

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Student Assignment Project

What We Learned. How We Have Evolved. What to Expect.

Board of Education Presentation | May 2026

Presented by: Dr. Triscilla Weaver, Chief of Access and Opportunity



Every student deserves access to opportunity, no matter the enrollment of their school.

WHAT COMMUNITIES TOLD US IN ROUNDS 1 & 2



"Scenarios felt predetermined. Our input didn't seem to matter."



*"Every meeting felt the same. **We need conversations specific to our community.**"*



"You keep talking about buildings. We care about what our kids learn."



"We can't separate buildings from boundaries from programs."

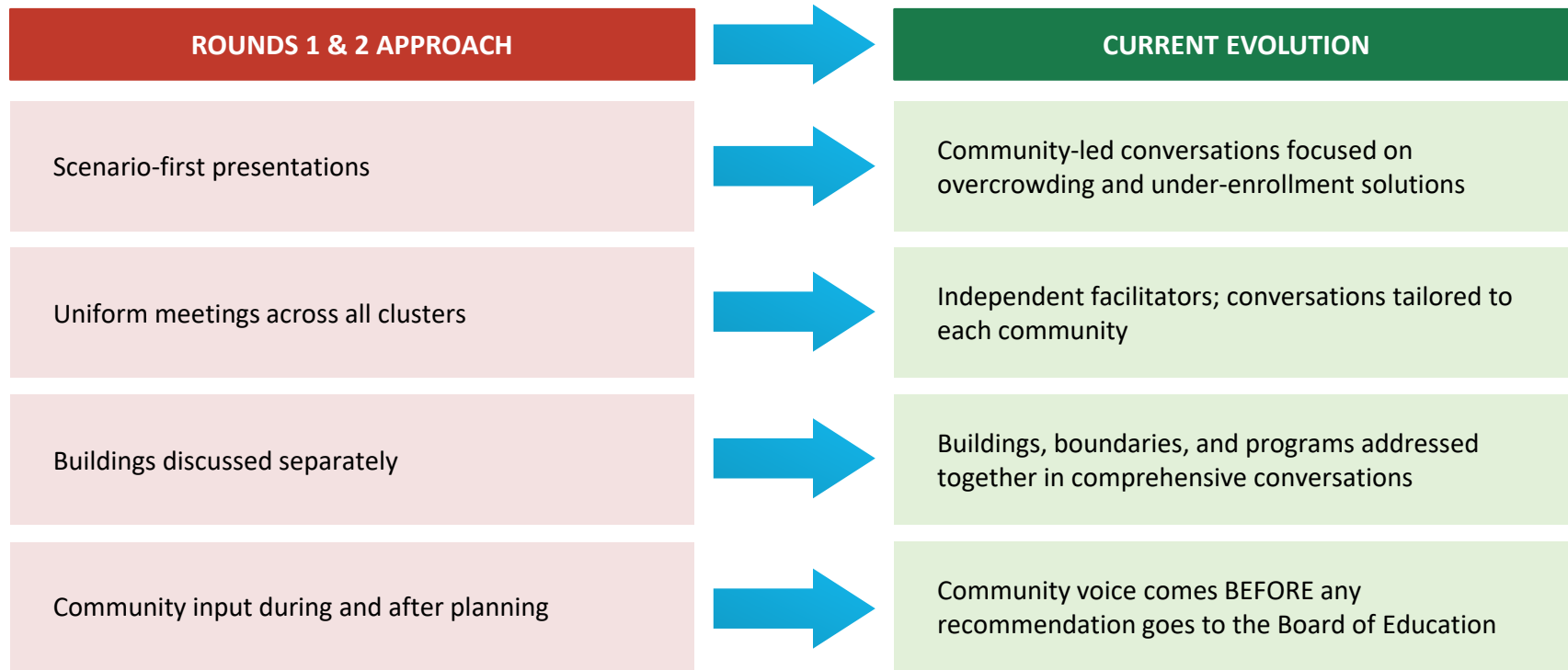


"We don't understand how decisions get made or who makes them."



"Not every community has had a real chance to participate."

HOW WE HAVE EVOLVED AND WHY



THREE COMMITMENTS

01



Community Voice Is Essential

No recommendation goes to the Board of Education until impacted communities have had a genuine, substantive opportunity to participate. Not after. Not simultaneously. Before.

02



Comprehensive Conversations

Buildings, boundaries, and programs are addressed together, not in separate silos. Communities will see how each decision affects the others.

03



Independent Facilitators

Each cluster conversation will be led by a third-party facilitator who specializes in trusted community conversations.

CENTERING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



Overcrowded Schools

Students and teachers stretched beyond what a healthy learning environment allows.

- Crowded classrooms
- Insufficient shared spaces
- Teacher workloads that strain quality

Conversations begin in the Fall of 2026 in the Lakeside, Cross Keys, Chamblee, Tucker, Dunwoody, and Druid Hills clusters.



Under-Enrolled Schools

Empty seats drain programs students deserve and have a right to access.

- Fewer AP and advanced courses
- Reduced arts and elective offerings
- Less access to resources and technology

Conversations begin in the Spring of 2027 in the Towers, McNair, Cedar Grove, Miller Grove, Columbia, and MLK clusters.

WHY FALL 2027-2029 REQUIRES US TO ACT NOW

To address overcrowding, new and expanded schools beginning opening in Fall 2027 and continue through Fall 2029.



And the addition of Sequoyah High School will create a new high school cluster that will require an attendance boundary review for the following current clusters:

Lakeside • Cross Keys • Chamblee • Tucker • Dunwoody • Druid Hills

ADDRESSING UNDER-ENROLLMENT SPRING 2027

Cedar Grove

Columbia

Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr.

Miller Grove

Dr. Ronald E.
McNair

Towers

WHAT THE PUBLIC CAN EXPECT

- 1 Fall 2026 community meetings in targeted clusters impacted by overcrowding.
- 2 Independent facilitators leading the discussions.
- 3 No Board recommendations until your community has had a real seat at the table.
- 4 Comprehensive conversations: buildings, boundaries, and programs discussed together.
- 5 Clear timeline so families can plan (a detailed plan and timeline will be shared before conversations start up again in the Fall)

STAY INFORMED AND FOLLOW ALONG

Every Student Deserves Opportunity.

The Student Assignment Project is evolving, shaped by what we heard from you. Here is what changed and what you can expect moving forward.



<https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/sap>

Balancing Our Schools: Addressing Overcrowding and Under-Enrollment

Across our district, some schools are serving more students than their buildings were designed to support, while others are struggling to fill empty seats. Both situations impact the students and staff.

- Overcrowded schools can face larger class sizes, limited access to shared spaces, and increased strain on staff and resources.
- Under-enrolled schools may have fewer program offerings, limited course variety, and reduced opportunities for students to fully engage.

This evolution of the Student Assignment Plan is designed to address both, thoughtfully and responsibly.

What We're Working Toward

BETTER BALANCE ACROSS SCHOOLS	STRONGER ACCESS TO PROGRAMS	EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES
Aligning enrollment more closely with each school's capacity to create equitable learning environments.	Ensuring students, regardless of where they live, have access to robust academic and extracurricular opportunities.	Making the best use of our facilities, staff, and programs to benefit all students.

Three Commitments. No Exceptions.

COMMUNITY VOICE COMES FIRST	COMPREHENSIVE
No recommendation goes to the Board of Education until impacted communities have had a genuine, substantive opportunity to participate.	Buildings, boundaries, and together, not separately. Our decision affects the others, and the full process.

WHAT HAPPENS & WHEN

A Clear Plan, Anchored to Families.

Every milestone is tied to when families and students are connected to their schools; that is when conversations matter most.

2024 Spring 2027 Implementation

Evolution, Planning, and Overcrowding Conversation

May 5, 2026

Public Announcement of SAP Evolution

The district publicly shares the new school community-based engagement model and announces the boundary review timeline for new and expanded schools opening from August 2027 through 2029.

June - July 2026

Preparation and Gap Mapping

Internal analysis of Round 1 and 2 participation, identifying which school communities need deeper engagement. Boundary process development for new and expanded schools opening from August 2027 through 2029.

August 2026

Fall Community Conversations Begin

First cluster-level community meetings when students return and families are most engaged. School community-based conversations on boundaries in clusters impacted by the new and expanded schools: Lakeside, Cross Keys, Chamblis, Tucker, Dunwoody, and Grand Hills.

September - October 2026

Continued Engagement and Input Synthesis

Continue cluster-level community meetings. School community action teams continue shaping community-led solutions across buildings, boundaries, and programs in all impacted clusters. District synthesizes input across communities.

December 2026

Final Board Action

Final attendance boundary recommendation presented to the Board of Education for approval. Families in impacted clusters will know what to expect before new schools open.

THE BOTTOM LINE



No decisions have been made. Community voice comes before Board action.



Overcrowding and under-enrollment are costing students opportunities right now.



New cluster and schools open 2027 - 2029. Families deserve a plan before those doors open.

**Every student deserves access to opportunity, no matter the enrollment of their school.
That is what this is about. It always has been.**