



# PGCPS Comprehensive School Boundary Initiative

Phase II Community Engagement  
November 2021

# Welcome



**Welcome**

# **Rhianna McCarter**

**Manager, Pupil Accounting  
& School Boundaries, PGCPS**

**Welcome**

**Steve Brigham**  
**Public Engagement Associates**

# Meeting Goals

## Today we will:

- Explain the boundary initiative process and timeline
- Describe the three scenarios and how they were produced
- Discuss the scenarios in breakout groups
- Gain an understanding of community priorities and reactions to the scenarios

# Agenda

Get Settled 6:30 - 6:35pm

Welcome 6:35 - 7:00pm

Process Overview

Scenarios & Discussion 7:00- 7:55pm

Scenarios Overview

Q&A

Online Tool

Breakout Rooms

Close Out/Next Steps 7:55 - 8:00pm

# Zoom Reminders

## Mute

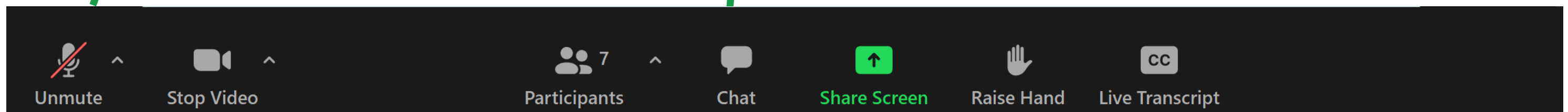
Please keep yourself on mute unless you're in a breakout room.

## Chat

Send a message to **"Ask Me Questions"** to ask questions or inform us of technical challenges.

## Closed Captioning

is also available. Click the "CC: Live Transcript" icon.



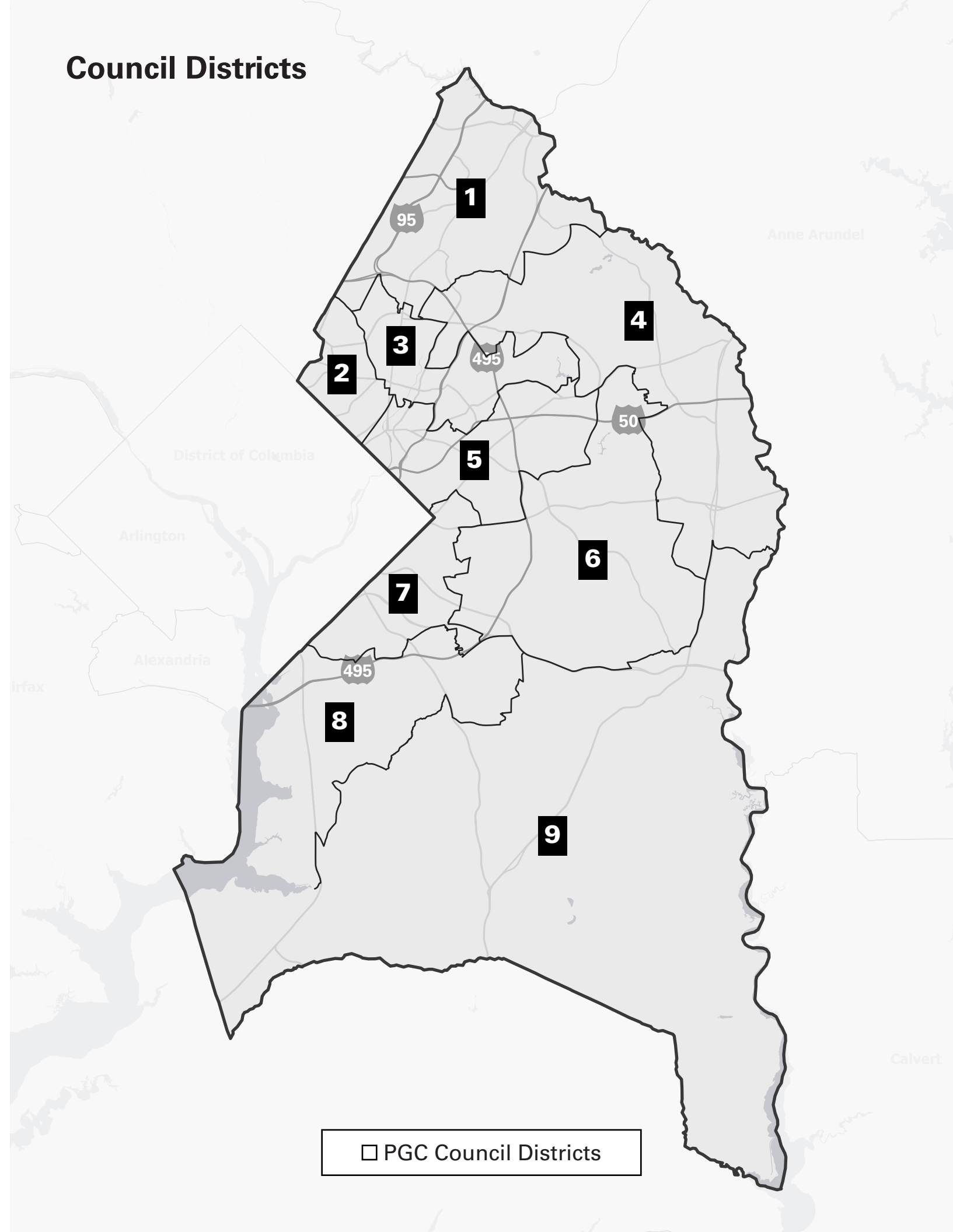
# Polling Questions



# Polling Questions

1. Council District 1 (Laurel, Beltsville)
2. Council District 2 (Hyattsville, Langley Park, Mt. Rainier, N. Brentwood)
3. Council District 3 (Beacon Heights, College Park, Glenn Dale, Lanham, New Carrollton, Riverdale)
4. Council District 4 (Bowie, Greenbelt, Lanham-Seabrook, Upper Marlboro)
5. Council District 5 (Bladensburg, Cheverly, Glenarden, Springdale, Fairmount Hts.)
6. Council District 6 (S. Bowie, Capitol Hts, District Hts, Forestville, Largo)
7. Council District 7 (Hillcrest Hts, Marlow Hts, Seat Pleasant, Suitland, Morningside)
8. Council District 8 (Andrews Afb, Oxon Hill, Fort Washington, Clinton, Camp Springs, Glassmanor)
9. Council District 9 (Accokeek, Brandywine, Eagle Harbor, Aquasco, Piscataway)

## Council Districts



# Welcome

# Chris Rice

## Director of Planning, WXY

**Comprehensive School**

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**Boundary Initiative**

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**Overview**

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**B**

# What is the Comprehensive School Boundary Initiative?

The PGCPS Comprehensive School Boundary Initiative is an effort to best utilize available school facilities in support of the district's academic objectives.

# PGCPS Snapshot

PGCPS is the second largest school system in Maryland, and 25th largest in the U.S.A. This Boundary Initiative focuses on neighborhood schools, which most students in PGCPS attend.

## Overall:

207 schools

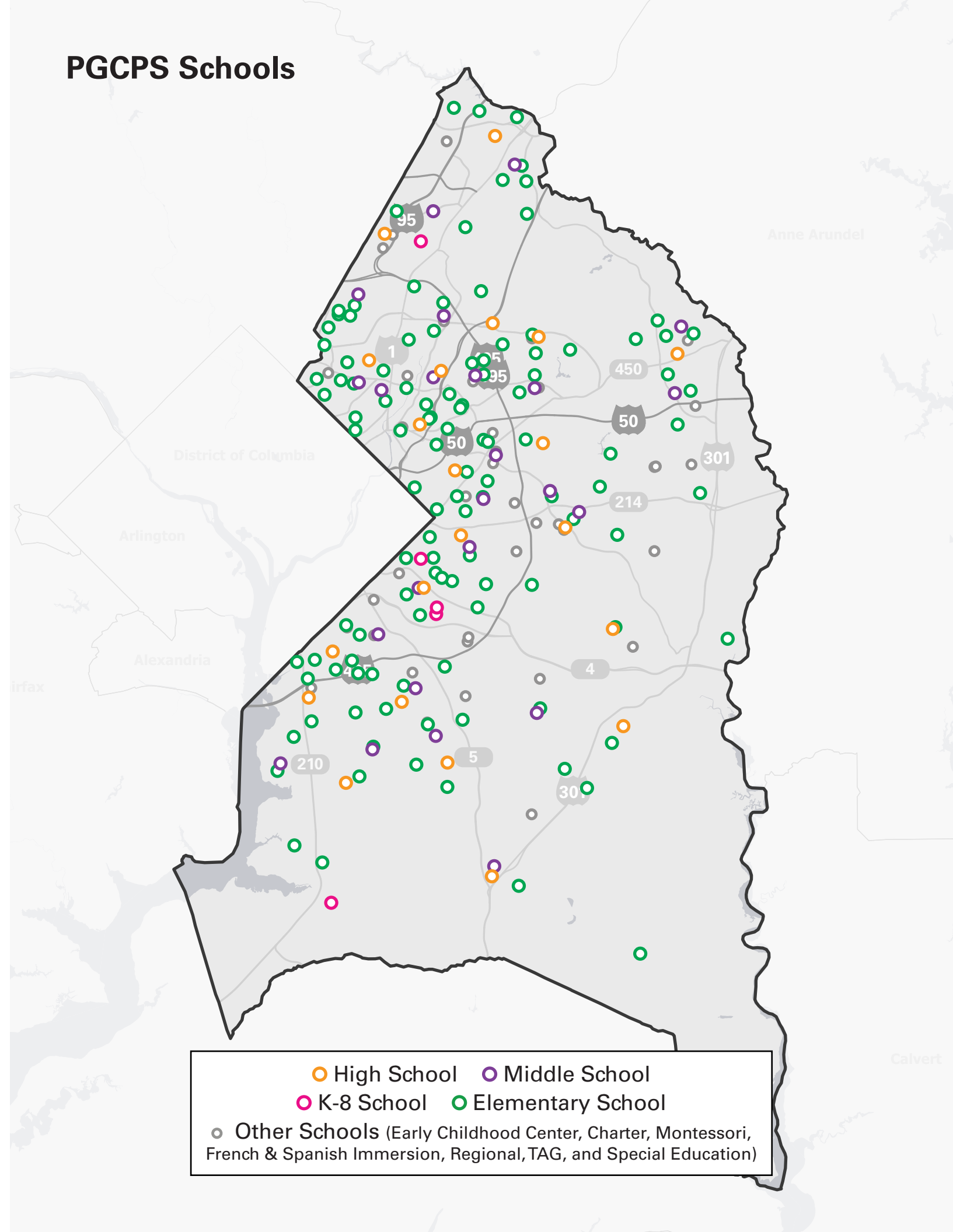
135,000 students

## In this analysis:

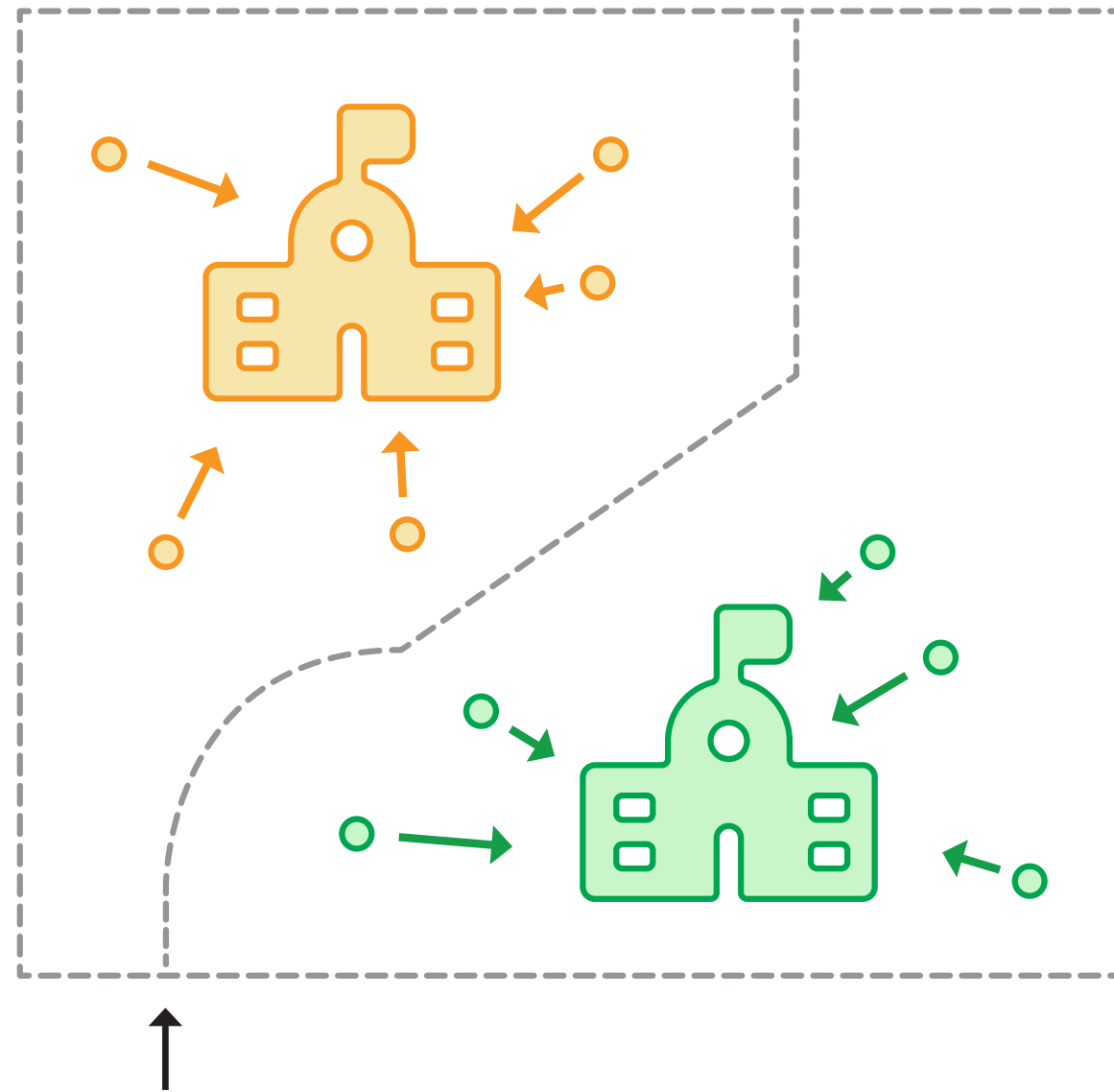
165 neighborhood schools

116,000 students served by neighborhood schools

## PGCPS Schools



# What is a school boundary?

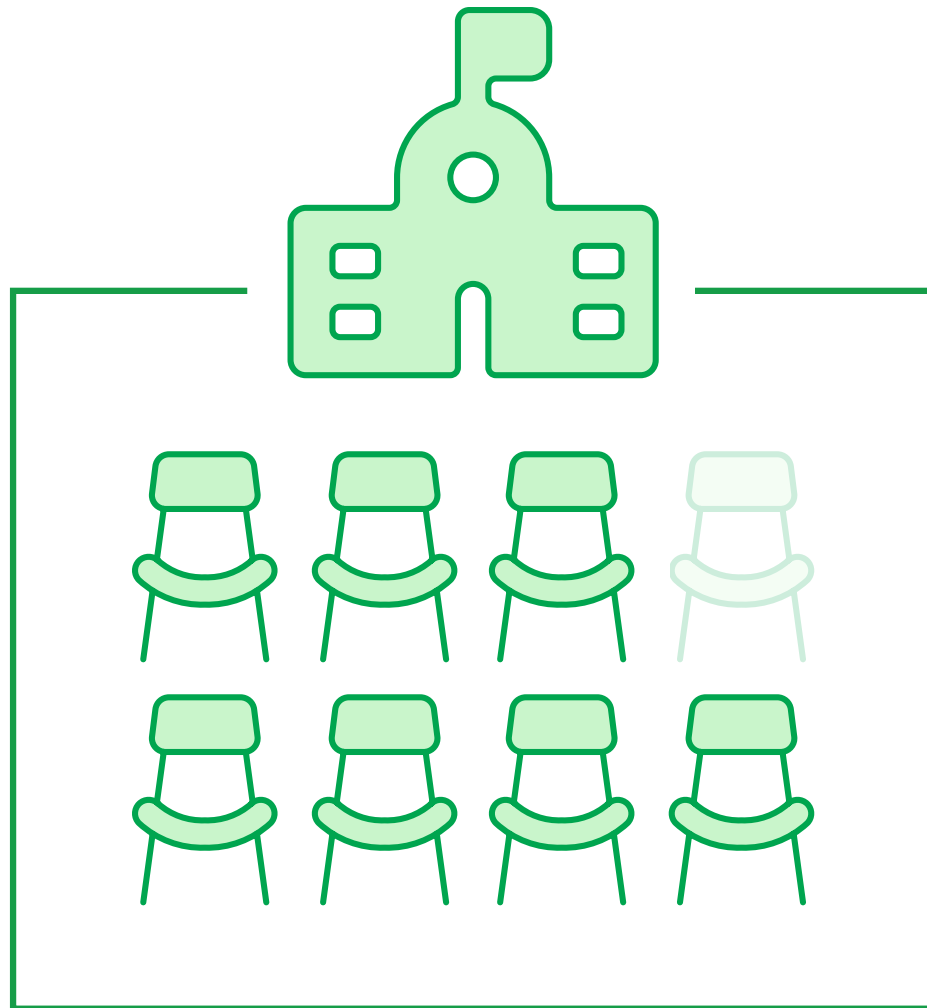


The gray school boundary separates the green school and the orange school

## School Boundary or Attendance Area

A geographic area that determines which school a home is assigned to. All homes have an assigned neighborhood school for each education level.

# What is utilization?



## School Utilization



School utilization is the ratio between the number of students enrolled at a school and the school's total capacity:

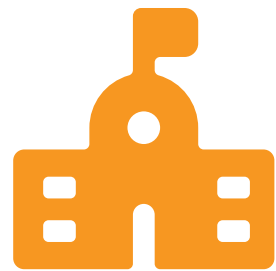
**Utilization =**

Total Pupils / Capacity

PGCPS seeks to keep schools **utilized between 80% and 95%**.

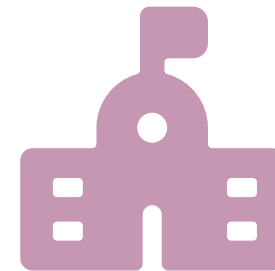
# Why Does Utilization Matter?

Over-utilization and under-utilization both pose challenges for PGCPS operations and student experience and outcomes.



## Challenges of Over-Utilization

- Over-enrolled classrooms
- Overcrowded core spaces
- Portable classrooms
- Lack of parking
- Overcrowded bus pick-up areas



## Challenges of Under-Utilization

- Vacant classrooms
- Part-time specialty teachers
- Higher cost per student to operate
- Lower State capital project funding

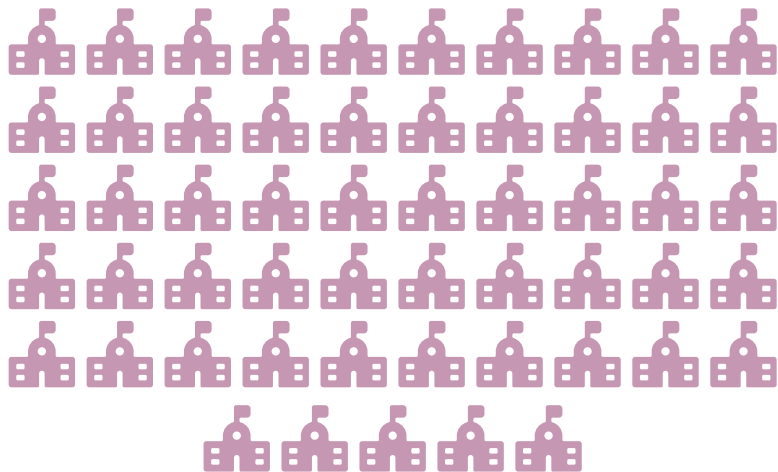


# Why is the Boundary Initiative needed?

Currently, 50 schools (30%) are well utilized, falling in the 80-95% target utilization range set out by PGCPS. Only neighborhood schools are included.

## Under-utilized

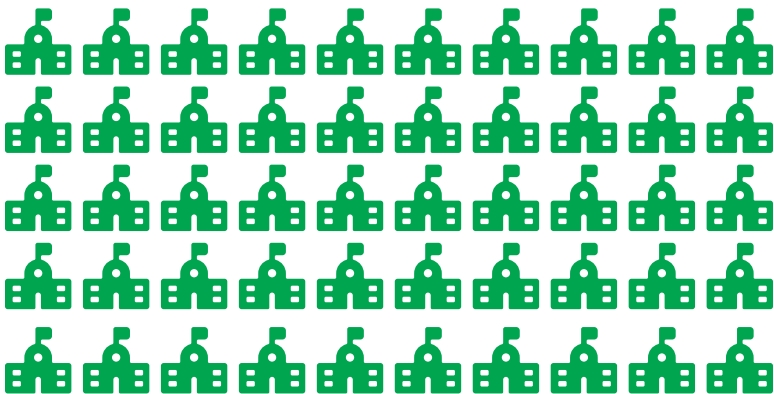
< 80%



55 schools

## Ideal utilization

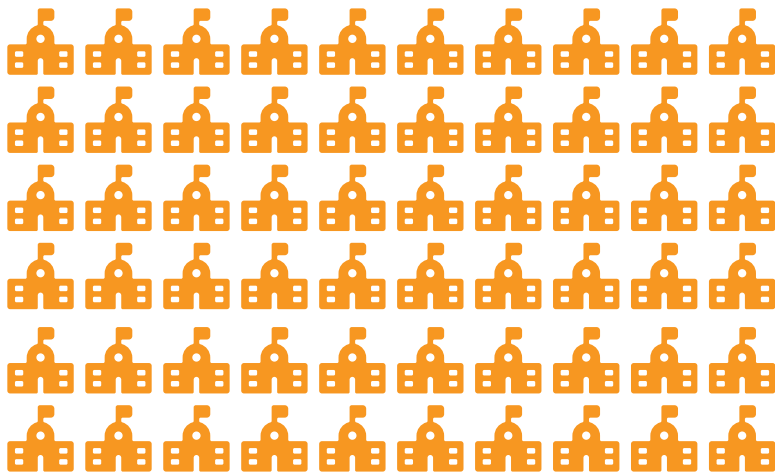
80% - 95%



50 schools

## Over-utilized

> 95%



60 schools

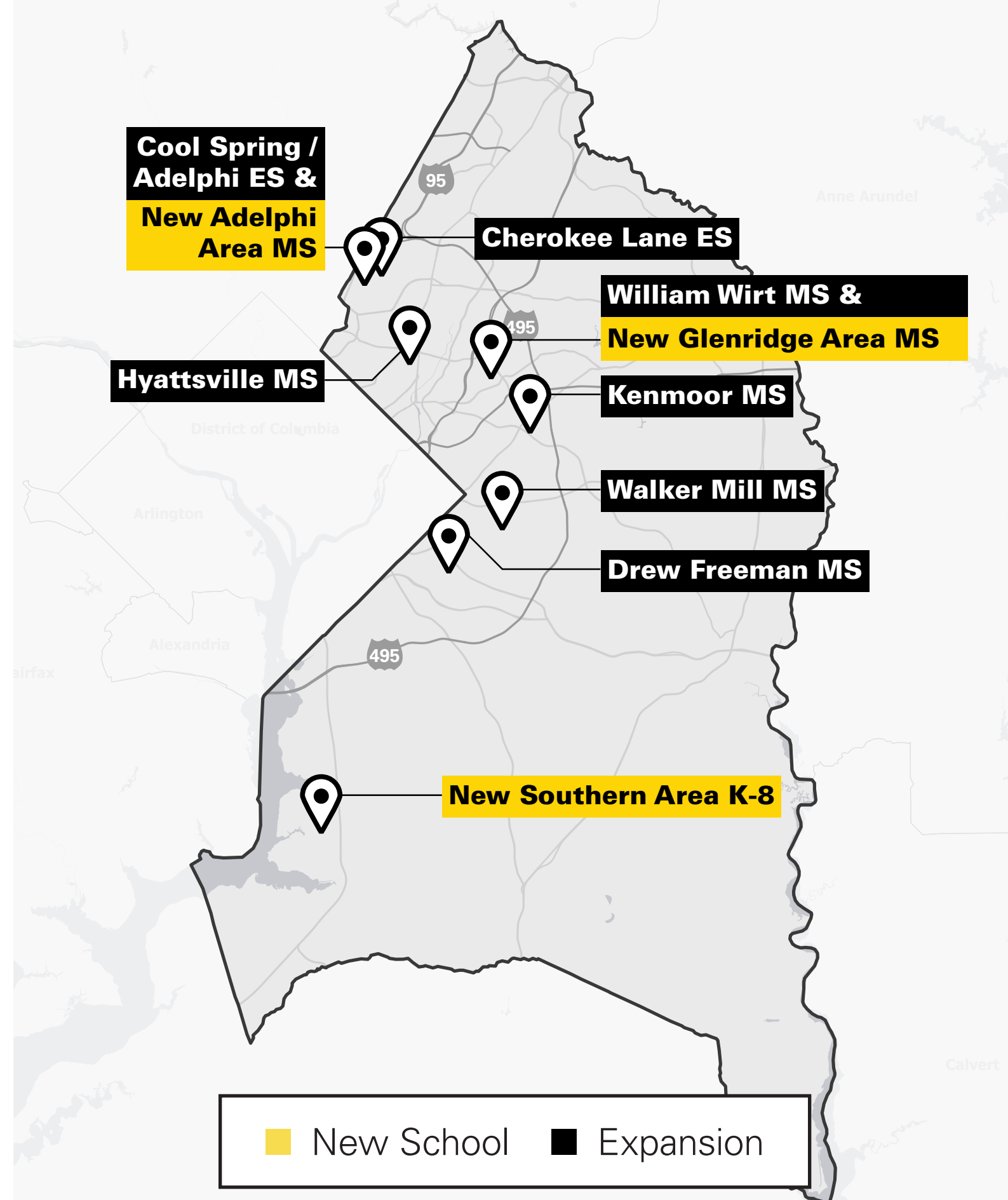
# Why is the Boundary Initiative needed?

To accommodate the growing student body, PGCPS has **10 planned capacity projects** in the pipeline, which should add over 6,500 student stations.

**New** or expanded schools often require redrawing boundaries, for both the impacted school and neighboring schools.

School	Capacity Addition	Opening School Year
Cherokee Lane ES	438	2021-22
William Wirt MS	350	2022-23
<b>New Glenridge Area MS</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>New Adelphi Area MS</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Hyattsville MS	413	2023-24
Kenmoor MS	505	2023-24
Walker Mill MS	350	2023-24
Drew-Freeman MS	310	2023-24
<b>New Southern K-8</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Cool Spring / Adelphi ES	150	2024-25

## Planned Expansion and New Schools

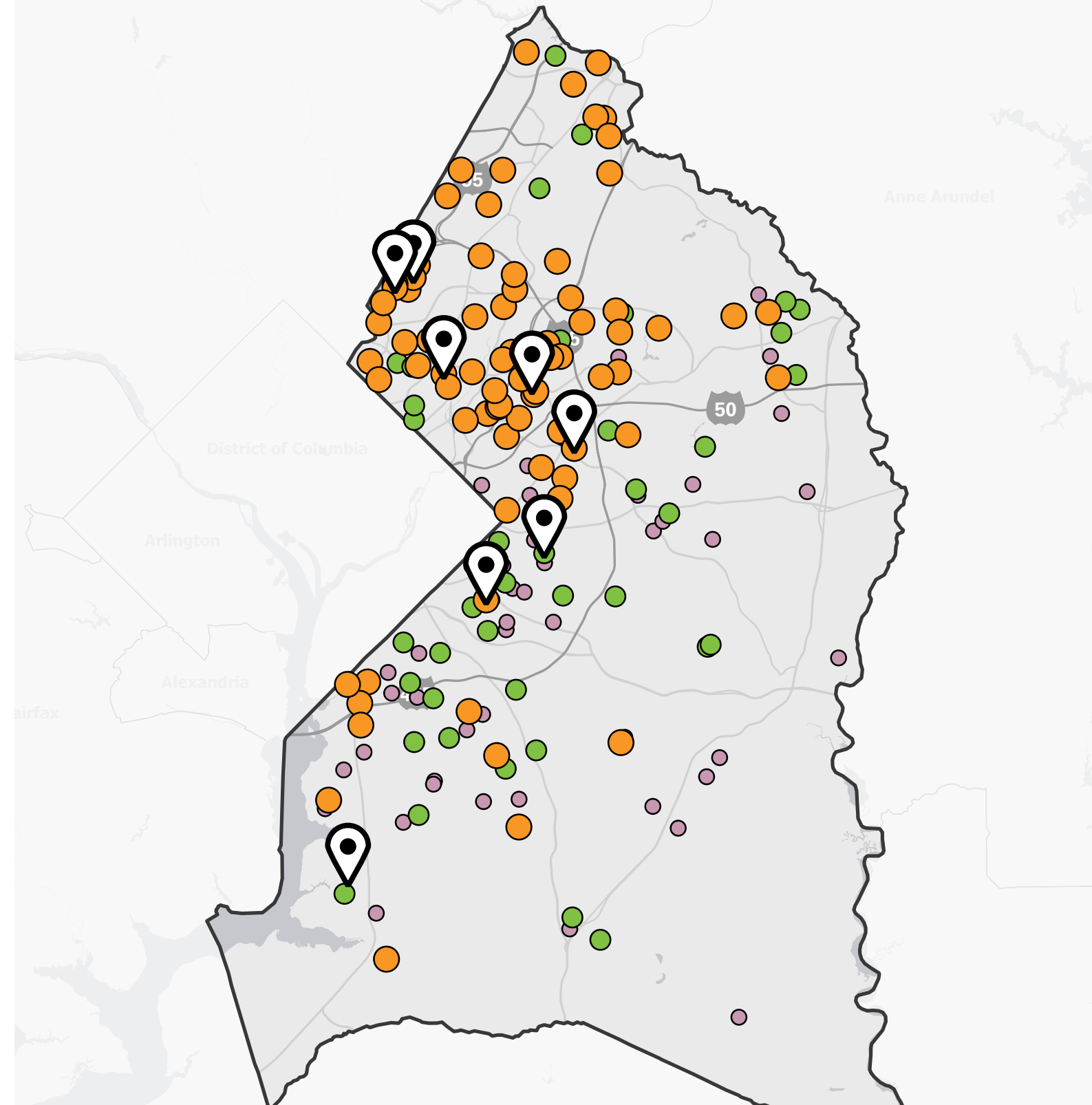


# Key Geographic Trends

There are more over-utilized schools in North County, especially inside of the Beltway.

In order to balance over-utilization and plan for new school openings in this region, there are more changes.

School Utilization (SY 20-21) and Capacity Additions



- 📍 New schools or expansions
- Over-utilized (>95%)
- Optimal utilization range (80-95%)
- Under-utilized (<80%)

# Grade Band Realignment

Moving all 6th graders to middle schools



- PGCPS aims to have all 6th grade students placed in middle schools or K-8 schools, as part of the District's academic objectives.
- Advantages include more specialized teachers and instruction, and developmental benefits of studying with middle-school aged peers.
- **All three draft scenarios move all 6th graders to middle schools or K-8 schools.**

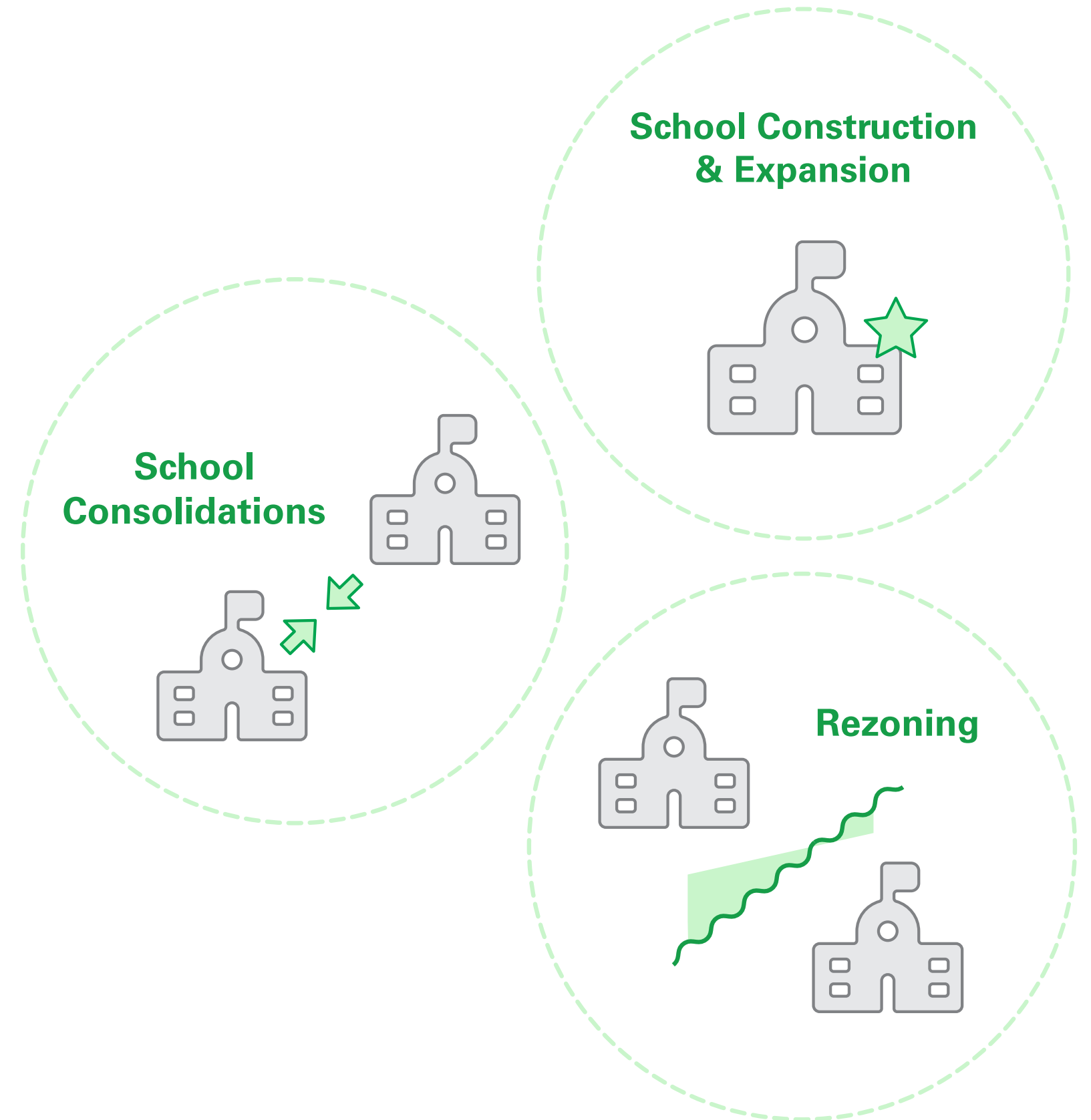
# Potential Outcomes

## Goal

- Balance utilization to achieve better functioning schools that work for everyone

## Strategies

- A mix of strategies including school construction & expansion, school consolidations, and rezoning can help achieve this goal



# COVID-19

## The impacts of COVID-19 on PGCPS remain uncertain



- Over-utilization and under-utilization are still challenges during COVID. Capacity is an issue that is heightened by COVID: crowded schools are a health concern.
- Nationally, public school districts saw a drop in enrollment for school year 2020-21. This drop has not yet reversed and may be permanent.
- PGCPS and other districts were expecting a large school year 2021-22 class, thinking that parents may have deferred enrolling Kindergartners by a year. So far, this is not the case.
- Current economic conditions make the future of public school enrollments more uncertain. In the years following the 2008 Great Recession, public schools nationally saw enrollments increase.

# Recap

## In summary

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- This initiative will focus on best utilizing school facilities to support PGCPS's academic objectives at the district's 165 neighborhood schools.
- PGCPS aims for schools to be utilized between 80-95%. Today, only 30% of schools fall within that range.
- This initiative will use a variety of strategies to meet the district's objectives, including school construction and expansion, school consolidations, and rezoning.

# How will the Boundary Initiative Process unfold?





# Boundary Initiative Overview

This initiative will:



- Conduct a comprehensive analysis of boundaries, feeder patterns, and program locations ✓
- Develop 3 boundary scenarios with community input ✓
- Select and refine one selected draft boundary scenario with community input
- Present proposed boundary adjustments to the Board of Education for approval

# Project Timeline

Jan 2021

## Pre-Scenario Engagement

Introduce planning process  
Share data related to district challenges  
Understand community priorities

Feb 2021 - May 2021

## Scenario Development

Three scenarios by ES, MS, HS  
Develop with community input

June - Nov 2021

## Phase II Engagement

Focus on scenarios  
Collect community feedback

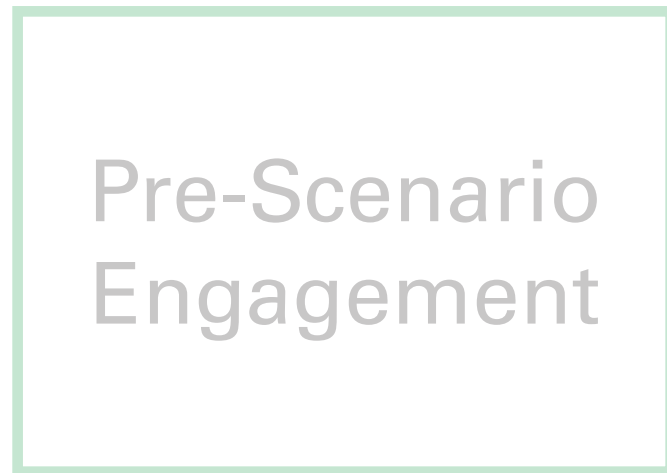
Dec 2021 - March 2022

## Final Scenario Development

Select and refine one draft scenario into final scenario  
Incorporate community inputs  
Boundary change approval process

# Project Timeline

Jan 2021



Introduce planning process  
Share data related to district challenges  
Understand community priorities

Mar 2021 - May 2021



Three scenarios by ES, MS, HS  
Develop with community input

June - Nov 2021



Focus on scenarios  
Collect community feedback

**We are here!**

Dec 2021 - March 2022



Select and refine one draft scenario into final scenario  
Incorporate community inputs  
Boundary change approval process

# Implementation Timeline

Jan 2021

**Pre-Scenario  
Engagement**

Feb 2021 - May 2021

**Scenario  
Development**

June - Nov 2021

**Phase II  
Engagement**

Dec 2021 - March 2022

**Final Scenario  
Development**

April 2022

**Final approval  
of new  
boundaries**

Sept. 2023-Sept. 2024

**Boundaries go  
into effect in  
SY23-24**

# Engagement Opportunities

Throughout the process, PGCPS is engaging the community in four key ways:

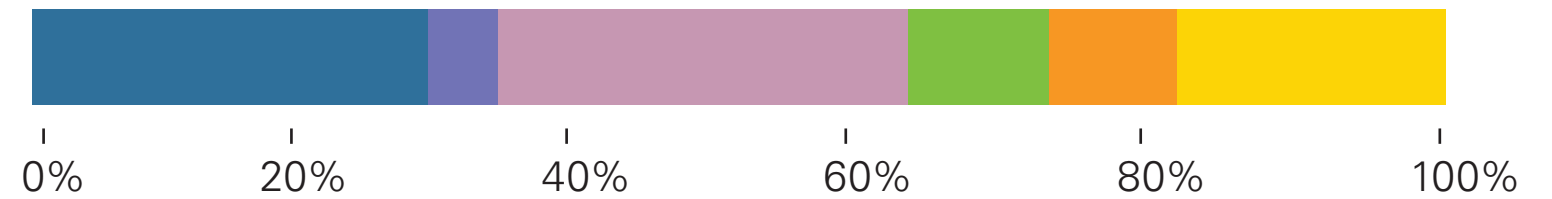


- Community meetings
- Project website
- Digital engagement
  - Online surveys
  - Comment Forms
- Public feedback on three draft scenarios collected until **December 10, 2021.**

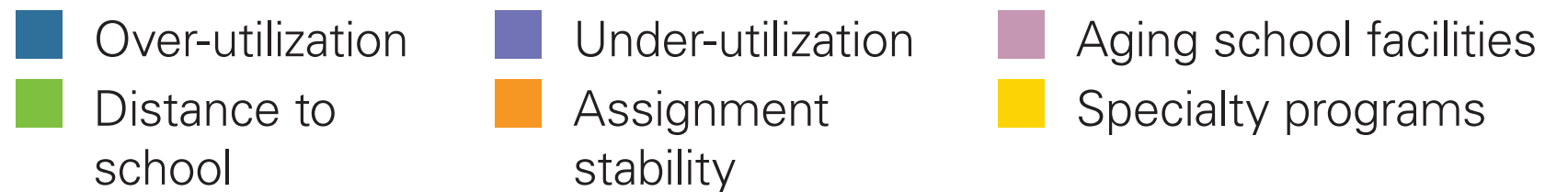
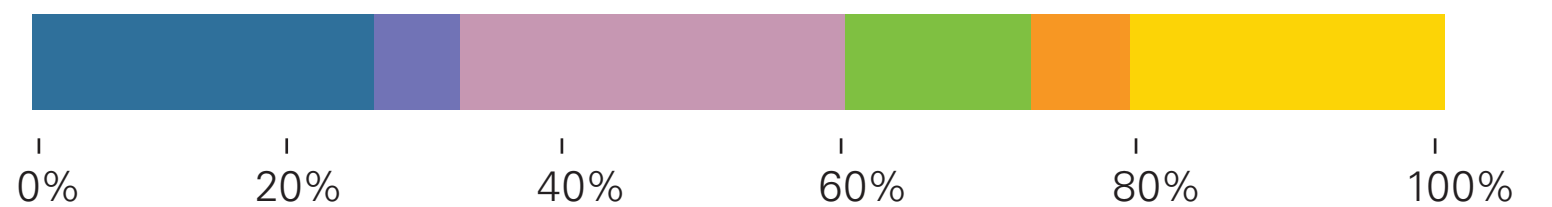
# Pre-scenario Engagement Recap

- 5 public meetings, with 1,157 total participants
- 48% of participants were parents of current PGCPs students
- Top themes: impacts of over-utilization, aging and sub-standard school facilities, access to specialty programs
- Interim report and online tool released in May 2021
- 1,700 survey responses

**Participant Priorities - District Overall**



**Participant Priorities - Personal**



# Boundary Change Approval Process

# 1

**Boundary Advisory  
Committee &  
Transportation Review**

**January-February 2022**

BAC convenes to refine the final scenario, and presents it to the CEO.

# 2

**CEO  
Recommendation**

**February 2022**

Upon approval, CEO presents boundary proposal to the BOE.

# 3

**Final Approval by  
Board of Ed**

**April 2022**

BOE holds public hearings, approves the final boundaries.

Opportunities for public comment before approval.

# Recap

## In summary

- This initiative will conduct a comprehensive analysis of boundaries, feeder patterns, and program locations. After gathering community input, one draft scenario will be selected, refined, and presented to the BOE for approval.
- The public has been invited to participate through public meetings, the project website, a survey, and an online tool. These public meetings are the last opportunity for public input before the final scenario recommendation and approval process.



# Boundary Scenarios

## Overview



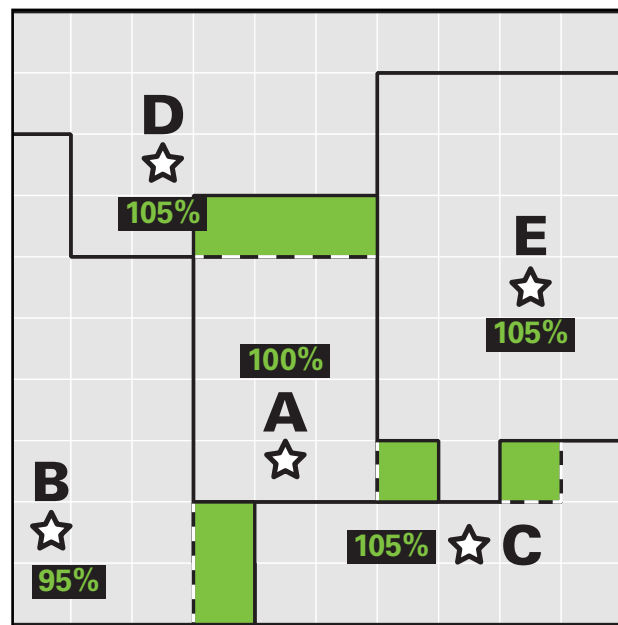
# Polling Questions

# What is a scenario?

A **scenario** is a possible map of school boundaries. This map can give us a good idea of the kinds of changes PGCPS can expect to see, given a certain set of criteria.

The scenarios were created using a process called modeling. A **model** is a set of mathematical operations that transforms some input data into something new. In this case, our models transform PGCPS's current school boundaries into a new set of school boundaries.

## Model

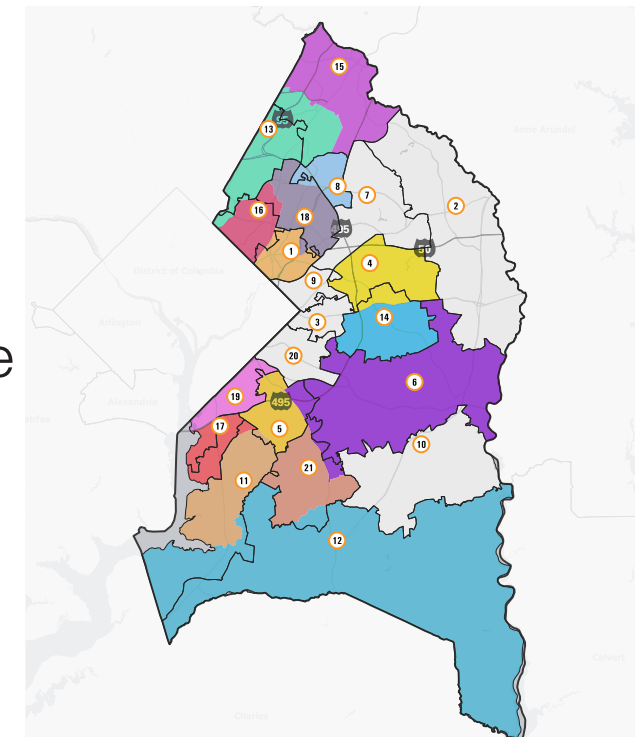


Each model simulates boundary changes by making thousands of swaps.



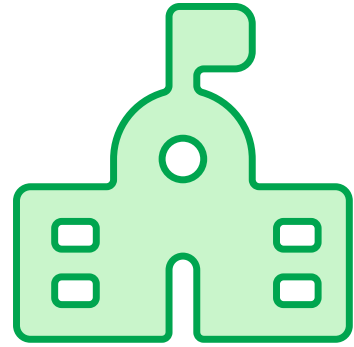
The swaps with the best outcomes according to the model's criteria are then used to create a map of possible new boundaries in PGCPS.

## Scenario



# Key Considerations

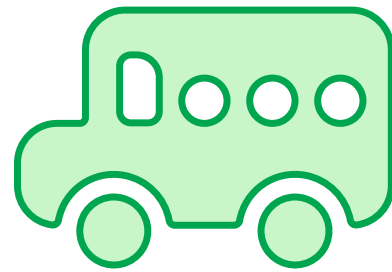
PGCPS weighs several considerations when creating and adjusting school boundaries. These factors are interrelated. Each one presents trade-offs for the others.



## Capacity & Utilization

Existing capacity & utilization

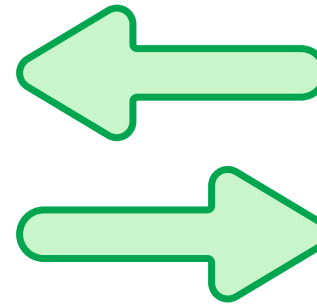
Planned capacity & capital budget



## Distance to School

Proximity

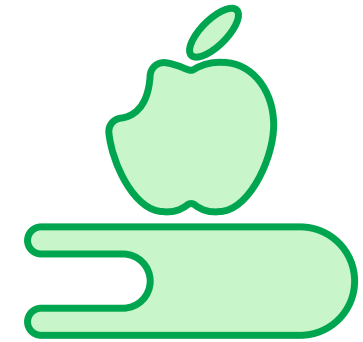
Walking students



## Assignment Stability

Changes to school assignments

Recent changes to assignments



## Facility Age & Condition

CIP Cycle/Need for Repairs and Renovation

School consolidations

# Three Draft Scenarios

# 1



## Scenario 1

### **Address Utilization Extremes and Minimize Rezoning**

Address the most severe instances of over- and under-utilization.

Redistrict as few students as possible.

# 2



## Scenario 2

### **Improve Utilization as Widely as Possible**

Optimize utilization as widely as possible.

Reduce the number of temporary classrooms in use, particularly those in poor condition.

Consolidate elementary schools as needed, prioritizing utilization.

# 3



## Scenario 3

### **Maximize the Students Attending School in Updated Facilities**

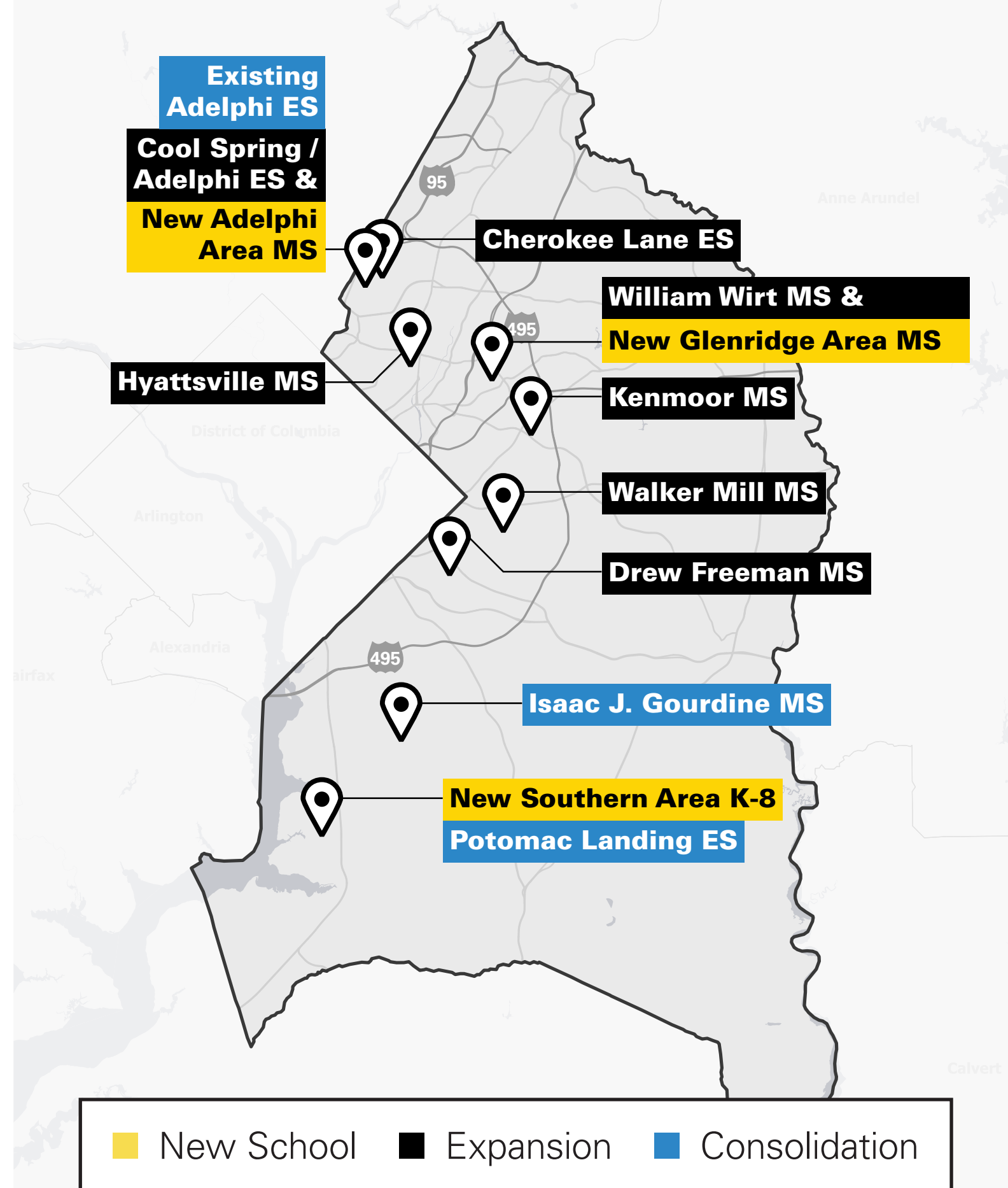
Ensure as many students as possible attend school in the newest/ most updated facilities.

Remove the need for all temporary classrooms aside from those in good condition.

# Changes Across all Three Scenarios

- Planned school openings and expansions (SY21-SY26)
  - 2 expanded ES
  - 2 planned MS & 5 expanded MS
  - 1 planned K-8
- Planned consolidations
  - Adelphi ES is consolidated into the new Cool Springs / Adelphi complex
  - Potomac Landing ES and Isaac J Gourdine MS are consolidated into the new Southern Area K-8
- Grade band realignment: all 6th graders moved to middle schools

Planned Expansion, New Schools, and Consolidations

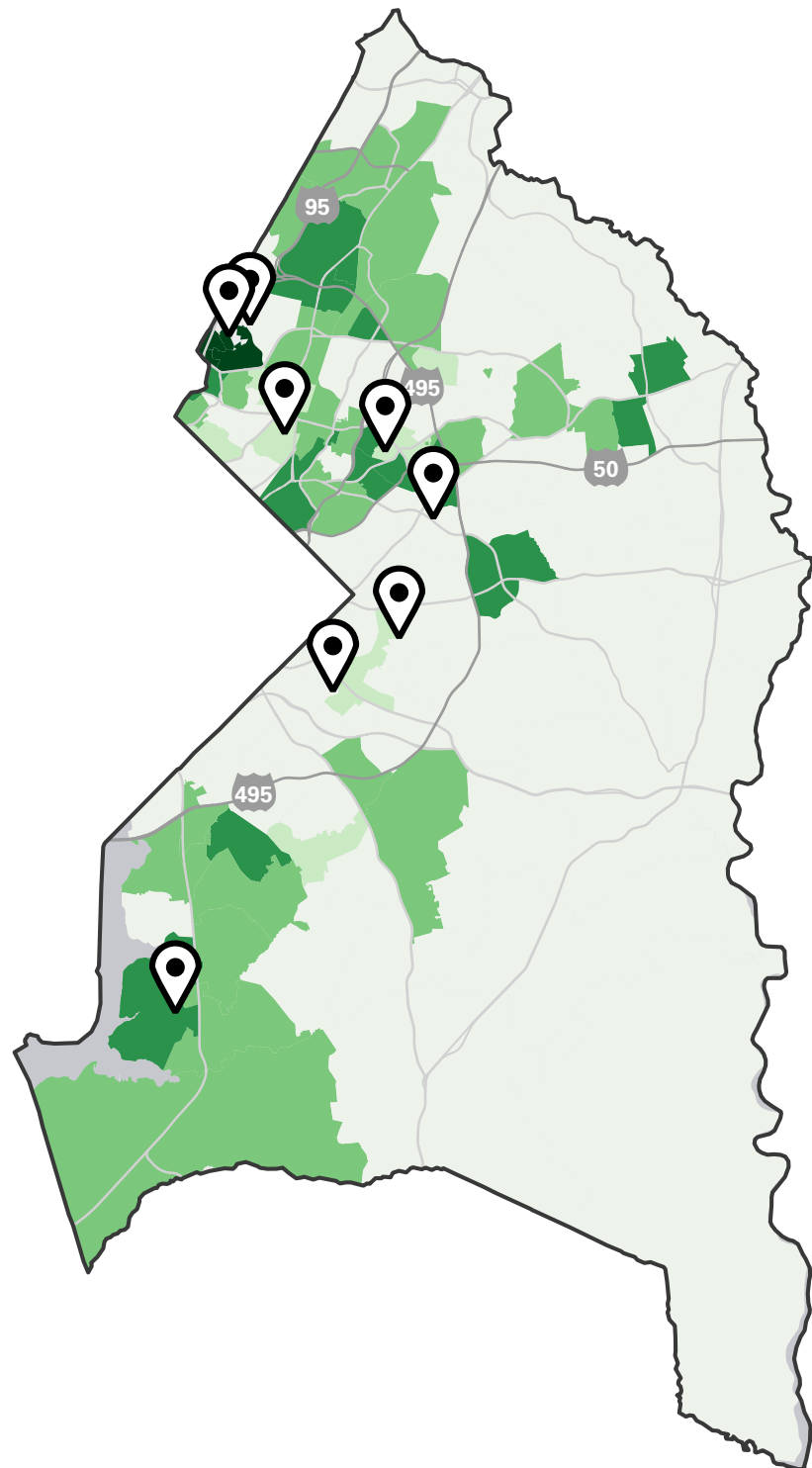


# Areas of Impact by Scenario

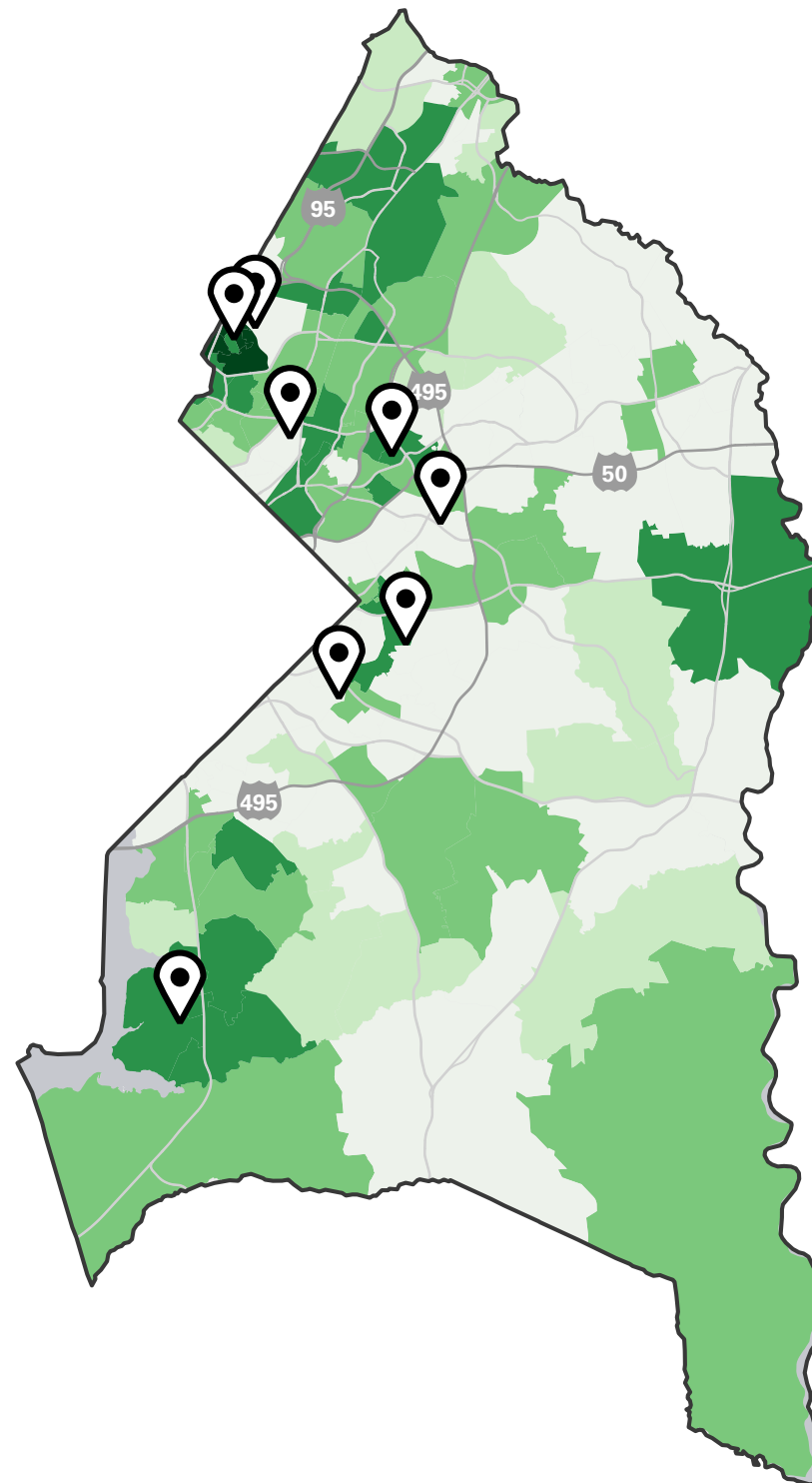
Average Number of Assignment Changes by ES Attendance Area (All Grade Levels)

<50    50-100    100-200    200-500    >500    New schools or expansions\*

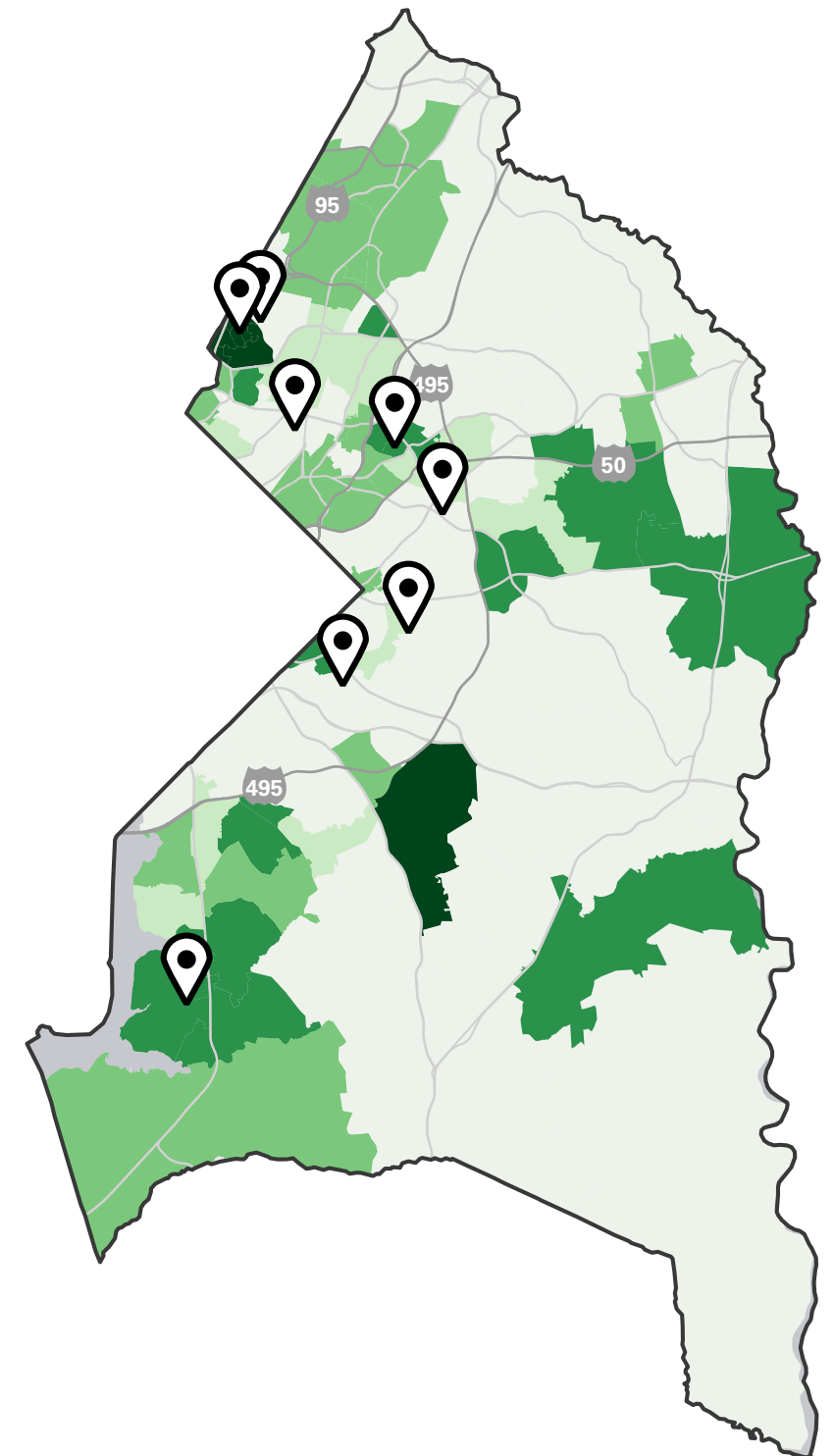
Scenario 1



Scenario 2



Scenario 3



# Areas of Impact

## In summary

- Many of the areas expected to see the greatest change across the District are those where new school construction is planned.
- North County, where over-utilization is greatest, is expected to see relatively more impact.

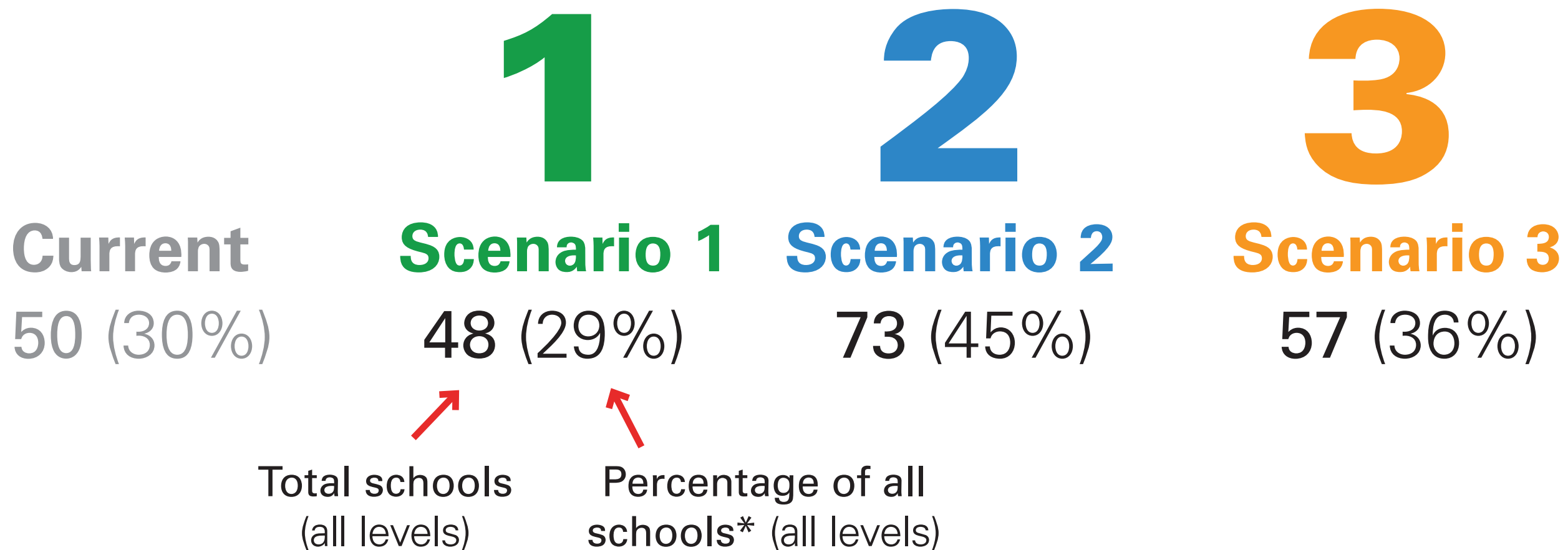


# Utilization

# Schools in the Target Utilization Range

PGCPS aims for all schools to have a utilization rate between 80-95%.

**Key outcomes:** Scenarios 2 and 3 increase the total number of schools in the target utilization range, with Scenario 2 making the biggest improvements.



\* Due to different numbers of proposed consolidations by scenario, the total number of schools is different in each scenario. There are 165 schools in Scenario 1, 161 in Scenario 2, and 158 in Scenario 3.

# Very Over- or Under-utilized Schools

Very over-utilized schools are those over 120% utilized; very under-utilized schools are those utilized below 60%.

**Key outcomes:** All three scenarios decrease the number of very over- and under-utilized schools. Scenarios 2 and 3 have significantly better outcomes due to higher cap on boundary changes.



Number of very over- or under-utilized schools

# Assignment Stability

# Percent of Students Rezoned

Each scenario sets a different upper limit for the total percentage of students rezoned.

**Key outcomes:** The scenarios rezone between 11-14% of students, in keeping with each of their upper limits.

## Scenario 1

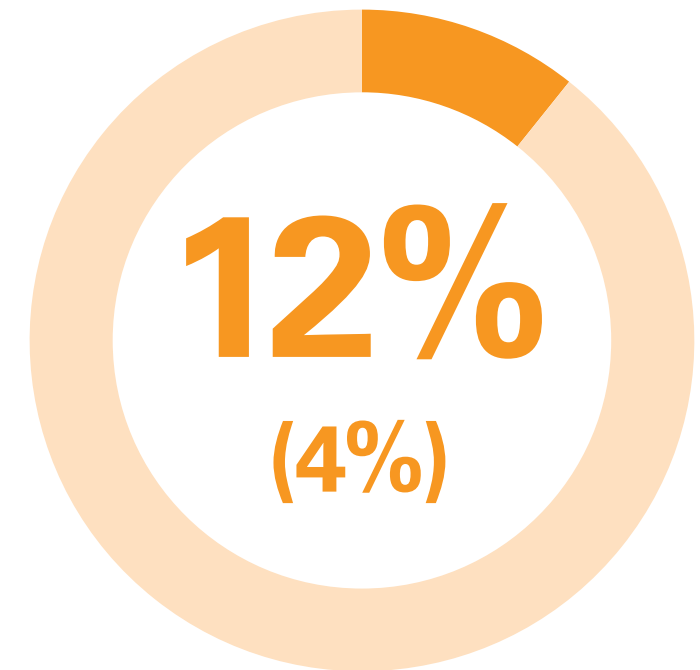
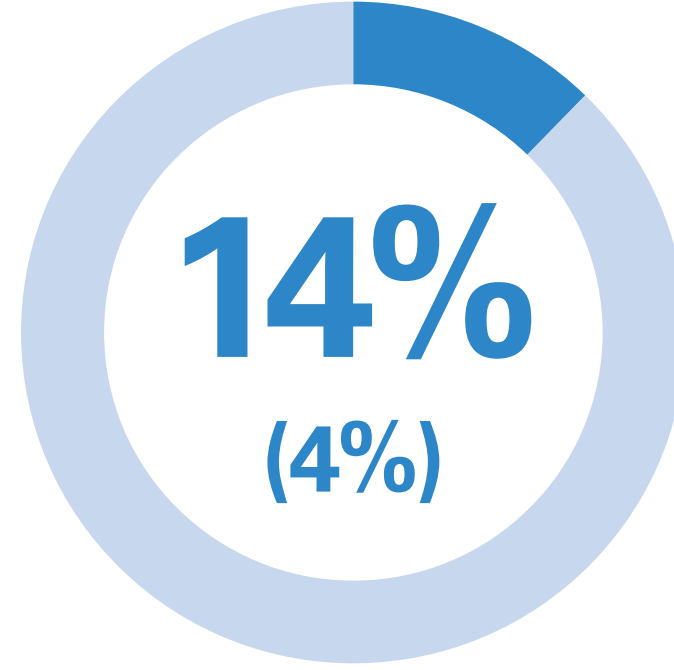
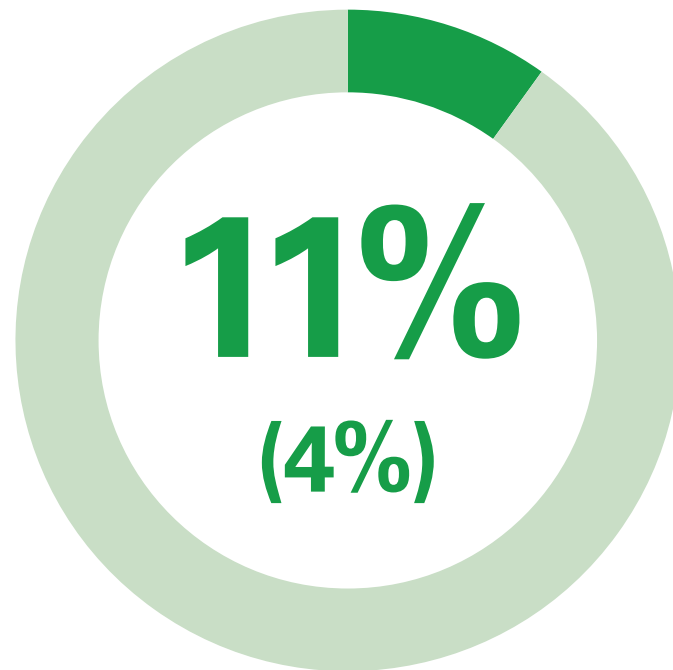
## Scenario 2

## Scenario 3

Total students rezoned

Overall

To new school



11,023  
(3,930)

13,945  
(3,930)

11,256  
(3,930)

# School Consolidations

## Consolidations criteria

- School must be under-utilized.
- CIP Cycle must be 3 or less
- Schools in the top quintile for students living within their walk zone excluded.
- Additional criteria for each scenario (including distance from nearest school, school size/capacity, enrollment decline)

## Key outcomes

### Total consolidations

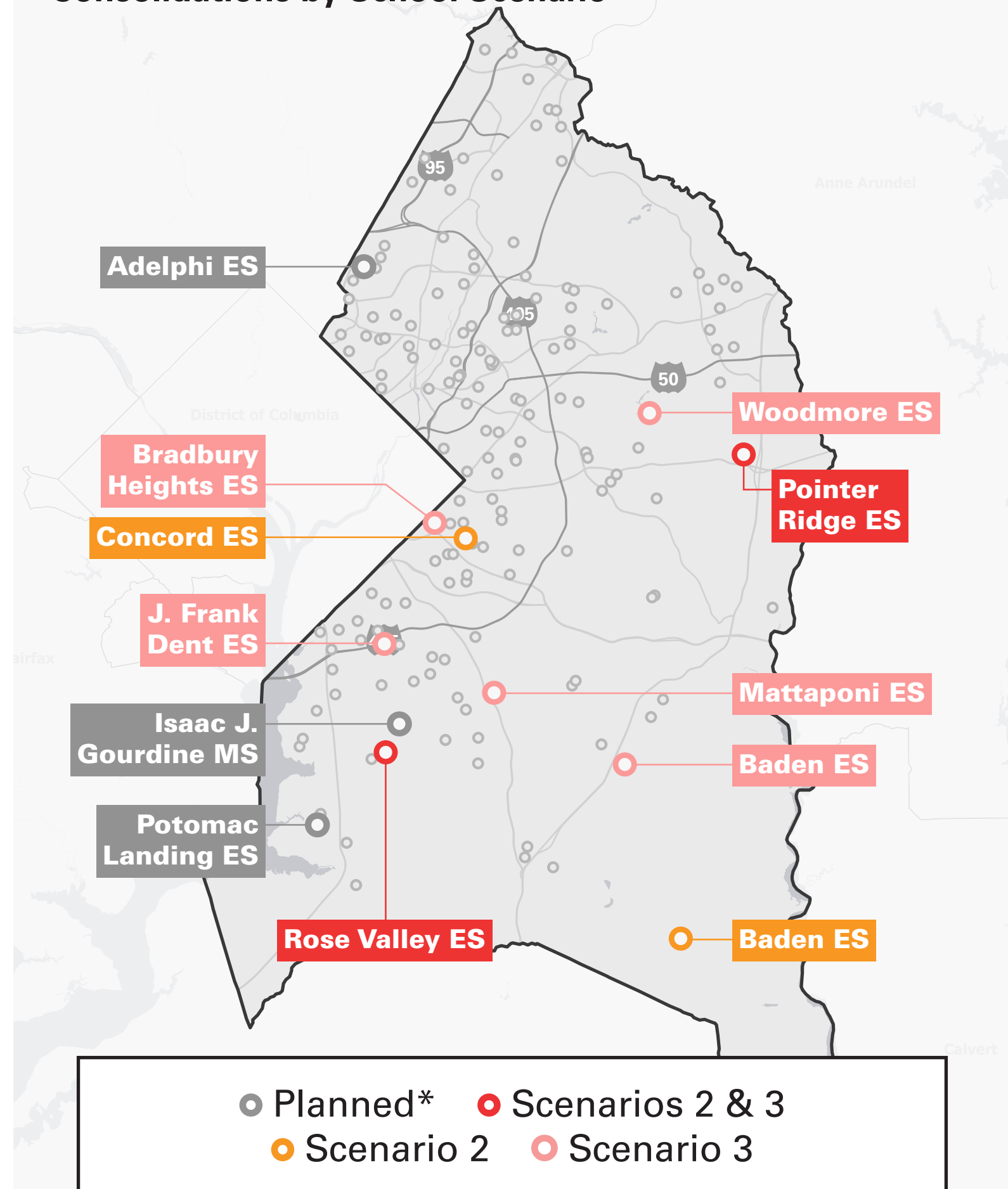
**Scenario 1: 3** (only planned consolidations)

**Scenario 2: 7**

**Scenario 3: 10**

\* The Adelphi consolidation was decided in 2018 as part of the Adelphi Area Plan. The Isaac J. Gourdine and Potomac Landing consolidations were decided on in 2019 as part of the part of the Blueprint Schools Program.

## Consolidations by School Scenario



# Distance to School

# Average Distance to School

Distances to school vary widely across PGCPS. However, most students attending their neighborhood school travel relatively short distances to school.

**Key outcomes:** Average distances to school remain similar to current averages in all three scenarios. At the ES and MS level, distances increased slightly in all scenarios. At the HS level they decreased slightly in all scenarios.





# Students in the Walk Zone

## The Walk Zone

- PGCPS tries to keep as many students as possible in the walk zone
- The walk zone is a geographic area in which students are considered to have a safe and reasonable walk to school.
- Students living in the walk zone are not eligible for bus service.

## Key outcomes

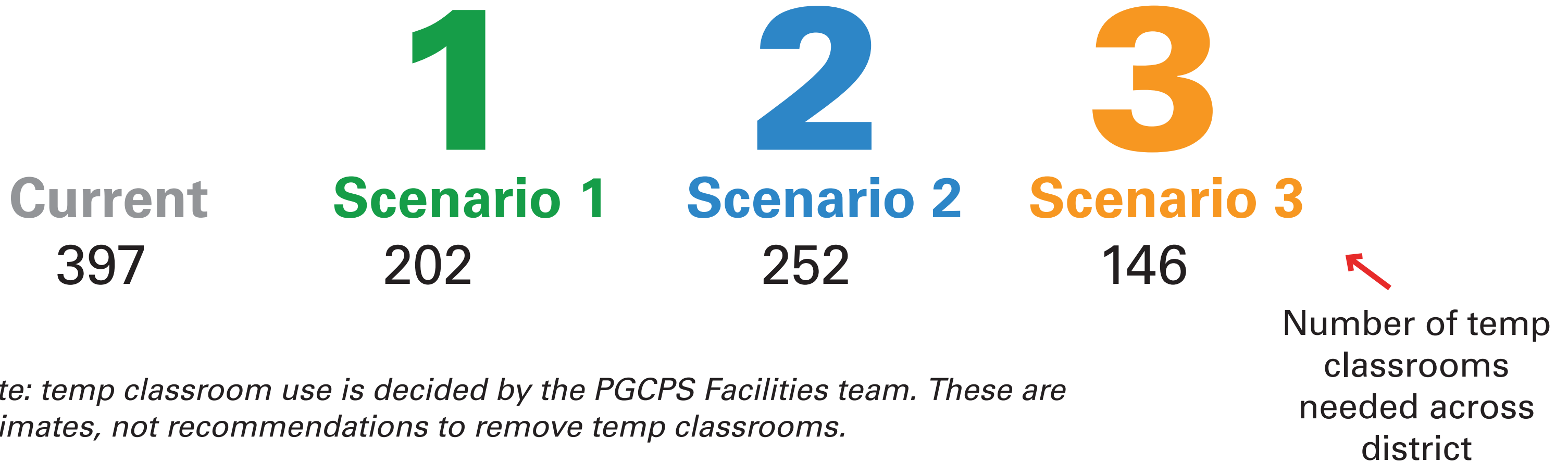
- All three scenarios preserve walk zones across the district, with only slight changes due to moving 6th graders to middle schools.
- There are no major differences between scenarios.

# Facility Conditions

# Temporary Classrooms Needed

Scenarios 2 and 3 try to reduce the number of temporary classrooms in use in order to improve facility conditions for students, with a focus on eliminating temps in poor condition.

**Key outcomes:** All three scenarios reduce the number of temps needed. Scenario 3 reduces temps needed by the greatest degree, and eliminates the need for any temps that are not in good or new condition.



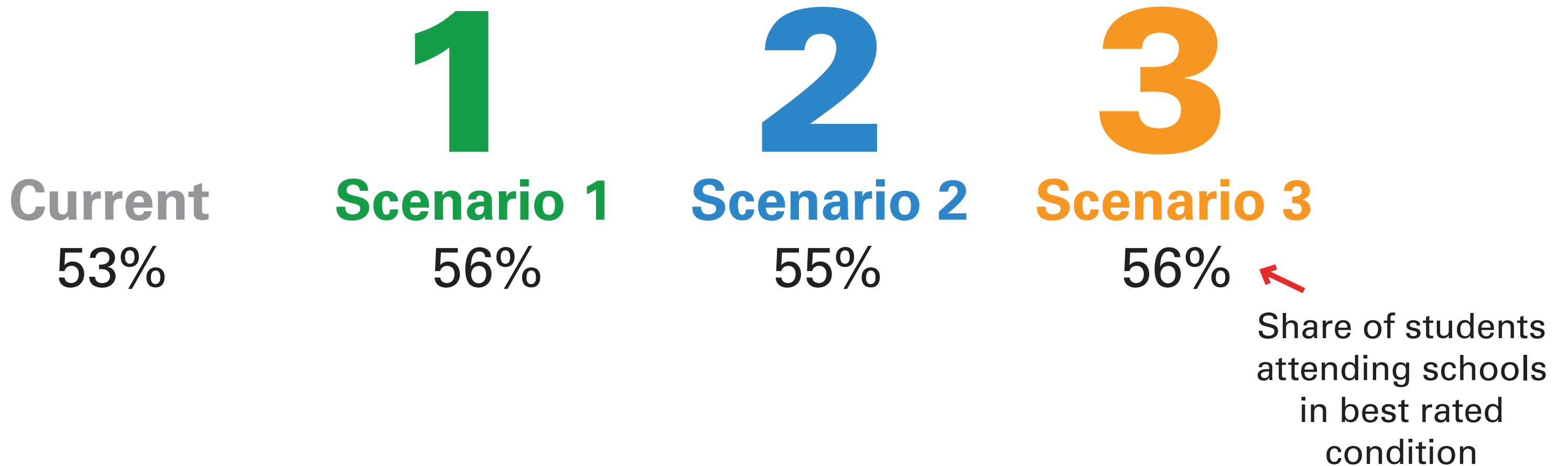
*Note: temp classroom use is decided by the PGCPs Facilities team. These are estimates, not recommendations to remove temp classrooms.*

# Facility Age and Condition

## What is CIP Cycle?

The CIP Cycle is a rating given by PGCPS that categorizes school facilities in terms of level of priority for renovation or replacement. CIP Cycle 3-4 Schools are those in the best rated condition.

**Key outcomes:** All three scenarios increase the share of students attending schools in the best rated condition.



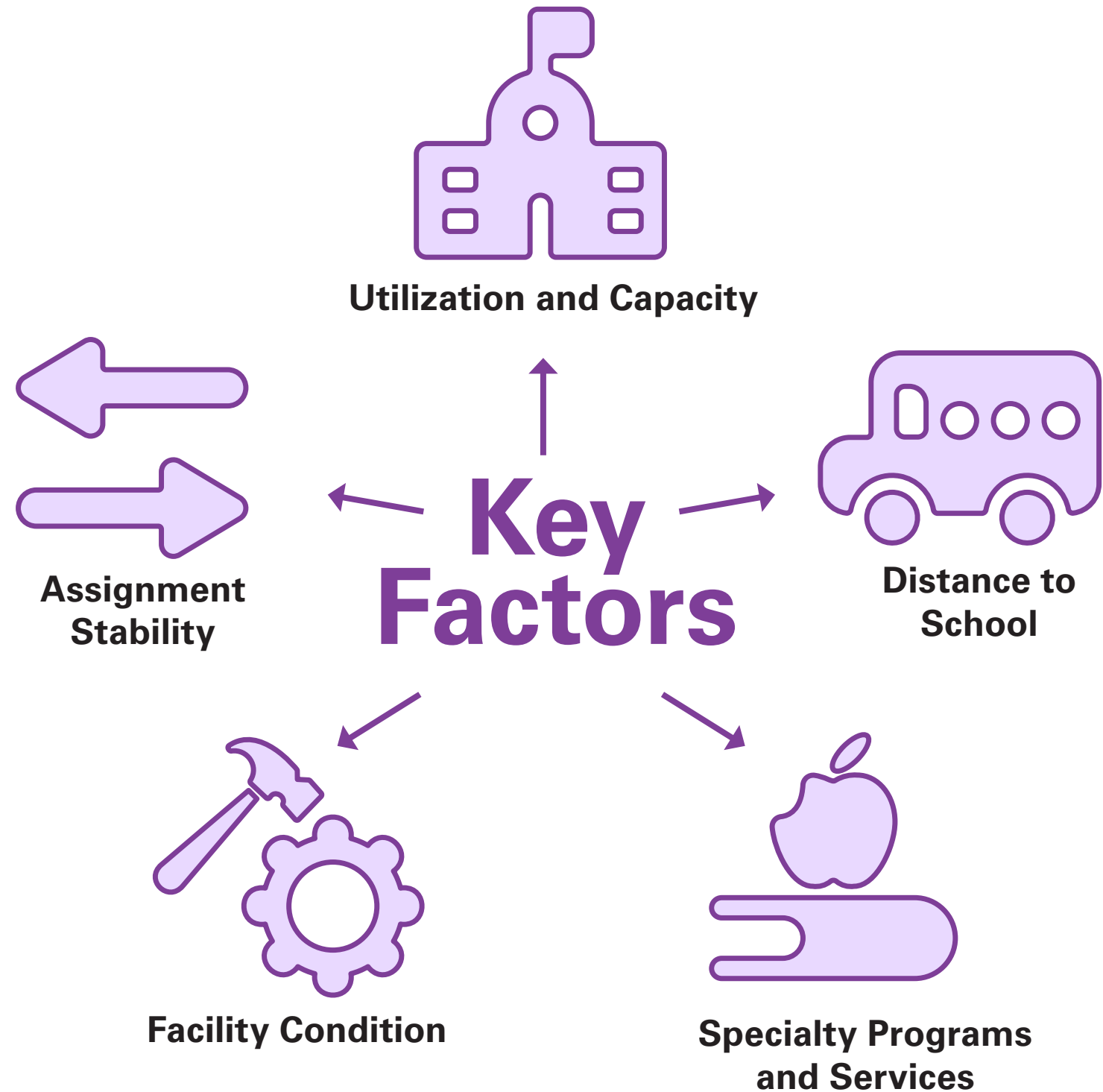
# Tradeoffs

## Key Tradeoffs in the Scenarios

In order to make greater improvements to **utilization** across the district, more students need to be **rezoned**.

Greater improvements to **facility age and condition** require more **rezonings** and school consolidations.

To meet the district's **academic objectives** of moving 6th graders to middle schools, more students are **rezoned** and **distances to school** increase slightly.



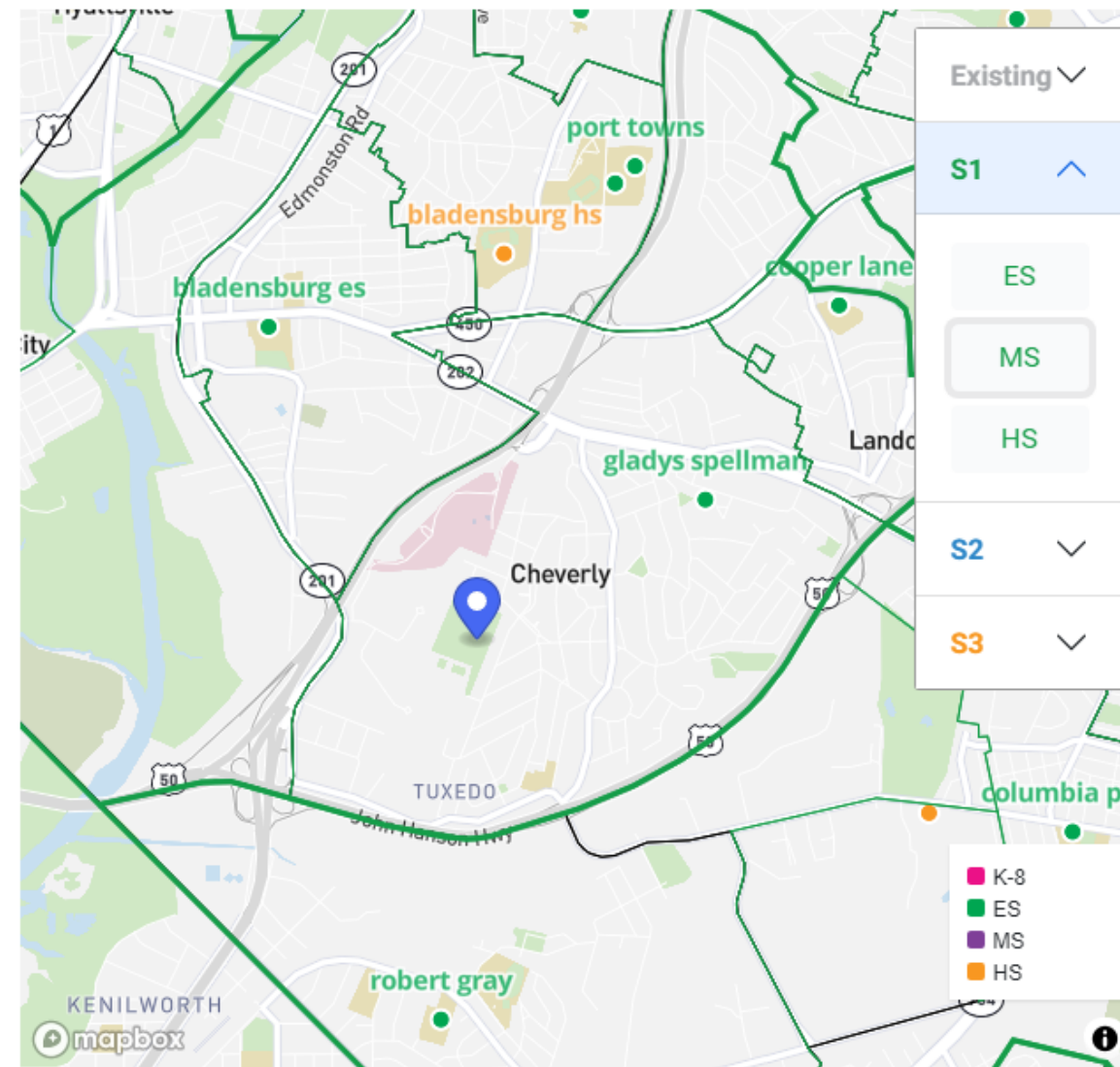
# Q&A

# Online Tool

Allows PGCPS community to look up the impacts of each scenario using a home address.

Enter your address in the search bar. Then use the menu at right to view different outcomes.

Access at <https://www.wxyplanning.com/pgcps-boundary-tool/>.



<b>Existing</b>	<b>Elementary</b> <b>Middle</b> <b>High</b>	Gladys Noon Spellman Elementary G James Gholson Middle Bladensburg High
<b>Scenario 1</b>	<b>Elementary</b> <b>Middle</b> <b>High</b>	<i>No Change</i> New Glenridge Area Middle ★ <i>No Change</i>
<b>Scenario 2</b>	<b>Elementary</b> <b>Middle</b> <b>High</b>	<i>No Change</i> New Glenridge Area Middle ★ <i>No Change</i>
<b>Scenario 3</b>	<b>Elementary</b> <b>Middle</b> <b>High</b>	<i>No Change</i> New Glenridge Area Middle ★ <i>No Change</i>

# Polling Questions



# Breakout Groups



# Community Agreements

## Some ground rules for productive dialogue:

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- Listen for understanding and with respect, even if you disagree
- Share the air time
- Be ready to move from topic to topic quickly
- Speak from the “I”, but keep the County perspective in mind
- Stay on topic (facilitator will “park” off-topic comments)
- Embrace a lack of closure!

# Breakout Groups

## What to expect:

- Randomly assigned Zoom room with a trained facilitator
- **Introductions:** Who's in the room?
- **Discussion:** Community priorities related to the three scenarios, including utilization, assignment stability, and facility conditions.

# Breakout Question

What's the most important factor for the Board to consider when finalizing decisions about boundary changes and why?

1. **Over-utilization:** address schools and parts of the county that are above capacity in terms of student enrollment (over-utilized).
2. **Under-utilization:** address schools and parts of the county that are under capacity in terms of student enrollment (under-utilized).
3. **Updated Facilities:** ensure that as many students as possible attend schools in new and up-to-date facilities (including closing older facilities and moving students to newer facilities).
4. **Distance to School:** ensure students live as close to their neighborhood/zone school as possible.
5. **Minimize Boundary Changes:** make as few boundary changes as possible in the same areas of the county, so each student has as much stability as possible during their time in PGCPS.
6. **What Else?** Other – if other, what specifically?

# Polling Questions

# Next Steps



# Community Meetings

## **Phase 2 Meetings:**

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- Tuesday, Nov. 2 - English language
- Wednesday, Nov. 3 - Spanish language
- Tuesday, Nov. 9 - English language
- Wednesday, Nov. 10 - Spanish language
- Saturday, Nov. 13 - English and Spanish

# Next Steps

November 2021

## Phase II Engagement

Focus on scenarios  
Collect  
community feedback  
Continue public  
survey

Dec. 2021 - Feb. 2022

## Final Scenario Development

Select and refine one  
draft scenario into  
one final scenario  
Incorporate  
community inputs

Feb. - April 2022

## Boundary Change Approval Process

Final scenario shared  
with Boundary Advisory  
Committee & Transportation  
CEO makes recommendation  
to the BOE  
Public hearings (March 2022)  
Final scenario approved by  
the BOE



# Contact

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**Thank you!**



# PGCPS Comprehensive School Boundary Initiative

Phase II Community Engagement  
November 2021