



-Public Information Session-

**Realignment Study 2020
Presentation of Process and Timeline**

June 18, 2019

Cropper *GIS*



Welcome and Introductions



Who We Are



The Company

Cropper GIS Consulting, LLC

K-12 school planning is our business and our passion. Our specialty is school realignment.

Cropper works with K-12 school districts to:

- develop realignment plans,
- facilitate community engagement,
- research, map and write demographic studies,
- prepare long-range facility master plans,
- author site feasibility studies,
- conduct & publish housing impact and yield factor studies, and
- provide GIS implementation & training.

Who We Are

Cropper GIS is an ESRI Authorized Business Partner





The Company

Recent Projects:

- Cabarrus County Schools, NC
- Union County Public Schools, NC
- Brunswick County Public Schools, NC
- Frederick County Public Schools, MD
- Richmond Public Schools, VA
- Henrico County Public Schools, VA
- Alexandria City Public Schools, VA
- Frederick County Public Schools, MD
- Baltimore County Public Schools, MD



Who We Are



Matthew Cropper

- 20 years experience providing GIS mapping and analysis services to school districts and other clients.
- Manages and Facilitates K-12 realignment and facility planning projects across the U.S.
- Expert consultant for U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Right's Division
- Published numerous papers about using GIS in master planning and educational planning.

Who We Are



Why We're Here

1. Wayne County Public Schools (WCPS) are reconstructing Meadow Lane Elementary School:
 - a) Meadow Lane Elementary School will have a 700 student capacity
2. Maximize efficient use of existing classroom space, especially at the elementary level, in light of the k-3 class size reduction mandate.
3. These factors necessitate a comprehensive look at attendance boundaries.
4. The implementation of these boundary changes are expected to take effect the Fall 2020 (2020-21) School Year.



Project Objectives

1. To explore and develop realignment options through a community-based process.
2. Focus on developing options that best meet the WCPS realignment criteria.

Why We're Here



Realignment Study

Cropper GIS Consulting were hired by the district to facilitate and manage the project. Our firms are tasked to:

- A. Develop supporting materials to help facilitate the study.
- B. Facilitate a community-based process of developing an elementary school realignment plan.
- C. Empower the community throughout the process.
- D. Leverage expertise to develop logical, efficient, and effective student realignment options with the committee.

Why We're Here



Realignment Criteria

Rules to Follow

The Wayne County Public Schools has a set of criteria to follow when evaluating elementary school realignment options. These are rules to follow when considering any potential attendance zone adjustment.

The realignment committee will be oriented on these criteria and will follow them as best as possible as they consider realignment options.



Realignment Criteria

Rules to Follow

- **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.
- **Establish clear feeder patterns and continuity**
 - Make every effort to establish a clear feeder pattern system (especially from middle school to high school), although it may be necessary to split an elementary school to feed to two or more middle schools. Make every effort to divide a large enough population so students can continue to the next level with familiar faces.



Realignment Criteria

Rules to Follow

- **Allow for highest-grade at current school grandfathering**
 - Allow for students who will be in the exit grade in the first school year of realignment to stay at their current school, however, transportation will not be provided for these students.
- **Minimize impact on students**
 - Attempt to minimize the amount of students impacted when making boundary adjustments.
- **Consider economic, cultural, and ethnic diversity**
 - Ensure schools are inclusionary, diverse, and not adversely affected by realignment decisions.
- **Make every effort to establish contiguous zones**
 - Avoid creating zones that are not connected to the primary attendance zone, where possible.



Realignment Criteria

Rules to Follow

- **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.



- **Use major roads and natural boundaries wherever feasible to define attendance zones**

- Minimize the amount 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.



Project Approach



Four Project Phases

Cropper has identified four phases of a community-driven realignment study for WCPS:

1. Data Collection
2. Data Analysis / Assimilation
3. Options Development
4. Committee and Public engagement

Project Approach



1. Data Collection



- School District–
 - Geocoded enrollment databases by address.
 - Maps of current boundaries and schools
 - School facility information
 - Projected enrollment



- City / County Sources– Base GIS data (address pts, municipalities, subdivisions, existing and planned road networks, etc.)

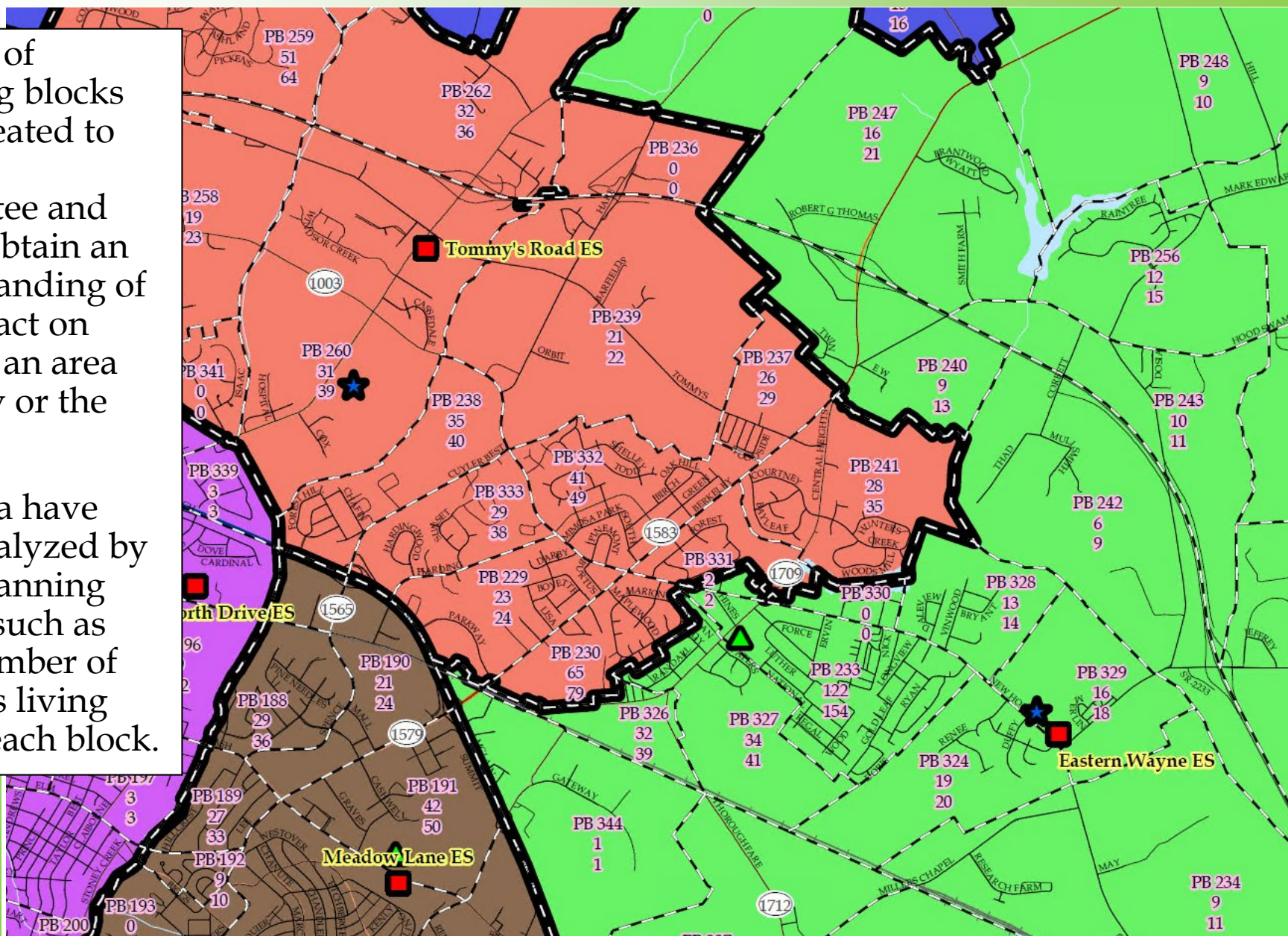


2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

- All data was incorporated into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to enable quick, accurate, and efficient analysis, and also to help facilitate realignment options.

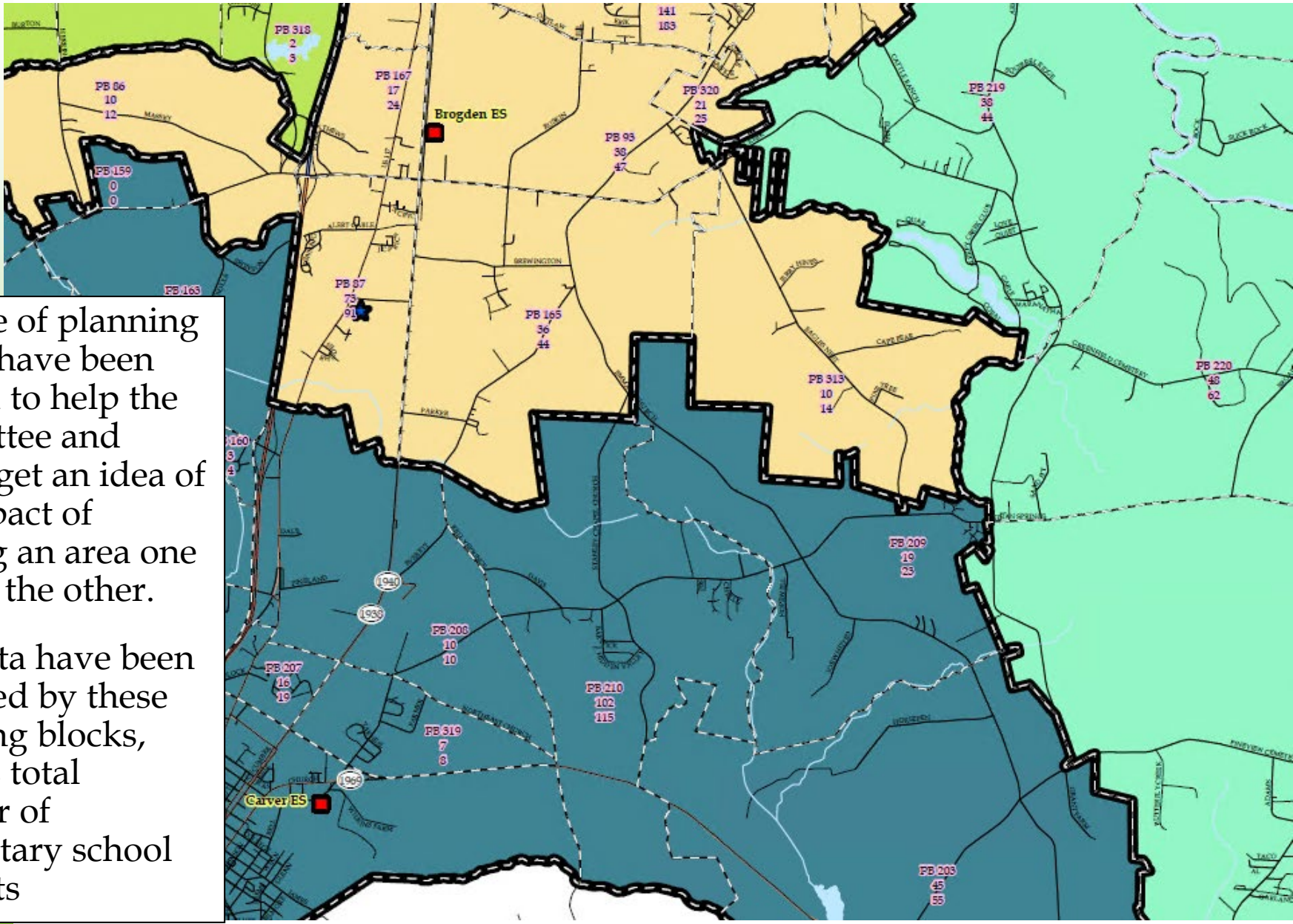


Key data have been analyzed by these planning blocks, such as total number of students living within each block.





2. Data Analysis / Assimilation



The use of planning blocks have been created to help the committee and public get an idea of the impact of moving an area one way or the other.

Key data have been analyzed by these planning blocks, such as total number of elementary school students



2. Data Analysis / Assimilation: Background Report

Each committee member will be provided with a background report. The report expands the extensive knowledge each committee and public member already has about Wayne County.

The background report helps committee members share a message with the community that is consistent and accurate.



Wayne County Public Schools, NC
Realignment Study 2020

Background Report

CropperGIS



2. Data Analysis / Assimilation

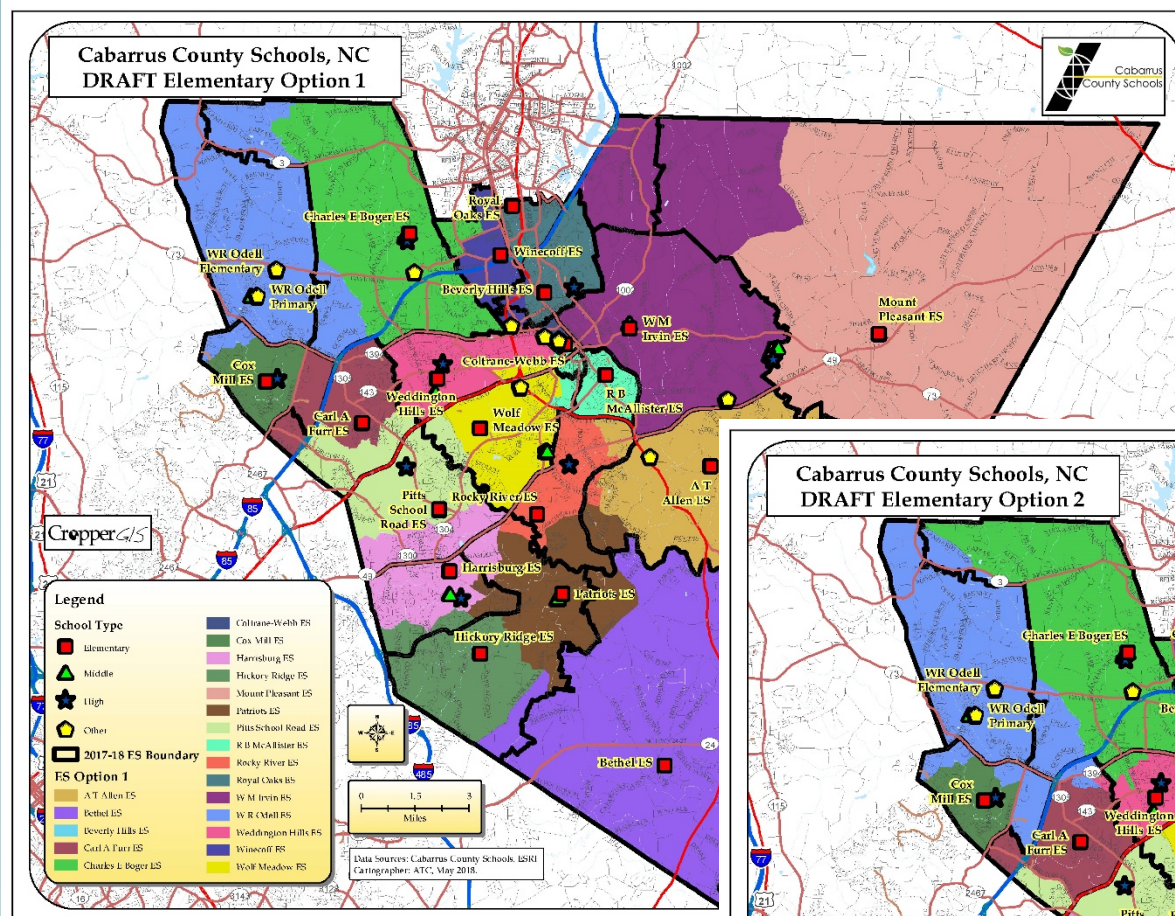
Online Map

- An online map has been developed to further inform the committee and public on the work of the committee.
- 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 committee.
- Site can be viewed on any device, including mobile devices and tablets (with internet connection).
- Site address is:

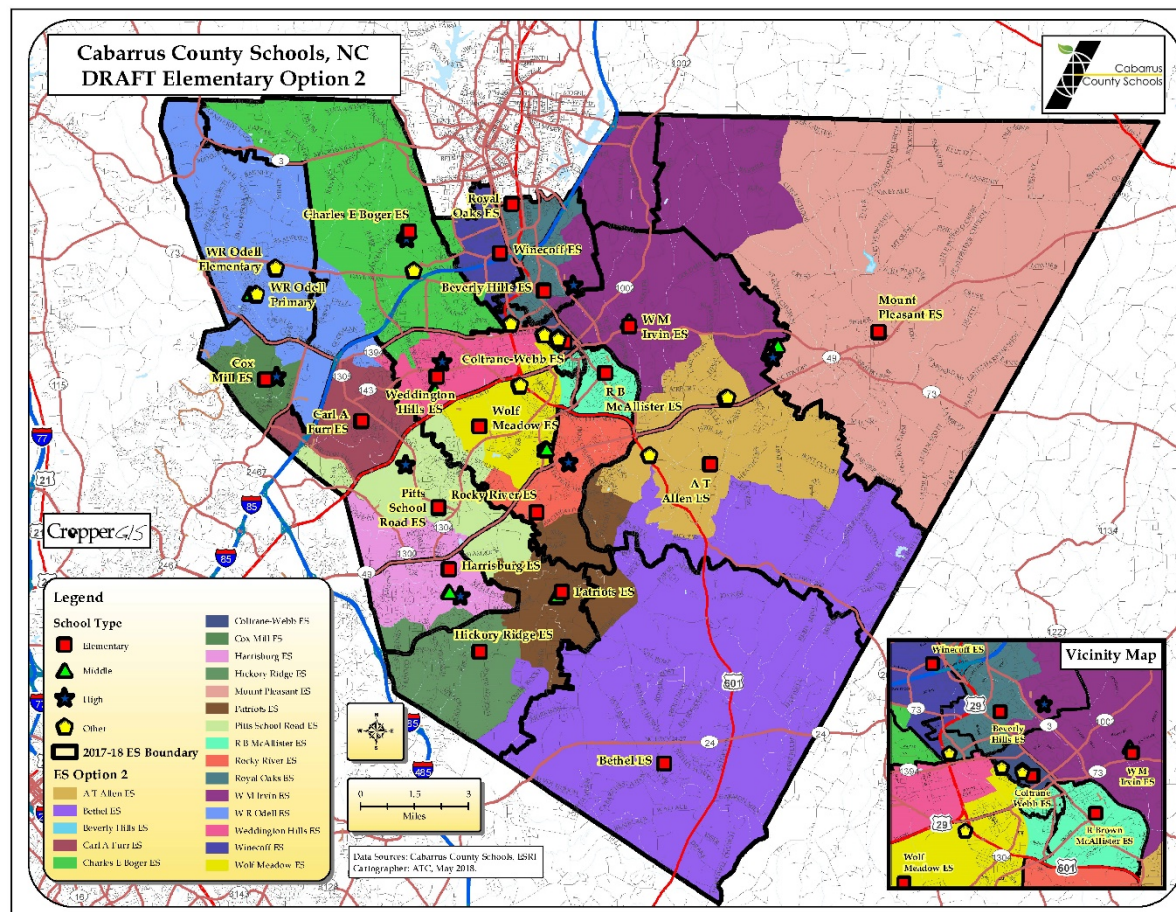
www.croppermap.com/waynecounty

3. Options Development

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

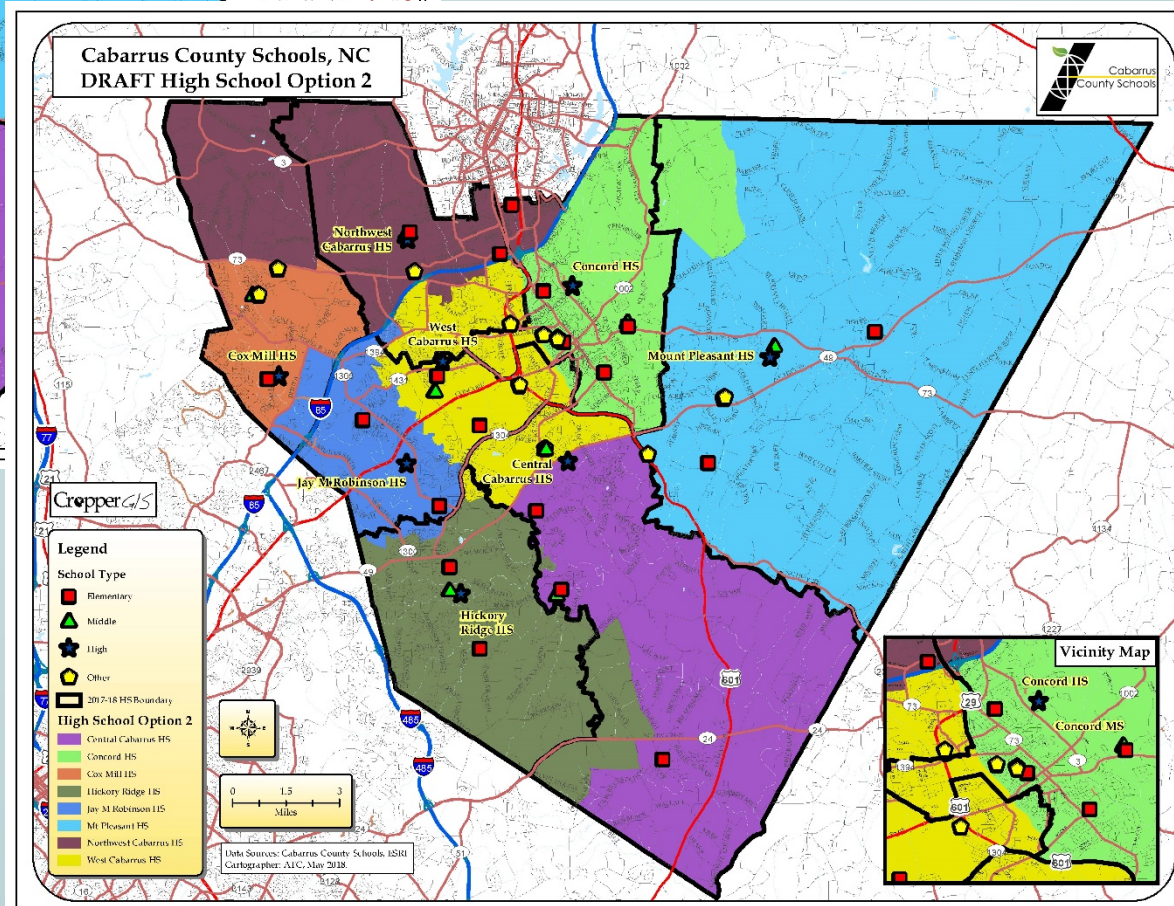
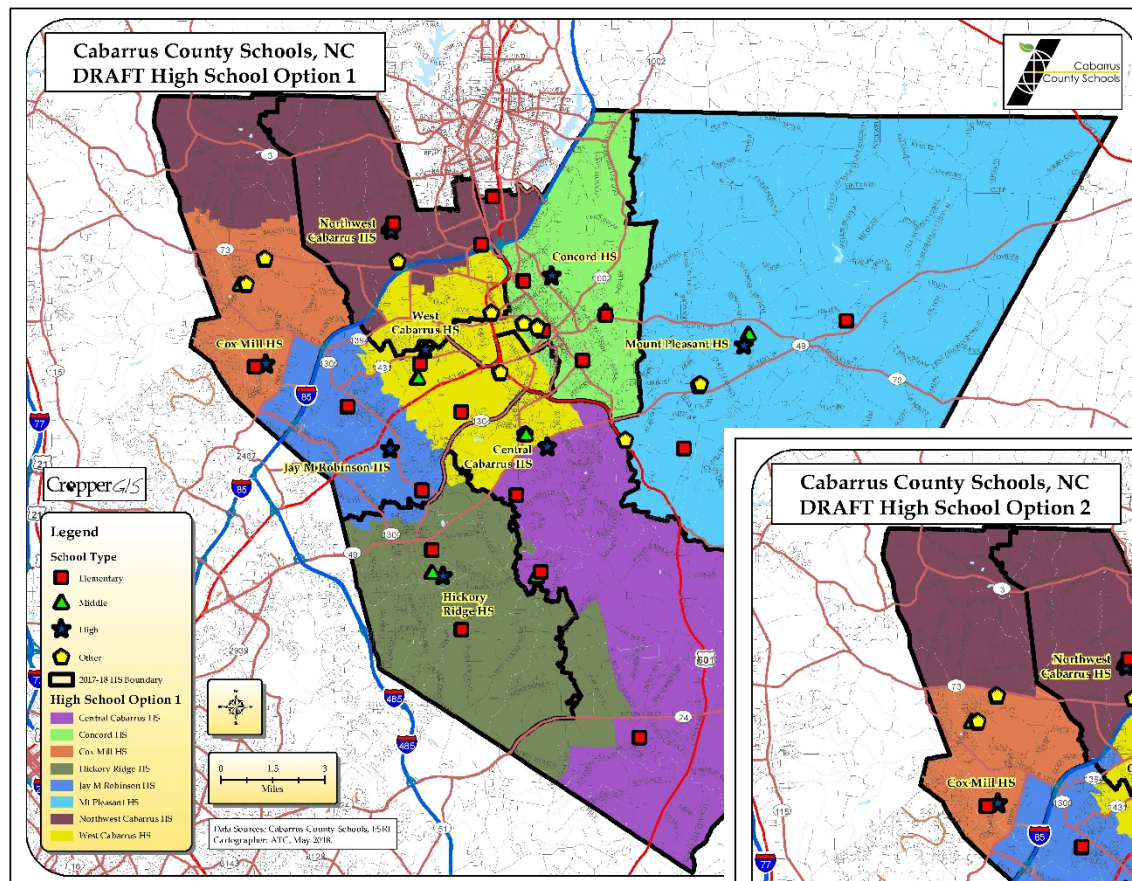


Baseline options will be shared with the committee at their 1st meeting.



3. Options Development

Options will be developed with WCPS realignment criteria in mind.



The committee have the option to modify or disregard the baseline options, or create new options. All with a focus on the realignment criteria.



4. Committee and Public Engagement

The most important factor when working on a realignment study is to keep all lines of communication open.

Project Approach





4. Committee and Public Engagement

The district has formulated a 30-person committee to work on developing realignment options.

The realignment committee was established by the school board and district administration, and consists of a diverse group of stakeholders from across the school district.

Volunteer members of the public, School Board, and Staff members will serve on the committee, with a focus on developing a recommendation that best meets the needs of ALL students in Wayne County.

Remember that the committee is one method to engage the public. Any member of the public is welcome to observe the work of the committee at their meetings, in addition to other avenues to provide input/feedback.



Review of Timeline

Process & Timeline for Realignment Study									
	March '19	April '19	May '19	June '19	July '19	Aug. '19	Sept. '19	Oct. '19	Nov. '19
<i>Data Collection</i>									
<i>Data Analysis / Assimilation</i>									
<i>Internal Logistics Planning with district</i>									
<i>Grade Cohort Adjustment Feasibility Testing</i>									
<i>Background Report Development</i>									
<i>Baseline Options Development</i>									
<i>Public Information Session #1: Present Project Process, Criteria, Timeline, and Realignment Objectives to Community. Information meeting to public, without public comments.</i>				6/18					
<i>Planning Team Meeting 1</i> - Review Background Data, Introduce Baseline Options				6/19					
<i>Planning Team Meeting 2</i> - Discuss Background Data & Baseline Options, Q&A					7/8				
<i>Planning Team Meeting 3</i> - Options Development, Prepare for Public Information Session #2						8/1			
<i>Public Information Session #2: Present Preliminary Realignment Options to Community for Comment/Feedback</i>						8/19			
<i>Planning Team Meeting 4</i> - Review public input, modify options							9/16		
<i>Planning Team Meeting 5</i> - Finalize Recommendations & Prepare for Board Presentation								10/14	
<i>Presentation of Final Recommendations to the Board of Education</i>									11/25

We are here



How can you participate?



Public Participation

Members of the public have the opportunity to participate in the process in many ways:

- All materials shared with the committee will be made available on the Realignment Study webpage, located at www.wcpsrealignment.com
- The realignment web-page contains a feedback form that allows the public to provide any feedback regarding the process at any time. This information will be shared with the committee, and will be made public.
- The Public Input Session on August 19, 2019 is designed to share with the public the DRAFT options that are under consideration, and to solicit feedback on the options from you. At this meeting, we will be presenting the options and allowing you to review large maps and discuss your thoughts with the committee and/or consultants.



Thank you for your time and we look forward to working with the public on this important process!