

Fall 2021 Boundary Processes:

Gunston and Jefferson
Wakefield and Washington-Liberty

Virtual Community Meeting

October 16, 2021

Reminder for Participation

To Submit Questions

Microsoft Teams Live Event: type questions in the Live Q&A Box

Questions will become part of the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** at: www.apsva.us/engage/fall-2021-boundary-process/

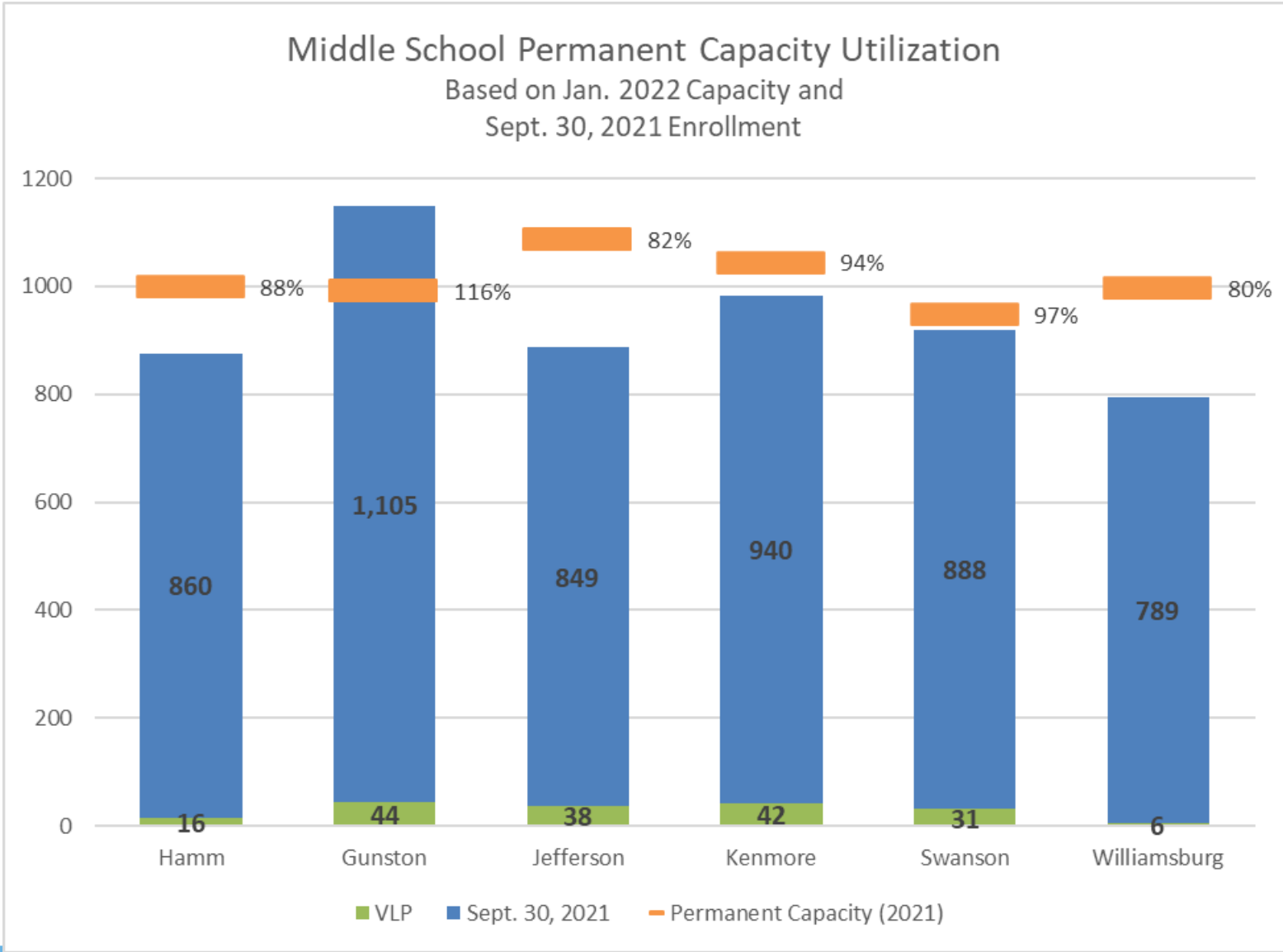
Phone Lines for Simultaneous Interpretation:

- Para escuchar en español:
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Luego marque el código: 8915 541 472
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- Scope and participation goals
- Context
- Rationale
- Policy and considerations
- Gunston to Jefferson proposal
- Wakefield to Washington-Liberty proposal
- Timeline and engagement opportunities

Scope of Fall 2021 Boundary Processes

- The Fall 2021 boundary processes will be limited in scope, focusing on refinements to boundaries at schools where:
 - enrollment currently exceeds capacity and/or enrollment was at or exceeded capacity for the prior two school years, and
 - a nearby school has capacity to accommodate additional students.
- These schools include:
 - Elementary schools: Abingdon to Dr. Charles R. Drew
 - **Middle schools: Gunston to Jefferson**
 - **High Schools: Wakefield to W-L**
- More information about the Elementary Boundary Proposal and engagement opportunities available at: www.apsva.us/engage/fall-2021-boundary-process/

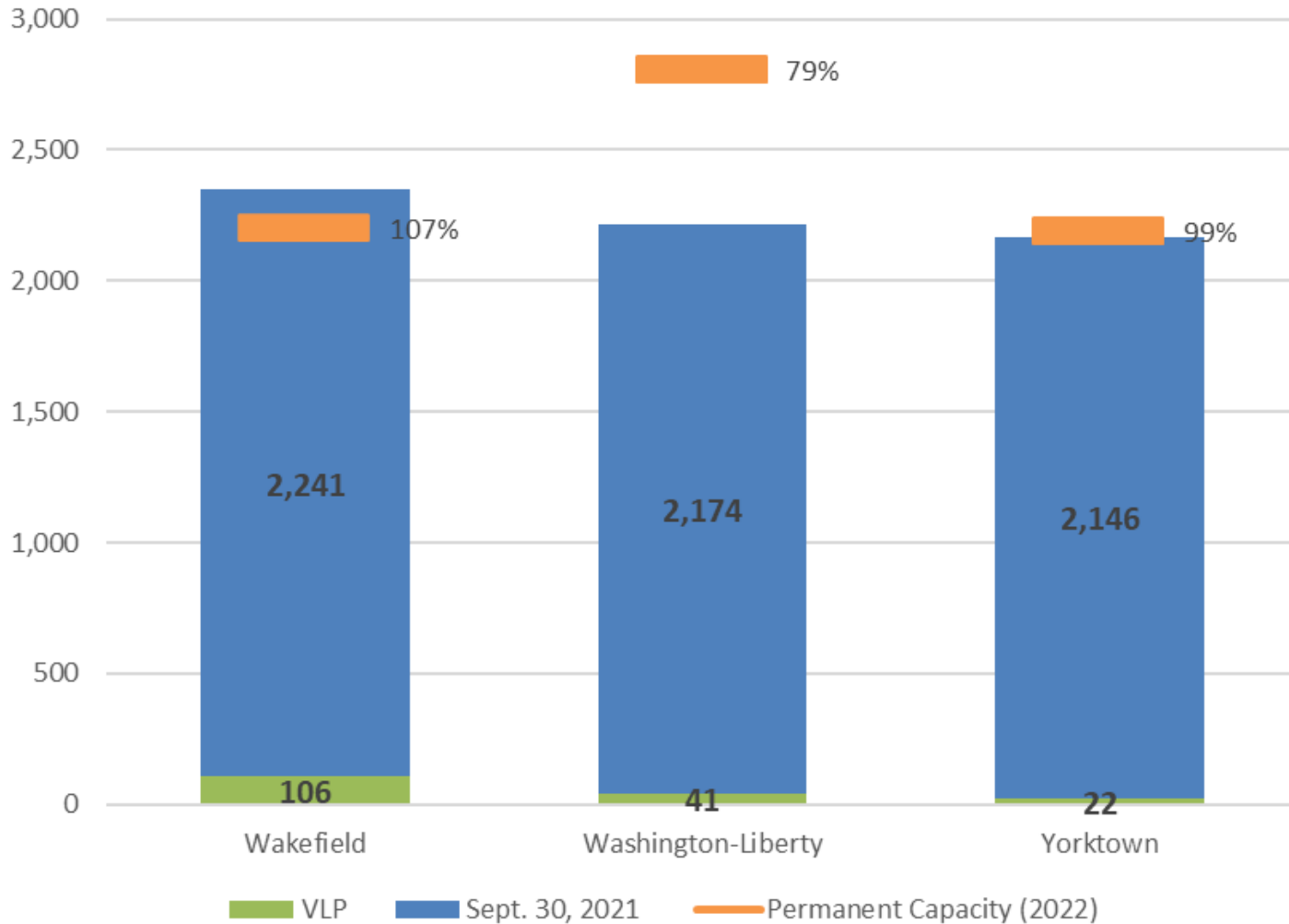


- Fall 2021 Middle School Boundary Refinements addressing Gunston
- APS will monitor projections to determine when additional boundary adjustments are needed



High School Permanent Capacity Utilization

Based on Jan. 2022 Capacity and Sept. 30, 2021 Enrollment



- Fall 2021 High School Boundary Refinements addressing Wakefield
- APS will monitor projections to determine when additional boundary adjustments are needed

Public Participation Goal – Consult*

- Obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision

Support Families in Understanding the Proposal

- Staff will connect with families whose students will be reassigned to a different school in the proposals to ensure they understand the proposed changes and respond to have questions and concerns they have.

*Source: International Association for Public Participation

[/iap2usa.org/resources/Documents/Core%20Values%20Awards/IAP2%20-%20Spectrum%20-%20stand%20alone%20document.pdf](http://iap2usa.org/resources/Documents/Core%20Values%20Awards/IAP2%20-%20Spectrum%20-%20stand%20alone%20document.pdf)

The following data sources informed the Fall 2021 boundary proposal:

- 2020 3-year projections
- Spring Update for 2021-22
- 2021 Planning Unit data
- Housing forecast data
- Current enrollment (Sept. 30, 2021)

Links to all data sources available on www.apsva.us/engage/fall-2021-boundary-process/

- **The most recent projections data has limitations due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic**
 - Enrollment was lower in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID 19 pandemic
 - Uncertain whether PreK to 12 enrollment will rebound to 2019 levels
 - Projections are based on historical trends; there is no precedent for estimating enrollment during a pandemic
- **Impact of the Virtual Learning Program (VLP) on building capacity**
 - VLP is a new program
 - We do not know how many students will continue in VLP once vaccinations are available for children under 12
 - Participation varies by schools and may change in the future in ways we cannot yet predict

600 additional seats opening at Washington-Liberty in January 2022 in the repurposed Education Center

- New capacity will provide enrollment relief for Wakefield
- Provides an opportunity to accept additional students from the IB waitlist
- The number of applicants to the IB Lottery and number on the waitlist has increased each year over the last four years

- Gunston is the only middle school and Wakefield is the only high school where enrollment currently exceeds the permanent building capacity
- The proposed middle and high school boundary adjustments aim to bring:
 - enrollment at Wakefield to more manageable levels for 2022-23 by utilizing the available capacity at Washington-Liberty, and
 - enrollment at Gunston to more manageable levels for 2022-23 by utilizing the available capacity at Jefferson
- The proposed adjustments focus on planning units that were moved from:
 - Washington-Liberty to Wakefield in the 2016 high school boundary process, and
 - Jefferson to Gunston in the 2017 middle school boundary process
- The planning units proposed for reassignment does not turn any walkers into bus riders as they are outside of the walk zone for all the schools involved

Additional boundary changes may be necessary in future years

- Conducting a limited boundary process this year leaves more options open in the future
- Additional time will improve our understanding of pandemic enrollment and projections
- Any planning units reassigned for the 2022-23 school year will not be moved again if the boundaries for the schools are adjusted in the next several years

School Board Policy B-2.1

Boundaries and Considerations

Boundary Adjustment Processes Guided by School Board Policy:

The Arlington School Board has established, and may change, school attendance boundaries to govern school assignments based on student residence both to **advance the educational mission of the system and to contribute to the efficiency of the school division.**

Boundary changes may be considered upon the recommendation of the Superintendent when the Superintendent determines that one or more of the following conditions is met and other measures are less feasible or less desirable:

1. A school building's projected enrollment is expected to be significantly over capacity across the projections.
2. Capital expansion to relieve overcrowding is not feasible and would not address the needs.
3. An insufficient number of students is enrolled or projected to be enrolled to allow cost effective operation of a school.
4. A new school building is planned for construction.
5. There are other administrative, cost-efficiency or service advantages to making such a change.

Links to all resources including the policy available on www.apsva.us/engage/fall-2021-boundary-process/

There are six policy considerations that inform the boundary proposals:

- Efficiency – minimizing future capital and operating costs.
- Proximity – encouraging the relationship between schools and the community by keeping students close to the schools that they attend so that they can walk safely to school or, if they are eligible for bus service, so that bus ride times are minimized.
- Stability – minimizing the number of times that boundary changes affect an individual student who has continued to reside in a particular attendance area and minimizing the number of students moved to a different school, within a school level, while achieving the objective of the boundary change.
- Alignment – minimizing separation of small groups of students from their classmates when moving between school levels.
- Demographics – promoting demographic diversity.
- Contiguity – maintaining attendance zones that are contiguous and contain the school to which students are assigned.

Gunston to Jefferson Boundary Adjustment Proposal

Gunston to Jefferson Boundary Proposal

Objective:

- Move some planning units from Gunston to Jefferson to bring enrollment at Gunston to more manageable levels in 2022-23 by utilizing the available capacity at Jefferson

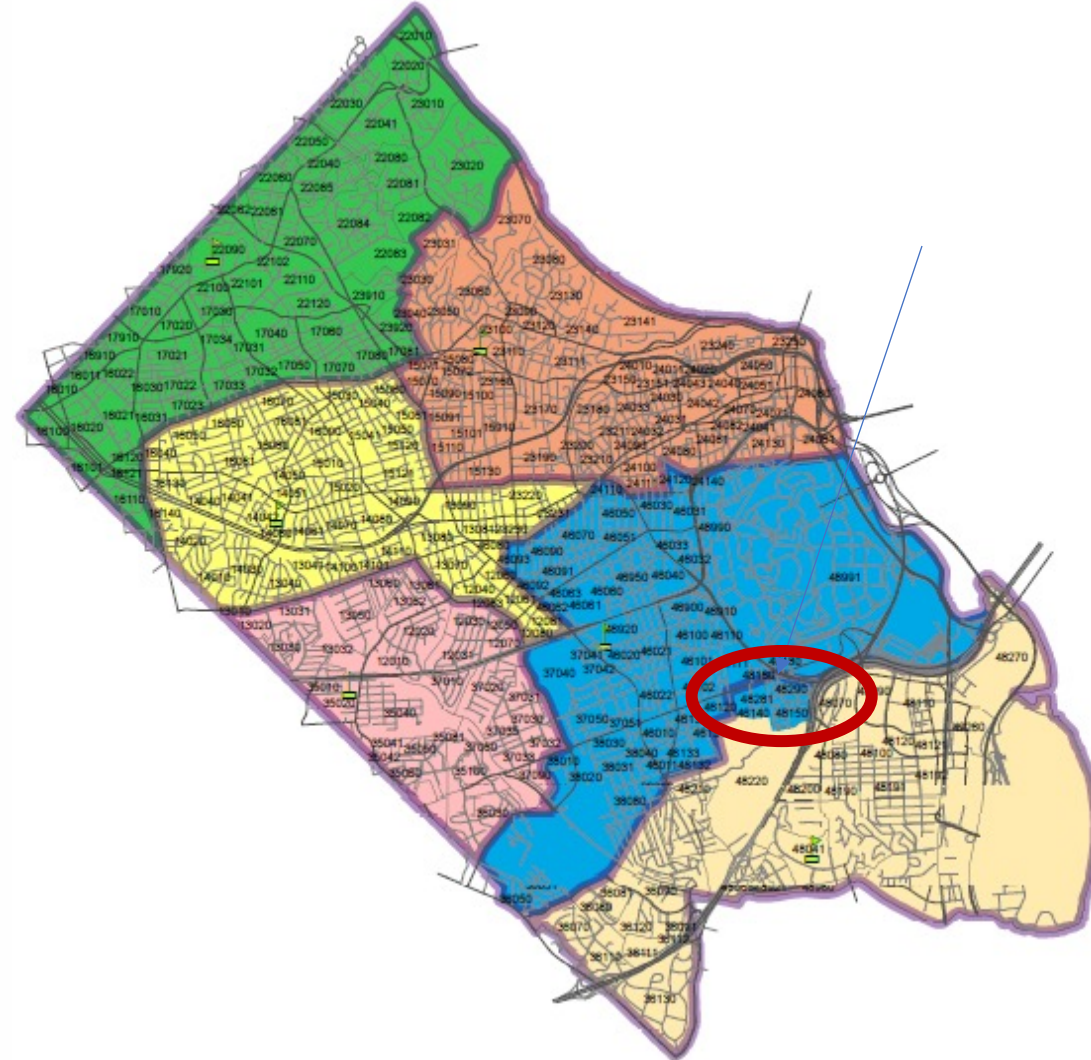
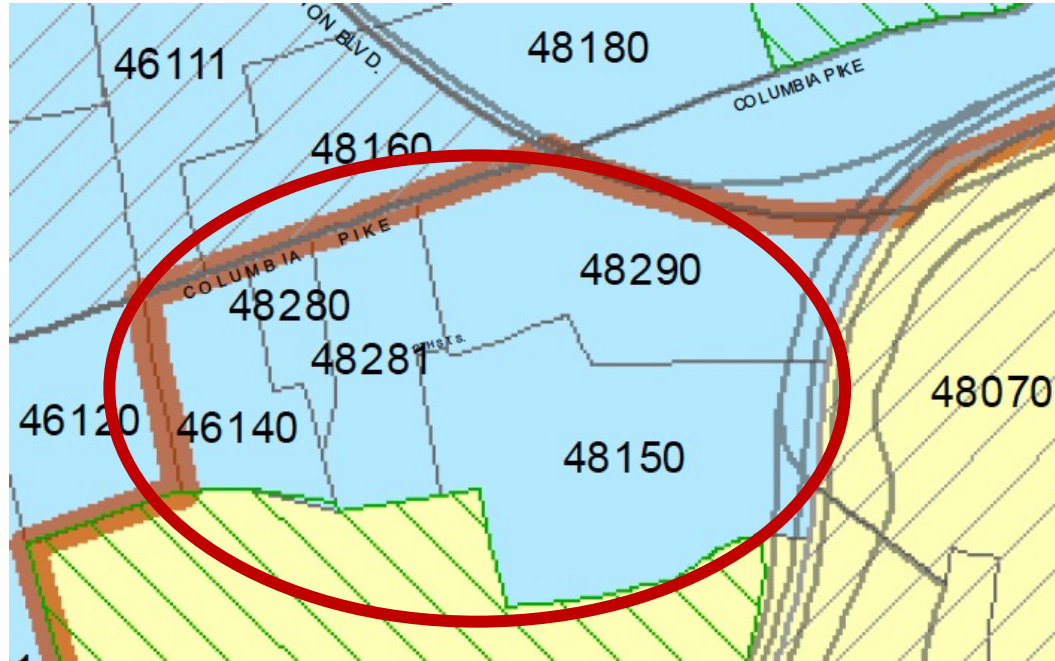
Proposal:

- Reassigns 5 Planning Units from Gunston to Jefferson for the 2022-23 school year
- Planning units - 46140, 48150, 48280, 48281, 48290
 - Corrects 2017 error - not accounting for option school seats at Gunston
 - Return planning units that were moved from Jefferson to Gunston in the 2017 middle school boundary process
 - Does not turn any walkers into bus riders
- Applies as students enter middle school (grade 6 or new to APS)
- Communities Impacted - Arlington View and Columbia Heights

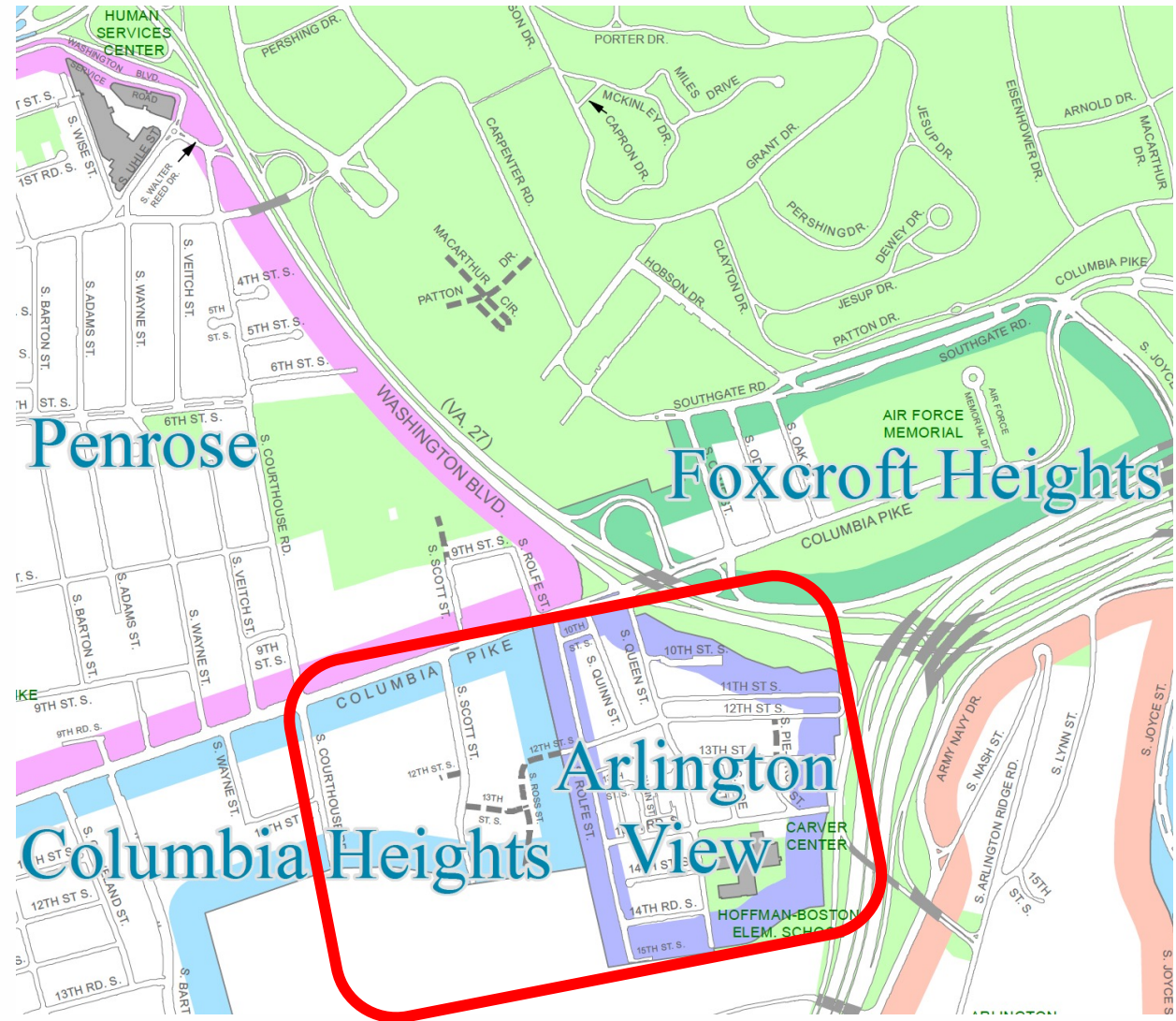
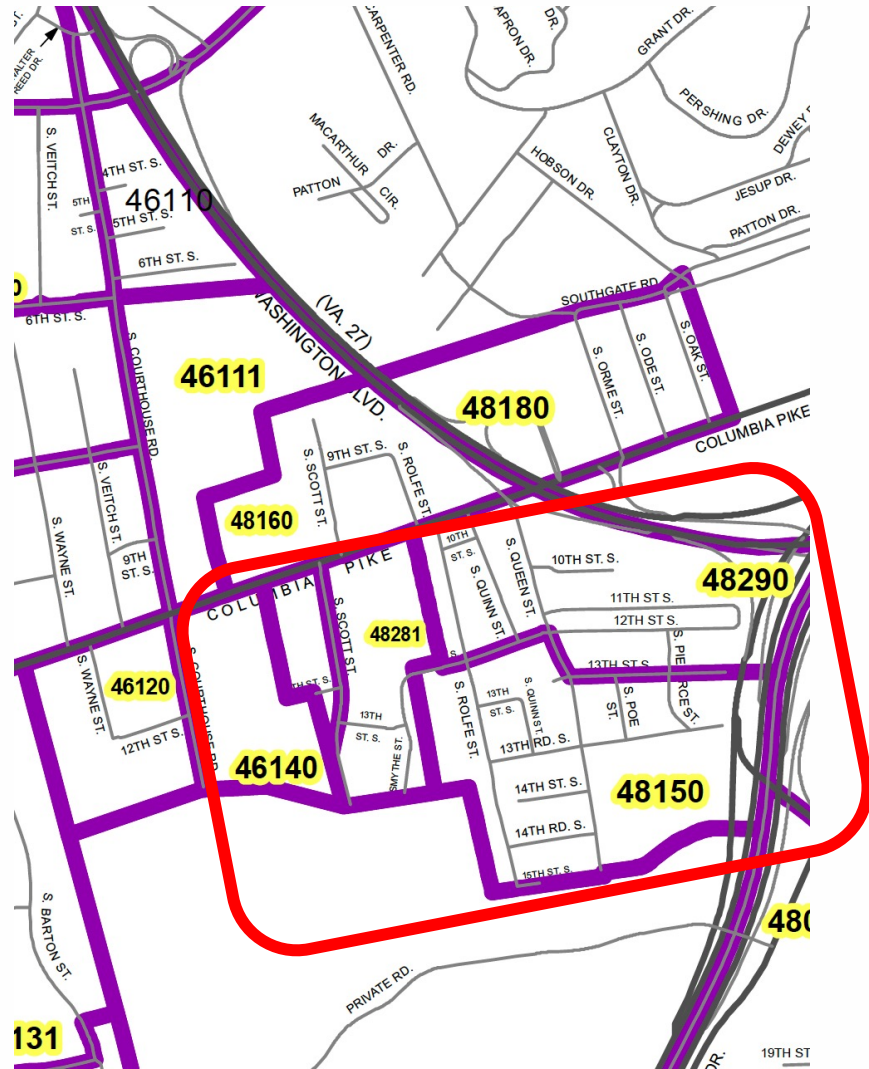
Proposed Grandfathering with Transportation

- Current Gr. 6-7 students can remain at Gunston
- APS transportation will be provided to eligible students via [hub stops](#)

Gunston to Jefferson Boundary Proposal



Gunston to Jefferson Boundary Proposal



Gunston to Jefferson Boundary Proposal

Grade 6-8 Enrollment - September 30, 2021

	Gr. 6	Gr. 7	Gr. 8	Total	Building Capacity	Capacity Utilization
Gunston	362	356	387	1,105	992	111%
Jefferson	303	275	271	849	1,085	78%
Total	665	631	658	2,078	1,954	94%

Enrollment of current Gr. 3, 4 & 5 students in affected planning units (As of Sept 30, 2021)

	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5
46140, 48150, 48280, 48281, 48290	53	46	41

- The boundary proposal applies as students enter middle school (grade 6 or new to APS)
- The proposal includes grandfathering for current Grade 6 and 7 students to remain at Gunston through the remainder of middle school

- Jefferson is not filled to capacity, the school may be able to accept additional students if needed in future boundary processes
- Reassigning planning units on the eastern portion of the county preserves flexibility and options if future boundary adjustments are needed
- If the Fall 2021 projections (available in Jan. 2022) for 2022-23 suggest enrollment is not manageable at other secondary schools, the Annual Update will consider offering targeted transfers for more students to attend schools with space

Boundary Policy Considerations: Gunston to Jefferson

Policy Considerations in Boundary Proposal

Alignment – Reassigned planning units or clusters of planning units that had:

- 24 or more students, or
- if less than 24 students, when they were in closer proximity or aligned with middle/high school cohorts

✓ reassigns 140 Grade 3-5 students over 3 years

Stability

- Not moving Planning Units that were reassigned while current students were enrolled in that school level

✓ students not impacted by 2017 boundary process

Demographics

- Moving F/RL rate for schools towards the countywide average

Available Oct 20

Proximity & Efficiency

- Utilizing available capacity at neighboring schools
- Providing enrollment relief to schools that are overcapacity

✓ provides relief to Gunston using available capacity at Jefferson

Contiguity

- Maintaining attendance zones that are contiguous
- The school is located within its boundary

✓ attendance zone contiguous and school located in its boundary

Wakefield to Washington-Liberty Boundary Proposal

Wakefield to Washington-Liberty Boundary Proposal

Objective:

- Move some planning units from Wakefield to Washington-Liberty to bring enrollment at Wakefield to more manageable levels in 2022-23 by utilizing the available capacity at Washington-Liberty

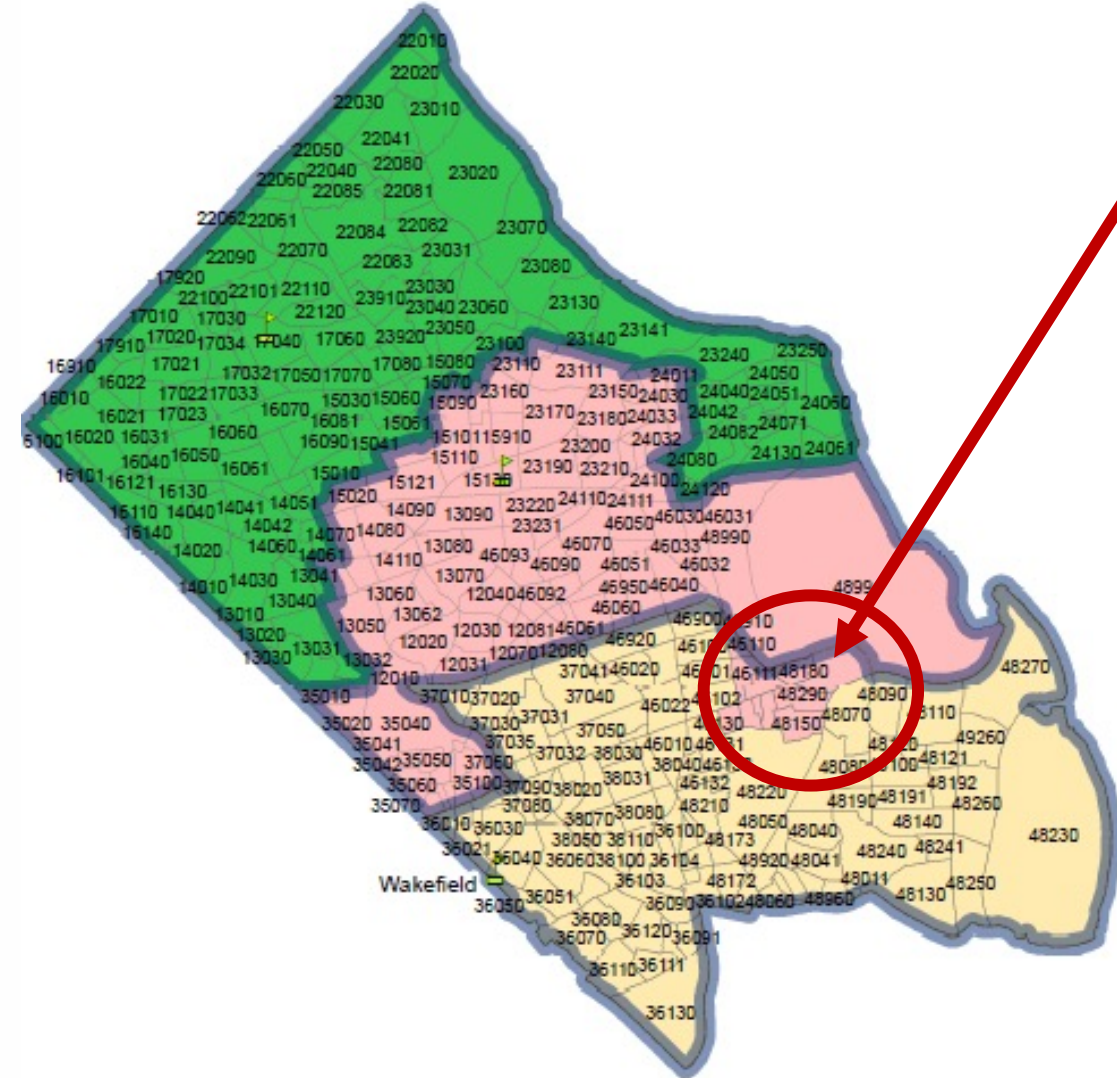
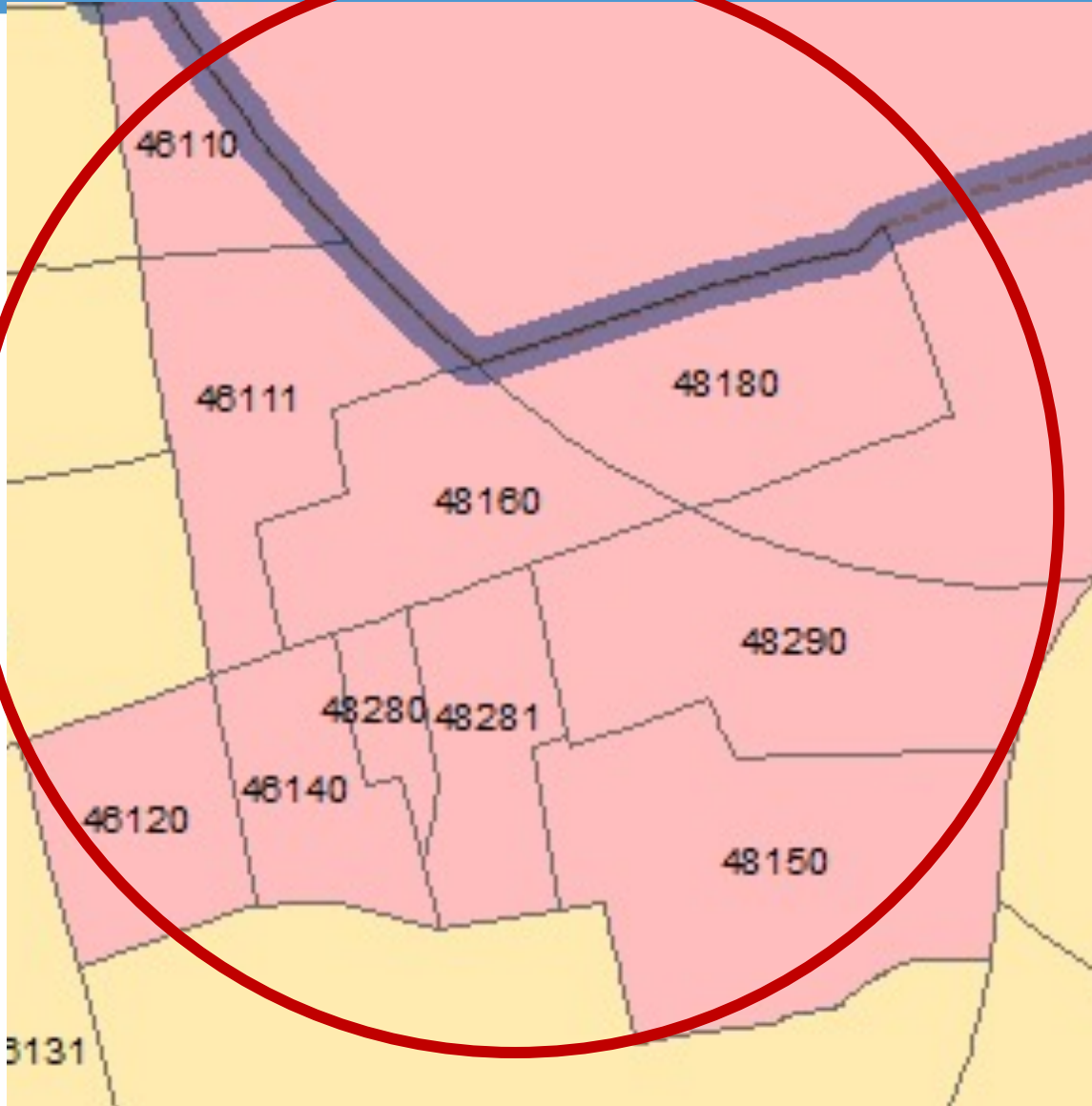
Proposal:

- Reassigns 10 Planning Units from Wakefield to Washington-Liberty for the 2022-23 school year
- Planning Units - 46110, 46111, 46120, 48160, 48180, 48290, 46140, 48150, 48280, 48281
 - Return planning units that were moved from Washington-Liberty to Wakefield in the 2016 high school boundary process
 - Does not turn any walkers into bus riders
- Applies as students enter high school (grade 9 or new to APS)
- Communities Impacted – Penrose, Foxcroft Heights, Arlington View, Columbia Heights

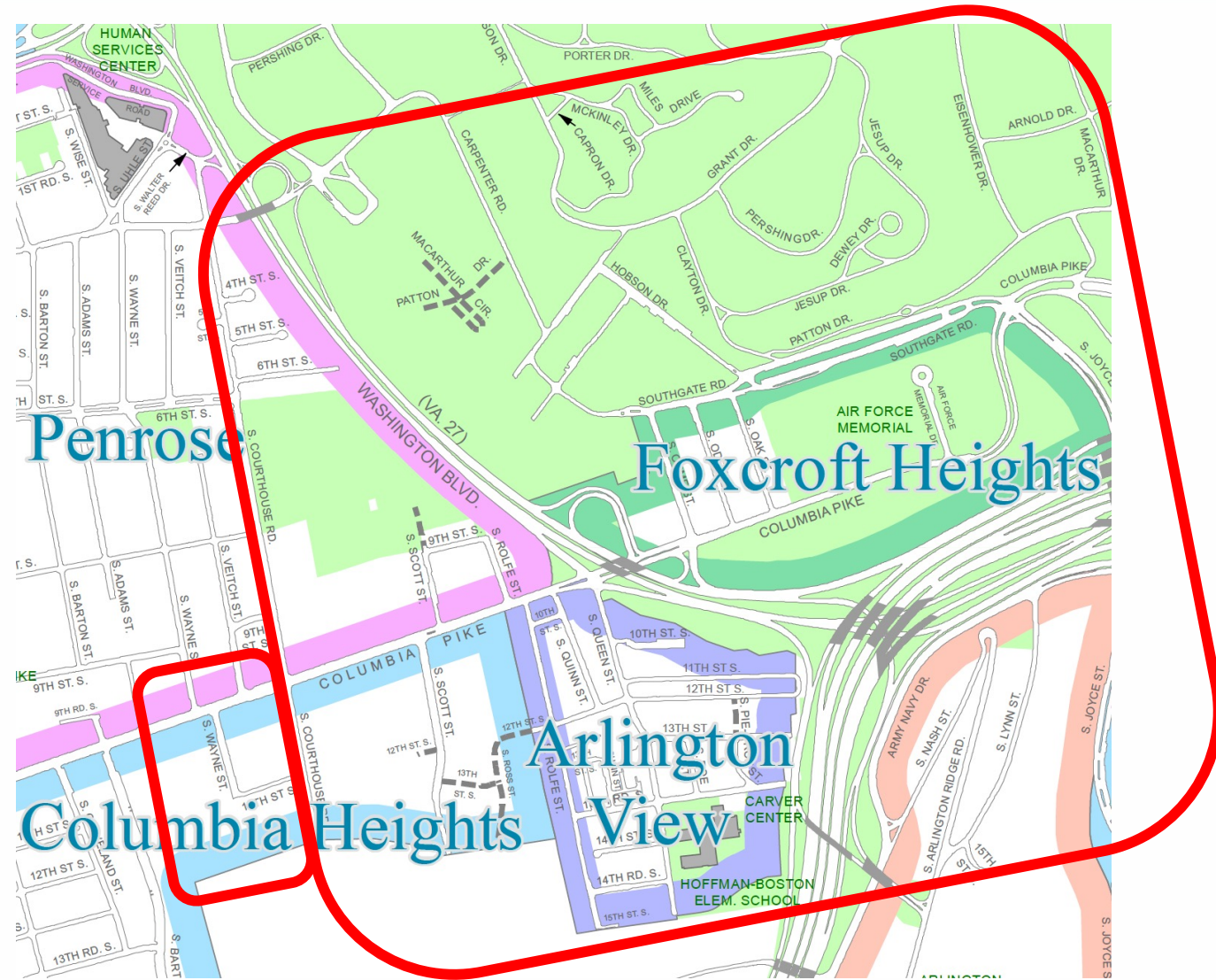
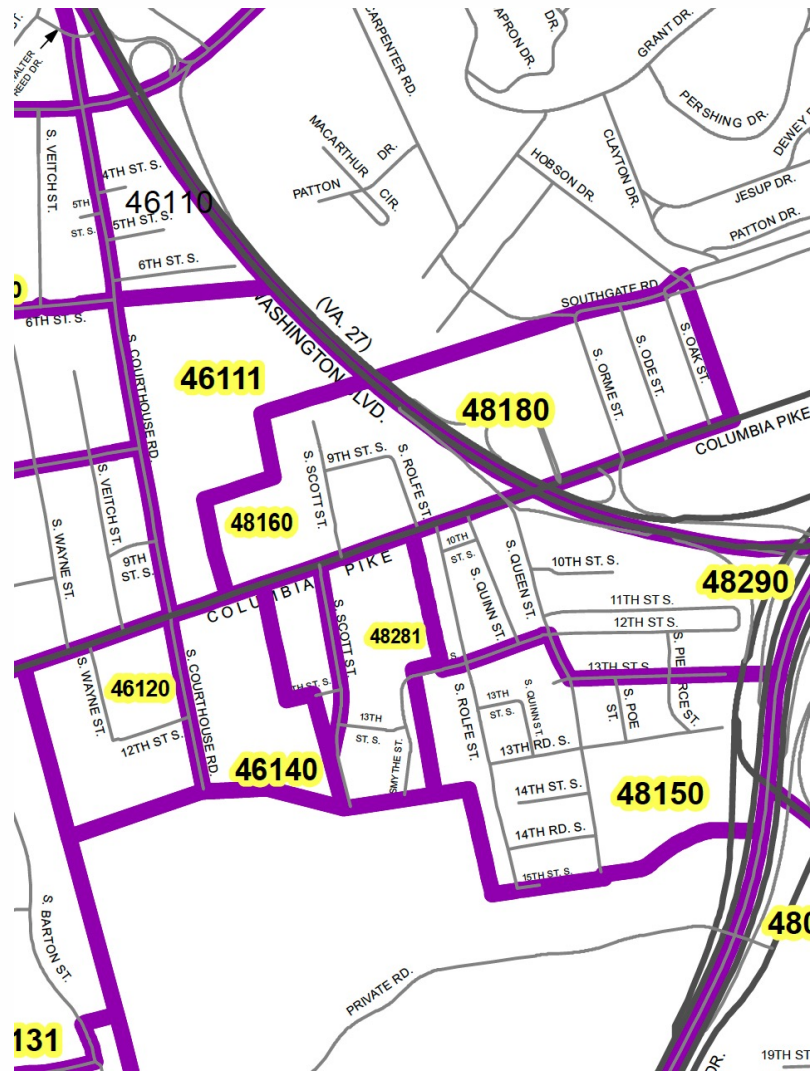
Proposed Grandfathering with Transportation

- Current Grade 9-11 students can remain at Wakefield
- APS transportation will be provided to eligible students via [hub stops](#)

Wakefield to W-L Boundary Proposal



Wakefield to W-L Boundary Proposal



Wakefield to W-L Boundary Proposal

Grades 9-12 Enrollment - September 30, 2021

	Gr. 9	Gr. 10	Gr. 11	Gr. 12	Total	Building Capacity	Capacity Utilization
Wakefield	671	571	515	484	2,241	2,203	102%
Washington-Liberty	570	504	569	531	2,174	2,808	77%
Total	1,241	1,075	1,084	1,015	4,415	5,011	88%

Enrollment of current Gr. 6-8 students in affected planning units (As of Sept. 30, 2021)

	Gr. 6	Gr. 7	Gr. 8
46110, 46111, 46120, 46140, 48150, 48160, 48180, 48280, 48281, 48290	49	54	59

- The boundary proposal applies as students enter high school (grade 8 or new to APS)
- The proposal includes grandfathering for current Grade 9 to 11 students to remain at Wakefield until they graduate in 2022-23

- Washington-Liberty is not filled to capacity, the school may be able to accept additional students if needed in future boundary processes
- In the interim, APS will accept students from the IB waitlist for 2022-23
- IB lottery seats will be revisited annually

IB Lottery Application Data

	2018 Lottery for 2018-19	2019 Lottery for 2019-20	2020 Lottery for 2020-21	2021 Lottery for 2021-22
# Applicants	143	158	168	186
# Applicants on initial waitlist	72	71	95	96

IB Transfers (Wakefield/Yorktown Zoned Students)

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
# IB transfers	223	220	217	224	269

- Reassigning planning units on the eastern portion of the county preserves flexibility and options if future boundary adjustments are needed
- If the Fall 2021 projections (available in Jan. 2022) for 2022-23 suggest enrollment is not manageable at other secondary schools, the Annual Update will consider offering targeted transfers for more students to attend schools with space

Boundary Policy Considerations: Wakefield to Washington-Liberty

Policy Considerations in Boundary Proposal

Alignment – Reassigned planning units or clusters of planning units that had:

- 24 or more students, or
- if less than 24 students, when they were in closer proximity or aligned with middle/high school cohorts

✓ reassigns 162 Grade 6-8 students over 3 years

Stability

- Not moving Planning Units that were reassigned while current students were enrolled in that school level

✓ students not impacted by 2016 boundary process

Demographics

- Moving F/RL rate for schools towards the countywide average based on 2019 data

Available on Oct 20

Proximity & Efficiency

- Utilizing available capacity at neighboring schools
- Providing enrollment relief to schools that are overcapacity

✓ provides relief to Wakefield using available capacity at Washington-Liberty

Contiguity

- Maintaining attendance zones that are contiguous
- The school is located within its boundary

✓ attendance zone contiguous and school located in its boundary

Timeline & Engagement Opportunities

Boundary Process Timeline

✓ Sept. 30	APS announce boundary process through multiple communication channels
✓ Oct. 14	School Board Meeting - Announcement and boundary proposal posted on Engage
Oct. 15-31	Community Engagement – series of opportunities for families to learn more about the proposed boundary adjustments and engage in a Q&A with APS staff
Nov. 3	School Board Work Session – Boundary Adjustments for the 2022-23 School Year Staff will update the proposal to address grandfathering of siblings, update information that has changed
Nov. 16	School Board hears the Superintendent’s Proposal for Boundary Adjustments for the 2022-23 School Year
Nov. 30	School Board holds a Public Hearing on the Proposed Boundary Adjustments for the 2022-23 School Year
Dec. 2	School Board votes on Boundary Adjustments for the 2022-23 School Year

Virtual Community Meeting – Short presentation of proposal followed by Q&A

Date	Time
Sat., Oct 16	11:00-12:45 pm
Tue., Oct 19	12:00-12:45 pm
Wed., Oct 20	7:00-7:45 pm (Spanish Only)
Thu., Oct 21	7:00-7:45 pm

Virtual Open Office Hours – Q&A session only

Date	Time
Tue., Oct 26	7:00-7:30 pm
Thu., Oct 28	12:00-12:30 pm

Virtual community meetings – Overview of proposal, supporting information, Q&A

- The same information will be presented at each session
- Simultaneous interpretation available in Spanish, Arabic, Amharic, and Mongolian
- English not available at the Spanish Only sessions
- Meetings will be recorded and posted on the Fall 2021 Boundary Process Engage page

Virtual Open Office Hours - Opportunity to ask questions and receive a response

- Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Spanish
- Those who communicate in a language other than English or Spanish can submit questions in their preferred language to Engage@apsva.us and a response will be provided in their preferred language
- Meetings will be recorded and posted on the Fall 2021 Boundary Process Engage page

Outreach

- The community engagement schedule and links to the virtual community meetings and open office hours was communicated to families through multiple channels beginning on Sept. 30.
- Families will be notified of the proposal on Oct. 15 and those in affected planning units who would be impacted in school year 2022-23 will receive additional communication
- In addition, P&E will be working collaboratively with Bilingual Family Liaisons to conduct targeted outreach to the families in affected planning units



Frequent updates on APS Engage, including:

- Presentations
- Timeline
- Data
- FAQ's
- Links to School Board Work Sessions/Meetings

Additional communications shared throughout the process via:

- School Talk Engage messages
- Social media
- School Ambassador updates
- News release

Follow process at

www.apsva.us/engage/fall-2021-boundary-process/



Questions? Write to:
engage@apsva.us

All Arlington Public Schools (APS) budget and operations decisions are based on the best information available at the time. Staff and community members are reminded that funding forecasts from Arlington County and the state may change, based on many external factors. Similarly, student enrollment and projections are based on the best available information, but are also subject to change due to employment, housing and other economic factors. For these reasons, APS and the Arlington School Board may adjust future budget allocations, staffing and other operations decisions to reflect the existing community and operating landscape.