
DC Student Assignment and School Boundary Review Process

3/10/14

Goals of Initiative

Develop student assignment and school choice policies that provide families with clarity, predictability, and access to high quality school options at locations that make sense for them.

- To clarify rights and responsibilities of families and schools regarding access to public schools
- To update feeder relationships between schools to ensure a robust pipeline of students into the middle and high schools
- To ensure boundaries align to DCPS facility capacity and projected population of students
- To explore opportunities to bridge student-assignment and choice policies across DCPS and charter schools

DC Advisory Committee on Student Assignment

Committee of 23 community members and District agency representatives, with a charge to:

- Review current citywide policies on attendance zones, feeder patterns and school choice
- Formulate guidelines and principles for public school assignment and choice policies and practices
- Listen to the community and serve as insightful interpreters of public sentiment, concerns, and questions
- Develop recommendations and scenarios for revised DCPS attendance zone and feeder patterns
- Make recommendations on how to bridge student-assignment and choice policies across DCPS and public charter schools

Public Engagement Process and Timeline



Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2014	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
Advisory Committee Meetings							Prelim Report & Recommendations	Advisory Meeting	Final Report	Advisory Meeting	Mayor Releases Final Plan
Technical Research and Analysis				Develop Recommendations			Revise Recommendations				
Focus Groups, Surveys and Community Outreach Meetings					Working Groups	City-wide Community Meetings					

Focus Groups provide input into principles and values

Working Groups vet policy scenarios being considered by the Committee

EngageDC.org an online forum to share and comment on ideas and concerns

Citywide community meetings provide feedback on *Preliminary Report and Recommendations on Student Assignment and Choice* released in May.

Online survey provides feedback on *Preliminary Report and Recommendations on Student Assignment and Choice* released in May.

Current Challenges

Challenging Landscape for Families

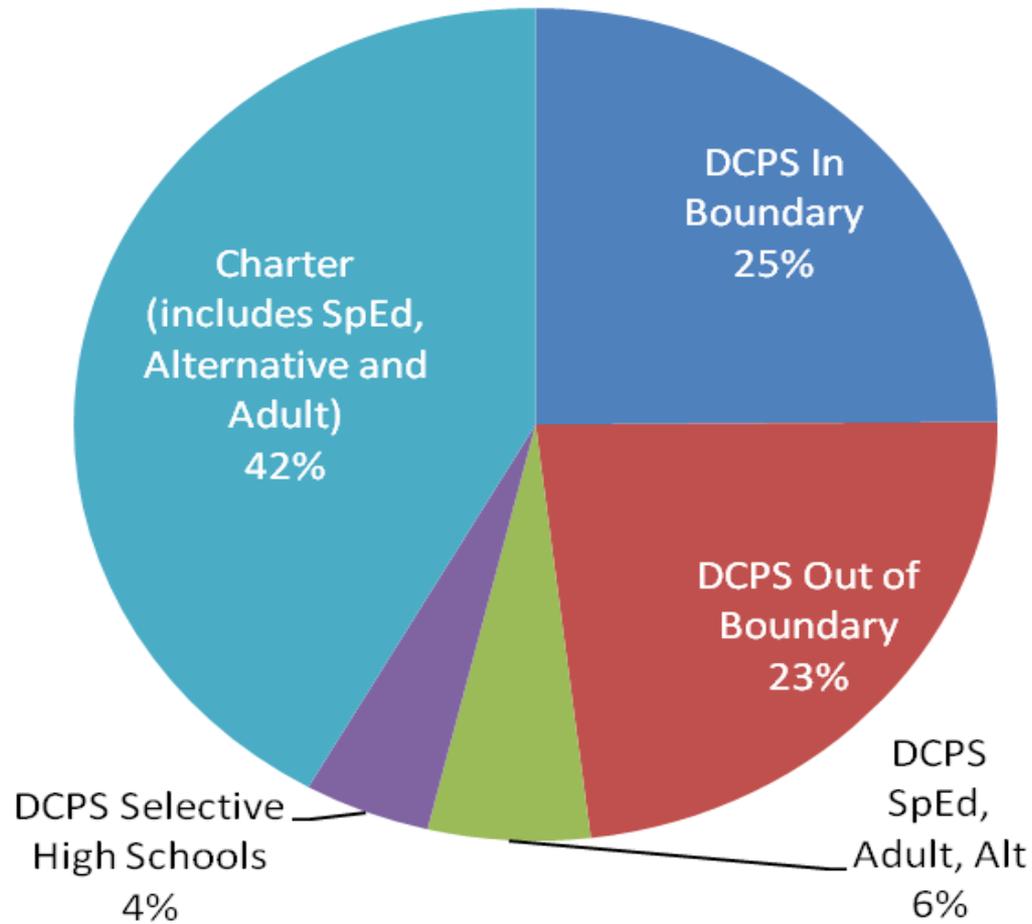
- 31 neighborhood schools closed and boundaries consolidated since 2007 (58 DCPS schools closed since 1996)
- Lack of programmatic continuity for DCPS and PCS
- Uncertainty about the quality of school options, particularly secondary schools
- Over crowded schools
- Under-utilized schools
- Low chances for lottery access to high demand schools
- Only lottery based early childhood seats
- High threshold for selective admissions DCPS high schools
- Little sector-neutral guidance for families making public education choices
- Lack of confidence that parents/community can affect school quality

Challenging Landscape for DC

The last comprehensive review of policies was done in 1968. Since then:

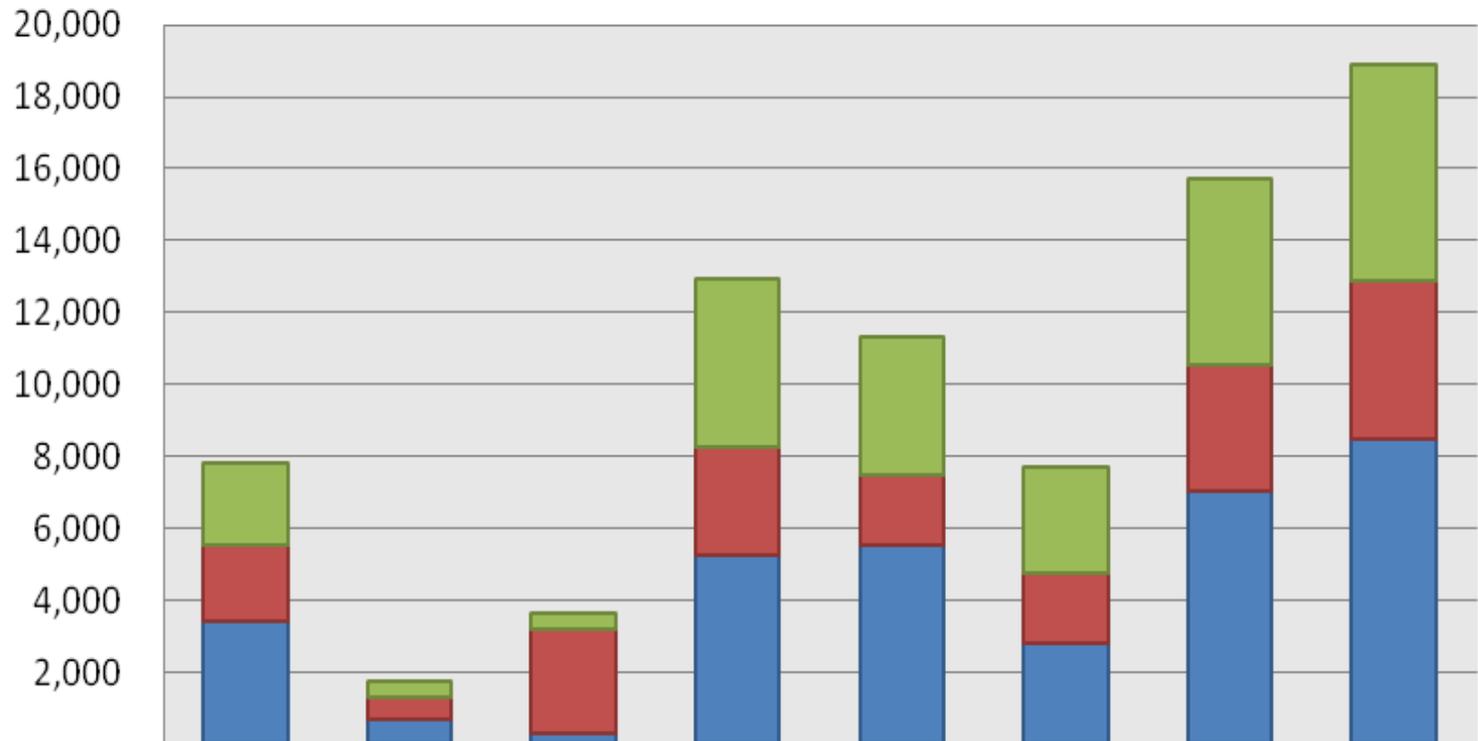
- Significant change in child population
 - Decline from 2000 to 2010
 - Increases projected for 2010-2020
- Significant changes in school supply
- High levels of student mobility within and between schools and region

Citywide Distribution of Enrollment (SY12-13)



Student Assignment and Choice by Ward of Residence

Public School Enrollment 2012-13



	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8
DCPS OOB	2,264	470	449	4,696	3,868	2,953	5,198	6,022
DCPS In Boundary	2,114	629	2,875	2,981	1,963	1,933	3,507	4,357
Charter Enrollment	3,434	670	292	5,278	5,504	2,800	7,032	8,498

Confusing Attendance Zones

The attendance zones have not been updated following the closing of Meyer Elementary School in 2008. Students living at 1368 Euclid Street, NW have three different schools of right.



EBIS: Boundary Information System

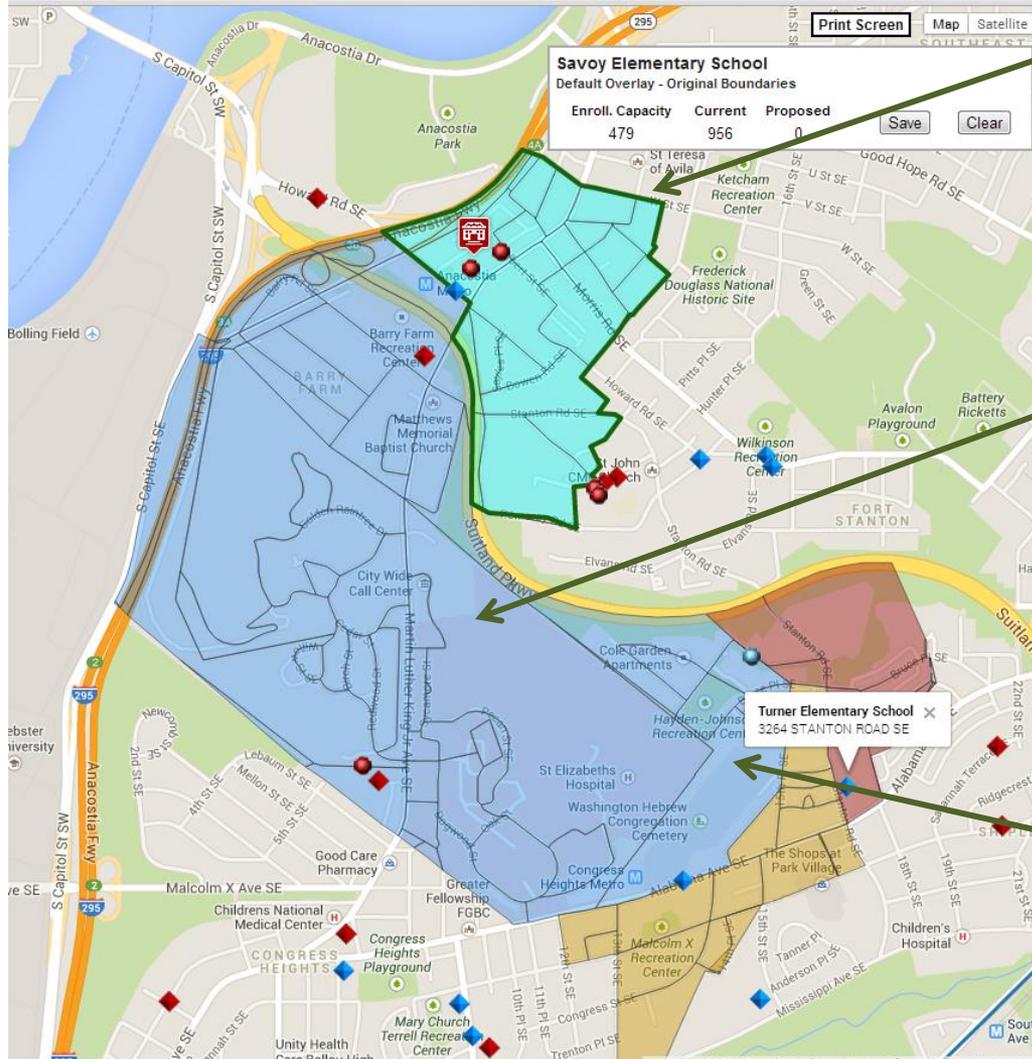
Provide an address below to see the school assigned to that address
e.g. 1301 Massachusetts Ave NW

The following schools are assigned to your address

School Type	School Name	School Address	Phone Number	Zoom To
Elementary School	Tubman Elementary School	3101 13TH STREET NW	202-673-7285	
Elementary School	H.D. Cooke Elementary School	2525 17TH STREET NW	202-939-5390	
Elementary School	Garrison Elementary School	1200 S STREET NW	202-673-7263	
Middle and High School	Cardozo Education Campus	1200 CLIFTON STREET NW	202-673-7385	



Poor Alignment for Walkability



The green line represents the Savoy boundary before Birney ES was closed in 2008.

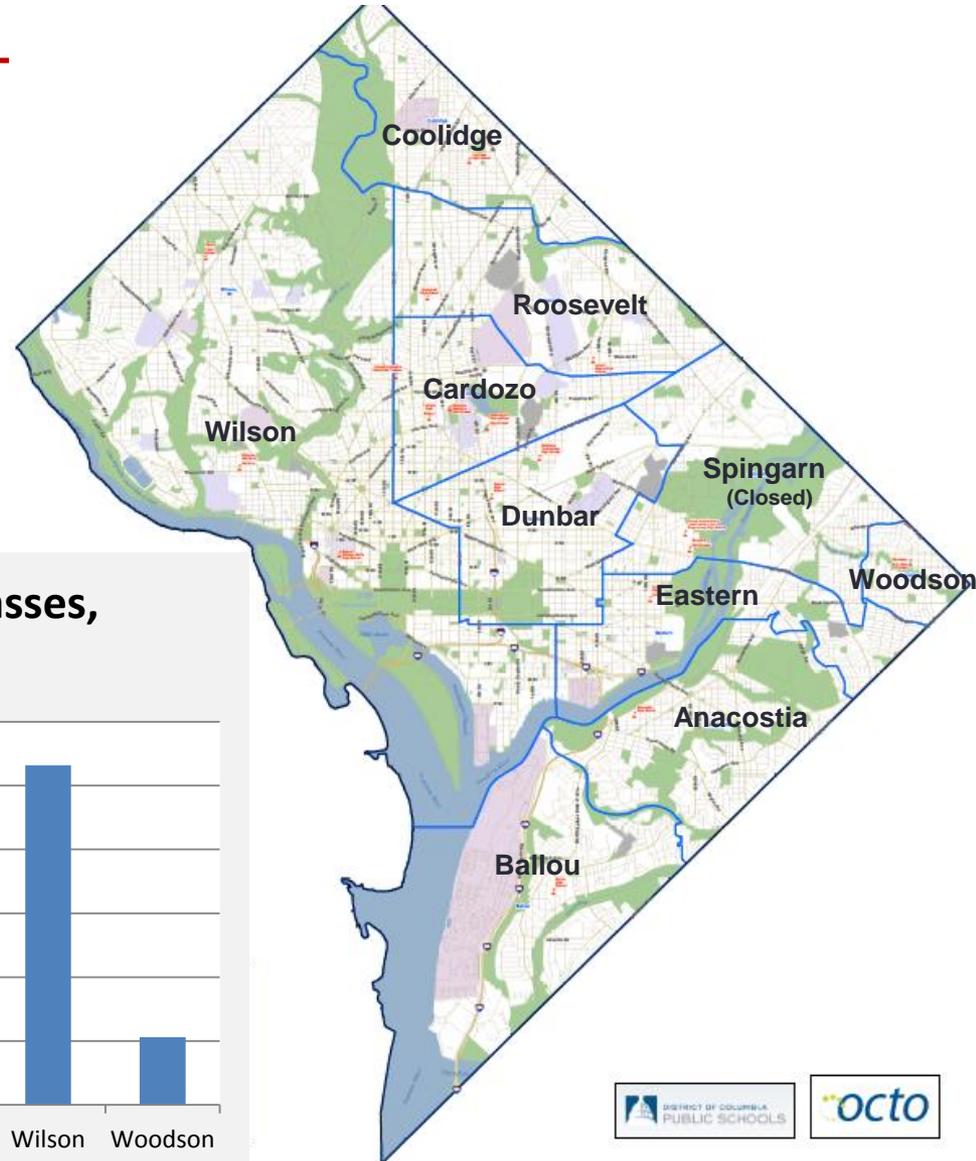
Students living in the blue (former Birney ES) boundary were reassigned to Savoy ES.

In 2012-13 there were 96 elementary students who lived far closer to Turner ES or to Malcolm X ES, than to Savoy ES.

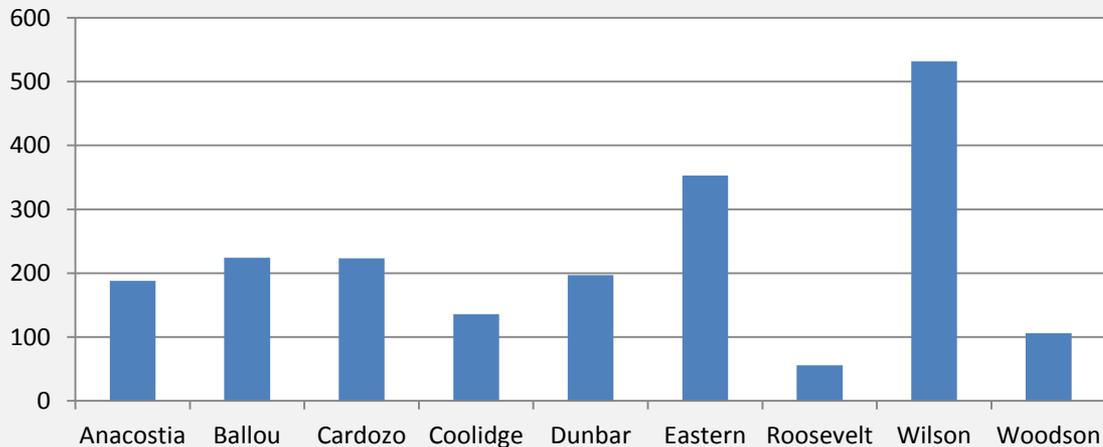
Imbalance in HS Boundaries and Feeders

Our current high school attendance zones reflect the housing density and building utilization of the 1970s.

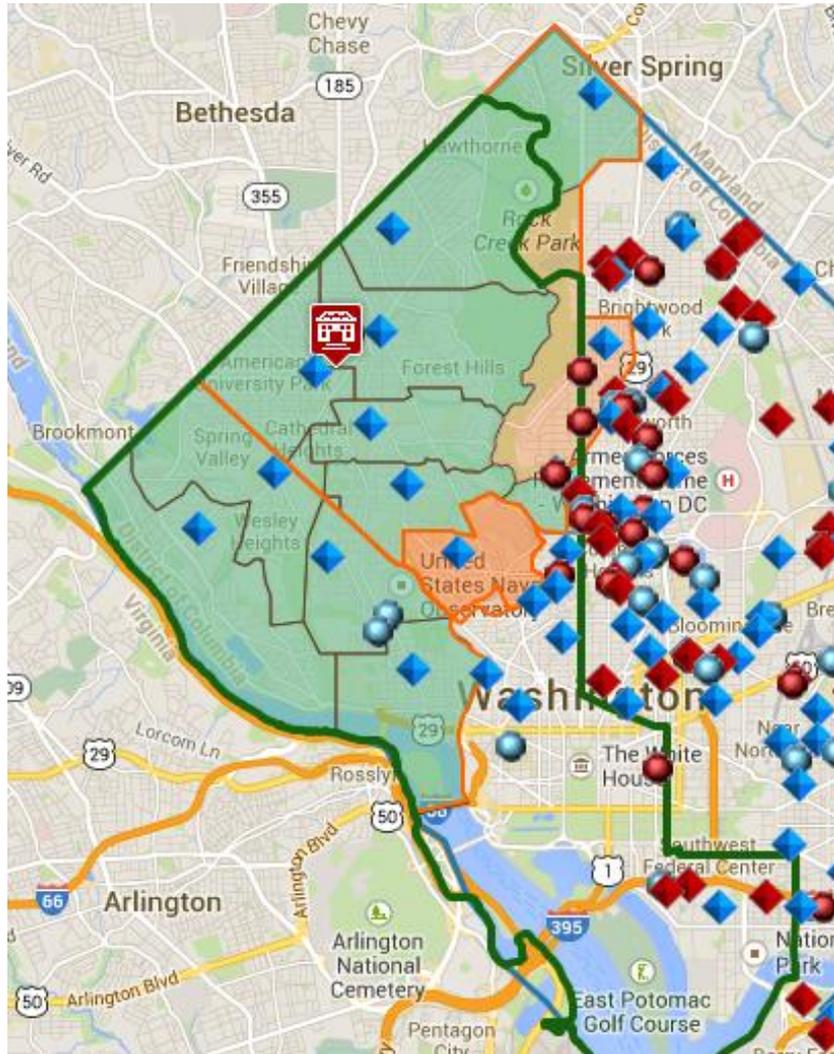
Feeder patterns create structural imbalances in enrollments



of Students in Feeder 8th-Grade Classes, SY 2012-13



Poorly Aligned Feeder Schools: Wilson



The green line represents the Wilson HS boundary. The orange and green shaded areas represent a school attendance zone that is currently in the Wilson feeder pattern.

Highlights of our Work to Date

Public Feedback

Held focus groups across all 8 wards

- 171 participants
- Participants rated the following values as highest priority
 - Equitable Access to Quality Schools
 - Predictability
 - Strengthening Neighborhood Schools (ES and MS)

School and community meetings ongoing

- Over 250 participants to date

Policy Briefs

Policy Brief #1: DC Student Assignment and Choice Policy

- *Provides a brief history of student assignment in DC and a factual overview of current student assignment and school choice policy*

Policy Brief #2: Student Assignment Policies in Other Cities

- *Provides an overview of the policies related to assigning students to schools in seven other cities, highlighting key issues and principles involved.*

Policy Brief #3: DC Landscape for Student Assignment and School Choice

- *Provides basic data and information on city and neighborhood population and demographics, school characteristics, school-facility infrastructure, and school attributes that may be variously considered as causes or effects of student assignment and choice.*

Framework for Developing Scenarios

Options exist on a spectrum between two extremes:

All assigned
All neighborhood



All application
All citywide

Scenarios will address the following:

- Student/families access and rights to DCPS elementary, middle, and high schools
- DCPS choice system
- Role of charter schools in a DCPS system of neighborhood schools
- What programmatic changes are needed to support implementation

What is Next?

- Committee members engaging their communities
- Working groups will begin in early April
 - Sign Up Online at www.dme.dc.gov or call 202-478-5738
- For questions, please contact:
 - Dme.studentassignment@dc.gov
 - 202-478-5738
- DME attending meetings across the city to talk with community and parent groups
- Ongoing work with DCPS on program planning and alignment

Discussion Questions

- Feeder Patterns
 - What role should feeder patterns play in this process? (geographic, programmatic, both or none)
 - Should students maintain their current feeder rights? Do we prioritize geography over feeder rights?
- Do you think about student assignment policy differently at the elementary, middle and high school grade levels?
- What role does choice play in a system of neighborhood schools?