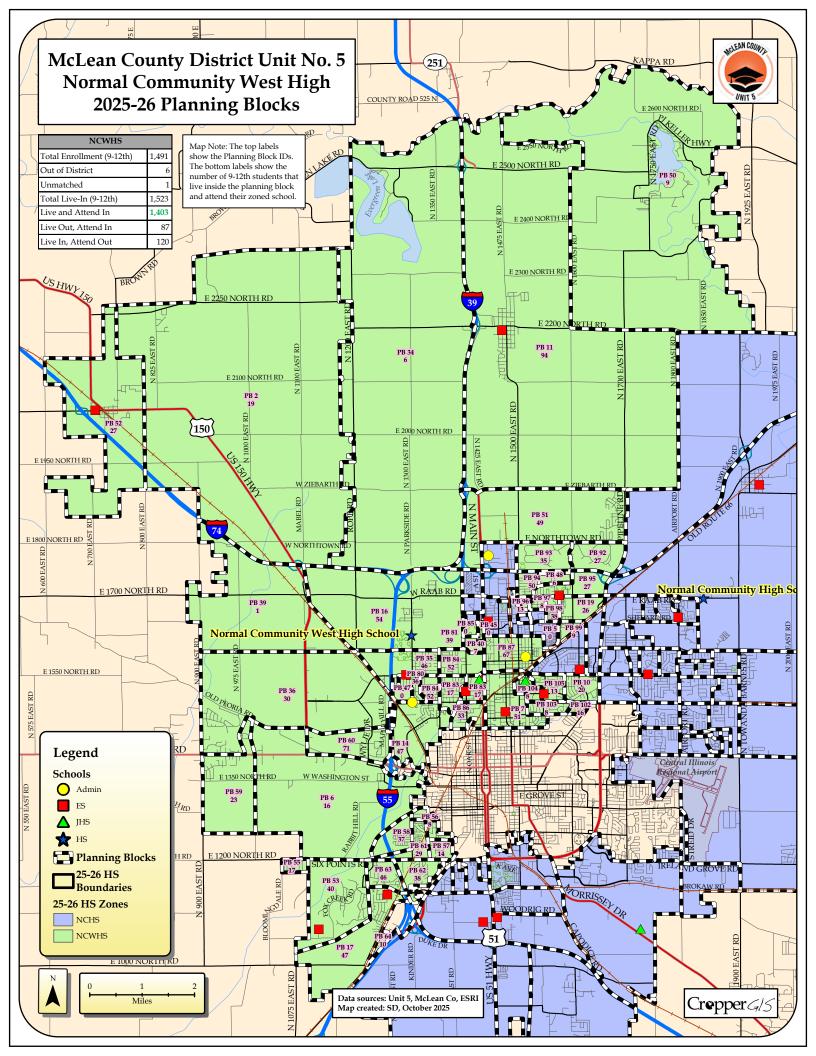








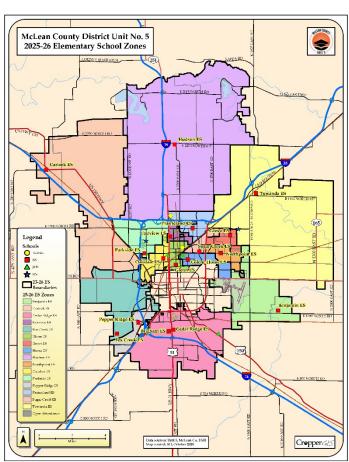






McLean County, IL Unit District No. 5 2025-26 Enrollment Planning

Appendix C: Enrollment and Utilization Tables







Elementary Enrollment Statistics

Enrollment is based on the 9/30/2025 student database received from the district.

	ES Current Enrollment (2025-26)							
Elementary School	K	1	2	3	4	5	Current Enrollment	
Benjamin ES	90	76	101	119	95	106	587	
Carlock ES	8	19	17	18	14	17	93	
Cedar Ridge ES	81	87	103	74	83	83	511	
Fairview ES	34	39	30	39	50	38	230	
Fox Creek ES	29	39	39	49	53	49	258	
Glenn ES	39	45	43	46	45	45	263	
Grove ES	69	74	65	88	80	100	476	
Colene Hoose ES	75	66	69	90	74	75	449	
Hudson ES	28	26	39	27	37	36	193	
Northpoint ES	69	81	82	81	87	70	470	
Oakdale ES	57	55	60	58	66	52	348	
Parkside ES	47	51	51	50	78	49	326	
Pepper Ridge ES	58	44	55	52	56	57	322	
Prairieland ES	56	60	77	80	78	82	433	
Sugar Creek ES	39	39	36	43	40	35	232	
Towanda ES	31	23	34	32	34	26	180	
Total	810	824	901	946	970	920	5,371	





Junior High School Enrollment Statistics

	JHS Current Enrollment (2025- 26)					
Junior High School	6	7	8	Current Enrollment		
Chiddix JHS	239	218	213	670		
Evans JHS	280	256	248	784		
Kingsley JHS	249	239	211	699		
Parkside JHS	195	211	190	596		
Total	963	924	862	2,749		

High School Enrollment Statistics

	HS Current Enrollment (2025-26)						
High School	9	10	11	12	Current Enrollment		
Normal Community HS	556	469	431	521	1,977		
Normal Community West HS	396	347	382	366	1,491		
Total	952	816	813	887	3,468		

41





Elementary Demographic Statistics

The tables below reflect the demographics of each school in terms of race, ethnicity, and free/reduced lunch percentage.

	ES Current Enrollment (2025-26)									
				Race				Lunch	Lunch Code	
Elementary School	American Indian or Alaskan	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or other	White	Two or More Races	Free or Reduced	Paid	
Benjamin ES	2%	33%	6%	7%	0%	47%	5%	10%	90%	
Carlock ES	0%	0%	2%	8%	0%	84%	6%	24%	76%	
Cedar Ridge ES	0%	1%	10%	46%	0%	34%	8%	64%	36%	
Fairview ES	1%	2%	34%	12%	0%	42%	9%	50%	50%	
Fox Creek ES	0%	1%	38%	11%	0%	39%	11%	68%	32%	
Glenn ES	1%	24%	24%	8%	0%	34%	8%	41%	59%	
Grove ES	2%	24%	8%	6%	0%	54%	7%	16%	84%	
Colene Hoose ES	1%	17%	11%	11%	0%	49%	12%	33%	67%	
Hudson ES	0%	1%	2%	10%	0%	83%	4%	13%	87%	
Northpoint ES	1%	19%	8%	5%	0%	63%	4%	13%	87%	
Oakdale ES	0%	1%	37%	14%	0%	38%	10%	60%	40%	
Parkside ES	0%	1%	19%	15%	0%	49%	16%	50%	50%	
Pepper Ridge ES	0%	2%	18%	13%	0%	56%	10%	48%	52%	
Prairieland ES	0%	5%	8%	10%	0%	71%	7%	20%	80%	
Sugar Creek ES	0%	1%	36%	9%	0%	38%	16%	66%	34%	
Towanda ES	0%	14%	1%	3%	0%	76%	6%	8%	92%	
Total	1%	11%	15%	13%	0%	51%	8%	35%	65%	

42





Junior High School Demographic Statistics

	JHS Current Enrollment (2025-26)								
		Race							. Code
Junior High School	American Indian or Alaskan	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or other	White	Two or More Races	Free and Reduced	Paid
Chiddix JHS	0%	12%	14%	15%	0%	51%	7%	33%	67%
Evans JHS	1%	19%	10%	15%	0%	49%	6%	30%	70%
Kingsley JHS	0%	5%	18%	9%	0%	59%	9%	34%	66%
Parkside JHS	0%	2%	18%	13%	0%	59%	8%	40%	60%
Total	0%	10%	15%	13%	0%	54%	8%	34%	66%

High School Demographic Statistics

	HS Current Enrollment (2025-26)								
		Race Lui						nch	
High School	American Indian or Alaskan	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or other	White	Two or More Races	Free or Reduced	Paid
Normal Community HS	0%	13%	14%	13%	0%	53%	7%	31%	69%
Normal Community West HS	0%	2%	16%	12%	0%	63%	7%	34%	66%
Total	0%	8%	15%	12%	0%	57%	7%	32%	68%





Feeder Patterns

Feeder pattern tables display the percentage of live-in students in a given school zone of a lower grade cohort also living in a given school zone of a higher grade cohort. The tables show how school zones of higher grade cohorts are split among school zones of lower grade cohorts.

Number of Splits

	ES to MS	MS to HS
	Splits	Splits
Current	0	4

Elementary to Middle School Feeder Percentages

2025-26 ES Zone	2025-26 MS Zone	ES
2025-20 E5 Z01le	2023-20 WI3 ZUITE	Attendance
Benjamin ES	Evans JHS	100%
Brigham K/Cedar Ridge 1-5	Evans JHS	100%
Carlock ES	Parkside JHS	100%
Fairview ES	Chiddix JHS	100%
Fox Creek ES	Parkside JHS	100%
Glenn ES	Kingsley JHS	100%
Grove ES	Chiddix JHS	100%
Hoose ES	Chiddix JHS	100%
Hudson ES	Kingsley JHS	100%
Northpoint ES	Kingsley JHS	100%
Oakdale ES	Kingsley JHS	100%
Parkside ES	Parkside JHS	100%
Pepper Ridge ES	Evans JHS	100%
Prairieland ES	Parkside JHS	100%
Sugar Creek ES	Kingsley JHS	100%
Towanda ES	Evans JHS	100%
U5OAA1	Chiddix JHS	100%
U5OAA2	Evans JHS	100%
U5OAA3	Chiddix JHS	100%
U5OAA4	Parkside JHS	100%

Middle School to High School Feeder Percentages

2025-26 MS Zone	2025-26 HS Zone	MS Attendance
Chiddix JHS	NCHS	87%
Chiddix JHS	NCWHS	13%
Evans JHS	NCHS	82%
Evans JHS	NCWHS	18%
Kingsley JHS	NCHS	53%
Kingsley JHS	NCWHS	47%
Parkside JHS	NCHS	11%
Parkside JHS	NCWHS	89%



MCLEAN COUNTY UNIT DISTRICT NO. 5, IL 2025-26 ENROLLMENT PLANNING: BACKGROUND REPORT



Glossary of Terms

<u>Capacity</u> - the number of students that an individual school has the physical capacity to enroll and can be reasonably accommodated in a facility.

<u>Utilization</u> - Utilization is the enrollment divided by the capacity, described as a percentage.

<u>Live-in students</u> – Students residing inside of a school attendance boundary, regardless of where that student attends school.

<u>Unmatched</u> - Students whose home address was not able to be placed on the map.

Out of District students - Students that live outside of the McLean County Unit District No. 5 boundary.

<u>Feeder Pattern</u> – The number of students living within the attendance boundary of both a lower grade cohort (ex. Elementary schools) and a higher-grade cohort (i.e., Middle School). This is given as both the number of live-in students, and described as a percentage

45





Cropper GIS Consulting, LLC

35 South Liberty Street, P.O. Box 1308 Delaware, OH 43015 Tel: 614.451.1242

Email: <u>info@croppergis.com</u>
Web: <u>www.croppergis.com</u>