



2025-26 Enrollment Planning Process

Public Information Session 1
October 27, 2025

*Presented by: McLean County Unit District No. 5
and Cropper GIS Consulting*



Welcome and Introductions

Cropper GIS

Who We Are

Cropper G/S

The Facilitator

Cropper GIS Consulting, LLC

- K-12 school planning is our business and our passion. Our specialty is facilitating enrollment planning processes.
- Cropper GIS works with K-12 school districts to:
 - Develop enrollment plans
 - Facilitate community engagement
 - Perform demographic studies
 - Prepare long-range facility master plans
 - Conduct housing and pupil yield-factor studies

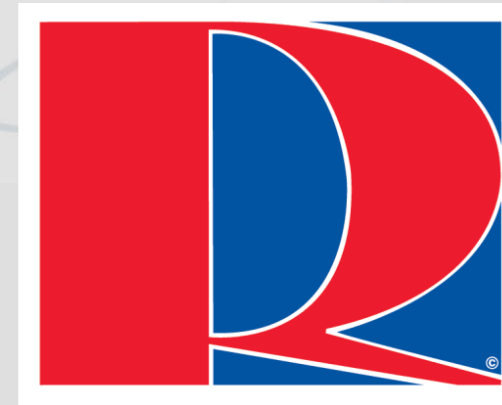
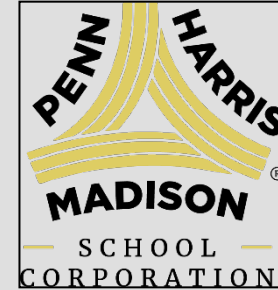
Matthew Cropper, Cropper GIS

- 20+ years experience providing GIS mapping and analysis services to school districts and other clients
- Facilitated enrollment planning projects across the U.S.
- Published numerous times on topics related to K-12 facility and enrollment planning processes

The Company

Recent Projects:

- Lake Zurich Community School District 95, IL
- Morton Unit School District 709, IL
- Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation, IN
- Raytown C-2 School District, MO
- Springfield Public Schools, MO
- Columbus City Schools, OH
- Akron Public Schools, OH
- MSD Washington Township, IN
- Baltimore County Public Schools, MD
- Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, NC
- Charleston County Schools, SC
- Covington Independent Schools, KY



Project 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.

Enrollment Planning Process

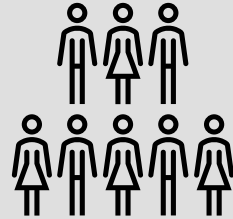
Cropper GIS Consulting was hired by McLean County Unit 5 to facilitate and manage the project. Our firm is tasked to:

- A. **Develop** supporting materials to help facilitate the process.
- B. **Facilitate** an expert-based process of developing a student enrollment plan.
- C. **Empower** the community throughout the process.
- D. **Leverage** expertise to develop logical, efficient, and effective student enrollment options with the planning team.
- E. **Recommend** an enrollment plan to the district.

Enrollment Planning Criteria



- Balance school facility utilization – Make every effort to have equitable utilization (where possible) across the district and in accordance with school capacities. Make efficient use of available space.



- Consider economic, cultural, and ethnic diversity – Ensure schools are inclusionary.



- Close Proximity – Students should be assigned to the school within the closest proximity to their homes where possible.



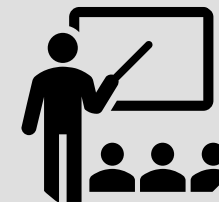
- Maximize busing efficiencies in transportation of students – Make every effort to account for transportation (school bus, car rider and walker), parent commuting patterns, balance busing travel time, and costs.



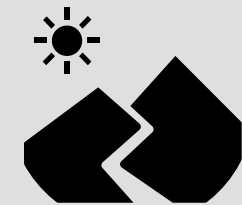
- Make every effort to establish contiguous zones – Avoid creating zones that are not connected to the primary attendance zone, where possible.



- Account for future growth – Allow for increasing attendance in high growth areas.



- Minimize impact on students - Attempt to minimize the number of students impacted when making boundary adjustments.



- 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.

Stakeholders

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Stakeholders

Outline of Stakeholder 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.

Timeline

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Timeline

Process & Timeline for Enrollment Planning

	Sept. 2025	Oct. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026	Feb. 2026	March 2026	April 2026
<i>Data Collection</i>								
<i>Data Analysis / Assimilation</i>								
<i>Demographic Study Development</i>								
<i>Baseline Options Development</i>								
<i>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)		
<i>Presentation of Final Recommendations to the Board of Education</i>							3/18	
<i>Board of Education Votes on Plan</i>								4/15

Project Approach

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Process Phases

PHASE 1

DATA COLLECTION

Pertinent data will be collected throughout the life of the enrollment planning process.

This data includes a wide array of GIS data, student enrollment data, and current/future school facility data.

Data collected is provided by McLean County and Unit District 5.

PHASE 2

DATA ASSIMILATION

All data collected must be integrated into GIS to enable quick and efficient analysis and options development.

Student data will be geocoded so we can map out where students live in relation to school boundaries.

School attendance boundaries will also be used in conjunction with neighborhood (subdivision) data from the county to develop planning blocks which outline small geographic areas highlighting student populations.

PHASE 3

BACKGROUND REPORT & BASELINE OPTIONS DEVELOPED

A background report is developed during Phase 3 and distributed to stakeholders.

The background report outlines the key objectives, guidelines & criteria, stakeholders' roles, overview of expected mapping conventions, and current enrollment statistics relating to the enrollment planning process.

A baseline set of options is then developed as a starting point for the IPT team to begin evaluating enrollment options. They can keep them as an option, alter, or disregard them entirely.

PHASE 4

OPTION ANALYSIS: IPT MEETINGS & PUBLIC INFO

The IPT will typically meet 1-2 times a month over a period of 3-4 months participating in option building exercises as they create/modify/review different enrollment options.

Three public information sessions will be held to provide the general public with an opportunity to understand the enrollment planning process, as well as to solicit feedback regarding draft options.

Data Collection

Data availability and quality are central to this enrollment planning process. A comprehensive collection of data is compiled throughout the life of the process. Data collected includes:

- School District– Official enrollment counts by school by grade, along with enrollment databases by address. Data/feedback regarding transportation, school locations, facility information.
- City / County Sources– Base GIS data (address pts, municipalities, subdivisions, existing and planned developments, road networks, etc.)

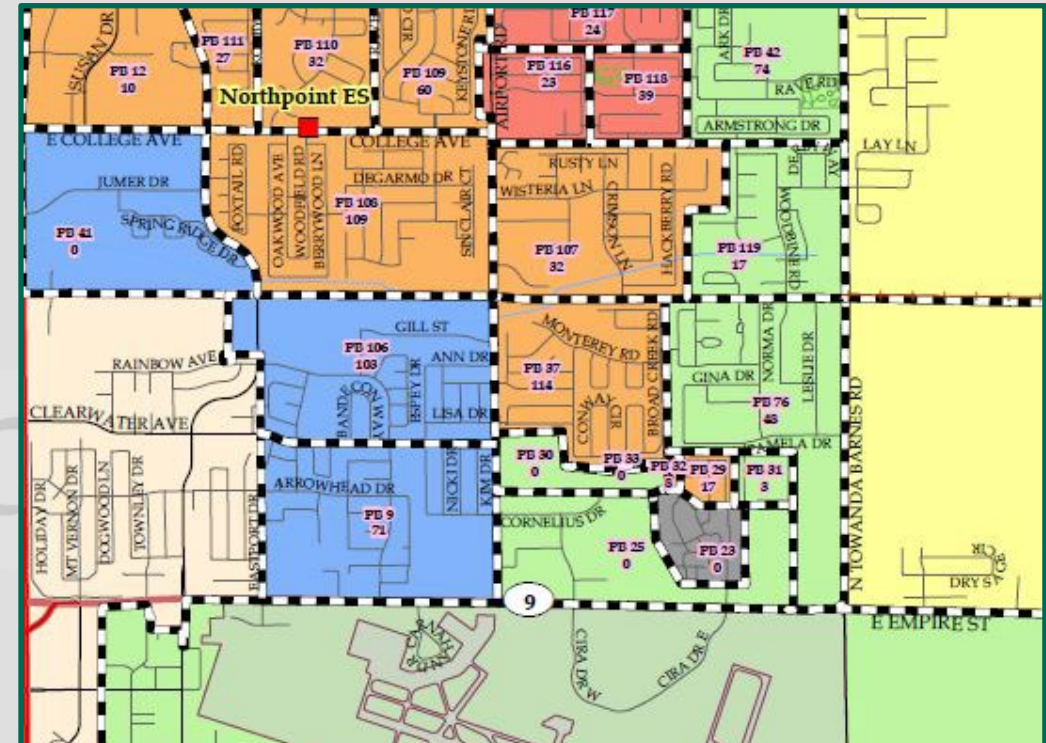
Data collection efforts have been underway through the summer, and information will continue to be collected throughout the process if it is deemed useful.

Data Assimilation

Cropper is tasked to develop several key pieces of information to help facilitate the enrollment planning process.

Once data is collected, it is necessary to integrate it into GIS to enable quick and efficient analysis and enrollment options development. This includes, but is not limited to, geographically mapping out:

- Attendance zones
- Student's home addresses
- Planning Blocks



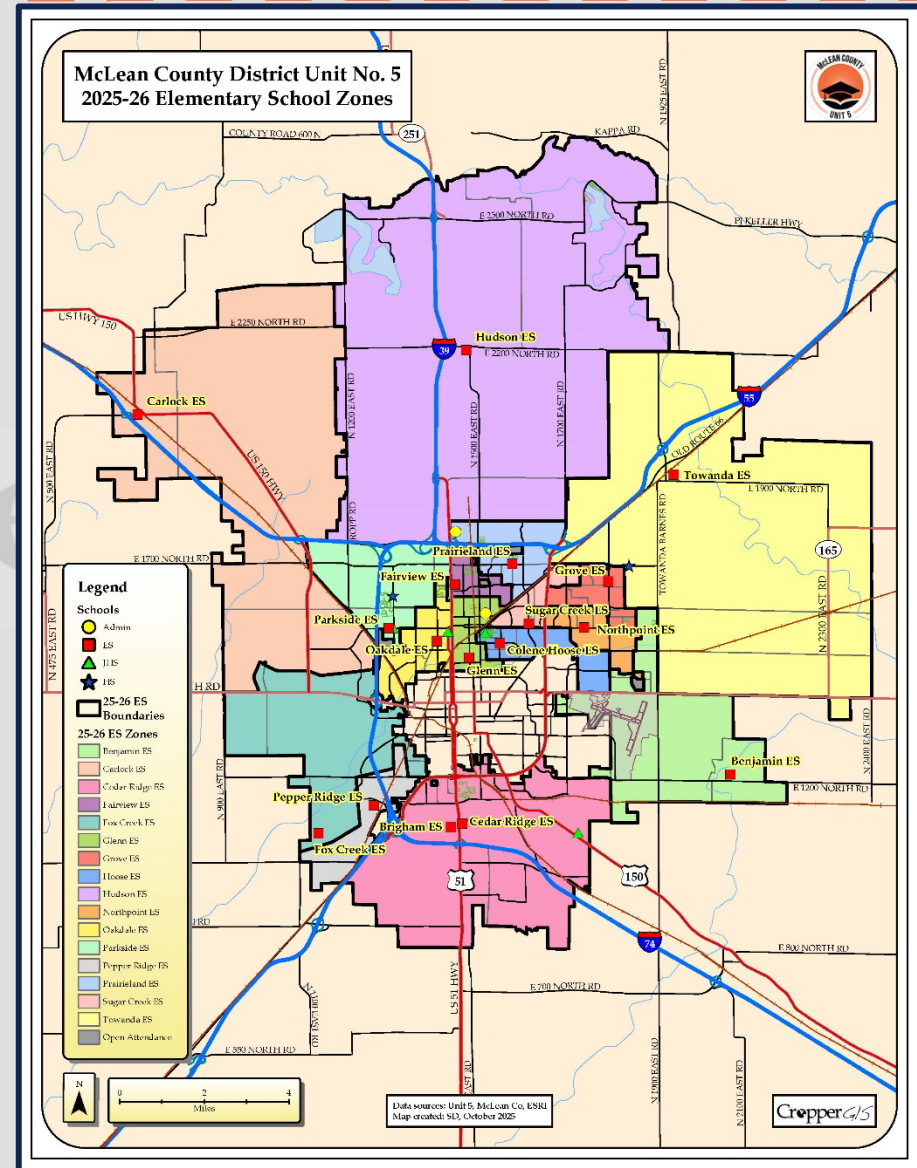
Planning Blocks: small areas created for examining student populations in each area:

- Based on Fall 2025 Student Enrollment. The top labels show the Planning block ID (PB #). The bottom labels show the number of K-5 Unit 5 students that live in the planning block and attend their zoned school.

Phase 2

District Attendance Zone Maps

- Maps showing attendance zones for all elementary schools, junior high schools, and high schools.



Phase 2

Interactive Webmap

- An online map has been developed to further inform all stakeholders on the work of the internal planning team.
- Current zones and options can be viewed on the map.
- Other features can be turned on/off on the map, including planning blocks.
- Map is customizable and can/will be updated during the process to show new options along with other information requested by the internal planning team.
- Site can be viewed on any device, including mobile devices and tablets (with internet connection).
- Site address is:

<https://croppermap.com/unit5/>

Interactive Webmap



Phase 3

Background Report Development

The Background Report Purpose:

- To expand the knowledge of each stakeholder
- To help share a message that is consistent and accurate

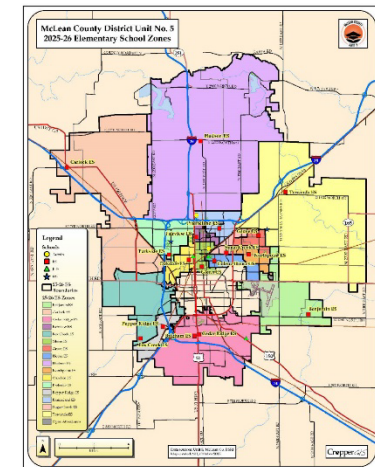
Please be familiar with the entire report, and note some sections:

- Background and Key Objectives (p. 1)
- Enrollment Planning Process Criteria (p. 1)
- Student Enrollment Planning Process (p. 2)
- Process Timeline (p. 4)
- Planning Block Maps (p. 13)
- Enrollment Tables (p. 39)

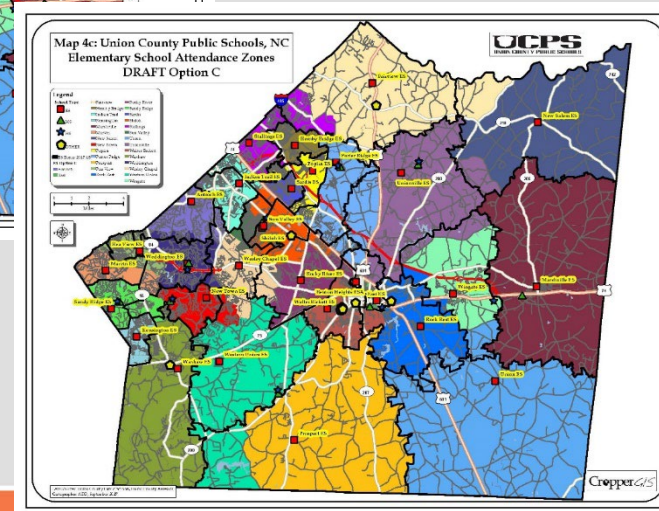
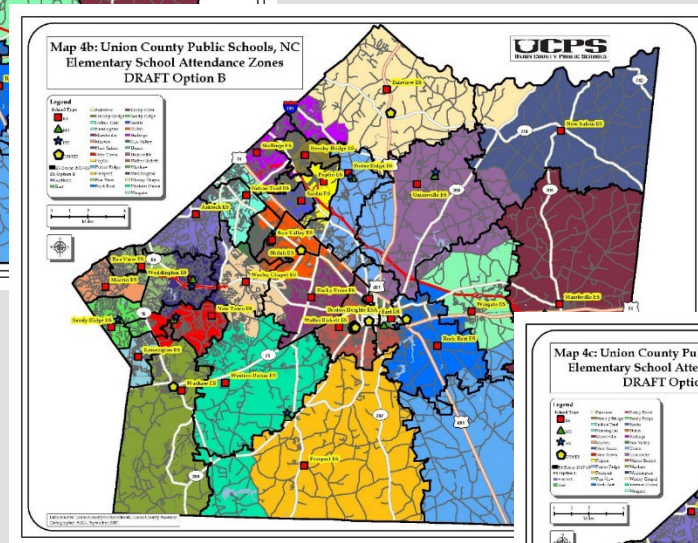
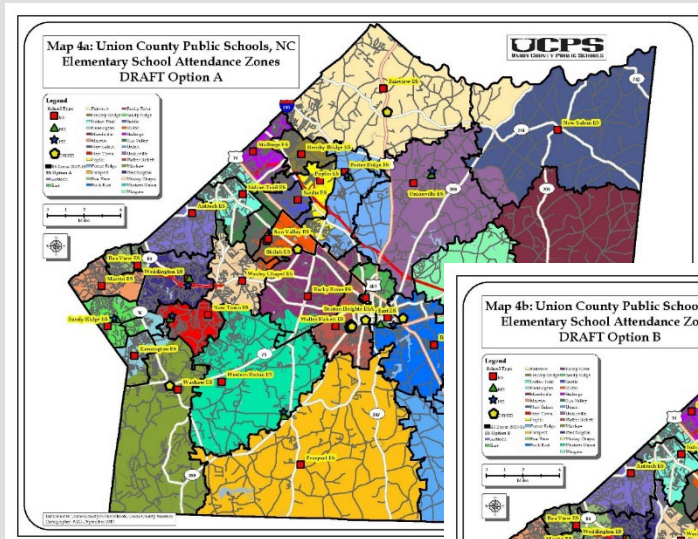


McLean County, IL
Unit District No. 5
2025-26 Enrollment Planning

Background Report



Baseline Options Development



To expedite the process and empower the community, it is best to begin with a series of baseline enrollment options.

Internal Planning Team and Public Engagement

The Internal Planning Team will meet 1-2 times per month from October 2025 through March 2026 to analyze data, review attendance zones, and develop options.

At the second public information session (webinar) on December 10, 2025, the work of the team will be shared, and community members will have an opportunity to ask questions and continue to provide feedback.

A third public information session will be held on February 19, 2026, where more information will be shared regarding potential boundary and facility changes that have been drafted by the planning team.

Valuable information will also be gathered via a community survey that will take place after the second and third information sessions.

The consultant, on behalf of the work by the Internal Planning Team and public input, will recommend an enrollment plan in March 2026.

Communication Logistics

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Communication Logistics

Visit the Enrollment Planning Web site at unit5enrollmentplanning.com

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

[Project Overview](#) [Project Maps](#) [Login](#) [English](#) ▾

Project Overview

Recent / Useful Documents:

[Background Report](#)

[General Feedback Form](#)

[McLean County Unit 5 Web Site](#)

[Web Map](#)

Background

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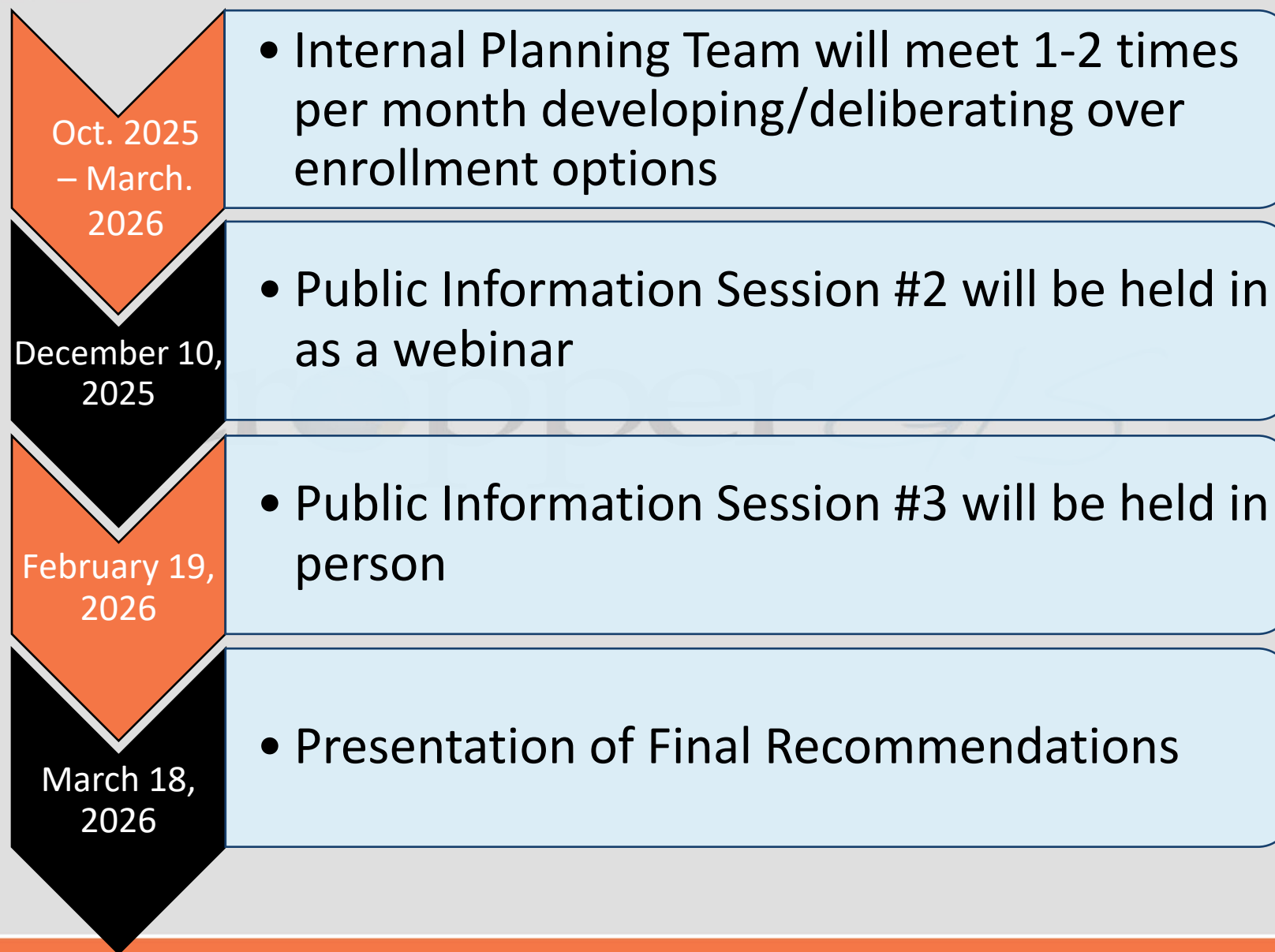
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Stay Informed – Provide Feedback

- Submit comments via the online [McLean County District Unit No. 5 – Enrollment Planning 2025-26: General Feedback Form](#)
- Attend the Public Information Session 2 on December 10, 2025 (Webinar)
 - Present DRAFT Facility Concepts to the General Public for Comment/Feedback.
- Attend the Public Information Session 3 on February 19, 2026 (On-site)
 - Present DRAFT Facility and Boundary Concepts to the General Public for Comment/Feedback.
- Participate in an Online Surveys that will accompany the Public Information Sessions 2 and 3.

Next Steps





Thank You!

Use this QR
code to access
the website:



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