Student Assignment Project

September 2026 Update

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Centering the Student Experience

Overcrowded Schools

Overcrowding can place significant strain on students, teachers, and facilities, compromising the conditions needed to support a healthy learning environment.

- Overcrowded classrooms
- Insufficient instructional and shared spaces
- Increased teacher workloads that may affect instructional quality

Community conversations began in August 2026 for the Lakeside, Cross Keys, Chamblee, Tucker, Dunwoody, and Druid Hills clusters.

Under-enrolled Schools

Under-enrollment can limit a school's ability to offer the full range of programs, courses, and resources that students deserve.

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

Community conversations will begin in January 2027 for the Towers, McNair, Cedar Grove, Miller Grove, Columbia, and MLK clusters.

Engagement Series #1: August 26 - September 10

Topics Covered

- Defined project goals, processes, and expectations
- Reviewed Board Policy AD: School Attendance Zones
- Examined where we are now
- Explored factors contributing to current enrollment and capacity conditions
- Reviewed new construction and expansion projects

Engagement Opportunities

Public Comment Sessions
- September 1 and September 3

Community Advisory Team Meetings
- September 8 and September 10

Online Public Survey
- August 26 - September 8

Virtual Focus Groups
- August 31- September 9

Partner Support for Engagement Series #1

United Way of Greater Atlanta
Community Advisory Team Engagement Session Facilitation

- Facilitates Community Advisory Team engagement sessions
- Brings extensive experience in convening diverse community stakeholders
- Supports equitable, inclusive, and trusted community conversations

Partner Support for Engagement Series #1

KWG Consulting
Community Advisory Team Engagement Session
Documentation and Stakeholder Feedback Analysis

- Documents Community Advisory Team engagement sessions
- Analyzes stakeholder feedback and identifies recurring themes
- Brings more than 25 years of experience in strategic communications and public-sector engagement

Communications Approach

The communications goal for Engagement Series #1 was to help stakeholders understand:
(1) **Why** the Student Assignment Project matters
(2) **How** they can meaningfully participate

To accomplish that, the strategy rests on the following six pillars:



- **Clarify Student Opportunity**
- **Build Shared Understanding**
- **Meet People Where They Are**
- **Foster Two-Way Dialogue**
- **Build Trust Through Transparency**
- **Maintain a Continuous Conversation**

More than 1,500 Stakeholder Conversations

More than 200 Community Outreach Touchpoints

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Meeting People Where They Are

Community Engagement in Action

Connecting Through Trusted Voices

Schools

- Curriculum Nights
- Open Houses
- School Carpools
- Athletic Events
- Parent Meetings

Community

- Grocery Stores
- Libraries
- Apartment Complexes
- Community Centers

Civic Organizations

- HOA Meetings
- Faith Organizations
- Civic Associations
- Community Meetings

Digital Outreach

- Social Media
- Website
- Email

Rather than expecting families to come to us, we intentionally brought engagement opportunities to the places where families already gather.

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Access & Opportunity-Focused Outreach

Accessible Participation

- Materials available in multiple languages
- Interpretation services available
- Virtual participation options available
- Evening engagement opportunities offered

Community-Based Access

- Survey access provided through QR codes
- Outreach conducted in community settings
- Staff deployment was adjusted daily based on participation data

Public Comment Session Updates

Tuesday, September 1 Lakeside High School	Thursday, September 3 Chamblee High School
• 68 Attendees • 19 Speakers	• 109 Stakeholder Attendees • 20 Stakeholder Speakers
Key Themes: • Preserve neighborhood connections and feeder patterns • Address student safety and transportation • Protect specialized programs • Clarify the public comment participation process • Provide additional preparation time	**Key Themes:** • Provide clear data, methodology, and decision-making criteria • Maintain neighborhood connections, walkability, and feeder patterns • Prioritize educational opportunities and outcomes, not capacity alone • Consider facility expansion and improvements • Consider socioeconomic conditions, language access, disability-related needs, and student safety • Explore magnet, specialty, and choice programs, including opportunities at Sequoyah

Across both public comment sessions, stakeholders consistently emphasized **transparency**, **preservation of neighborhood connections**, **educational opportunity**, and **student safety.**

Community Advisory Team Updates

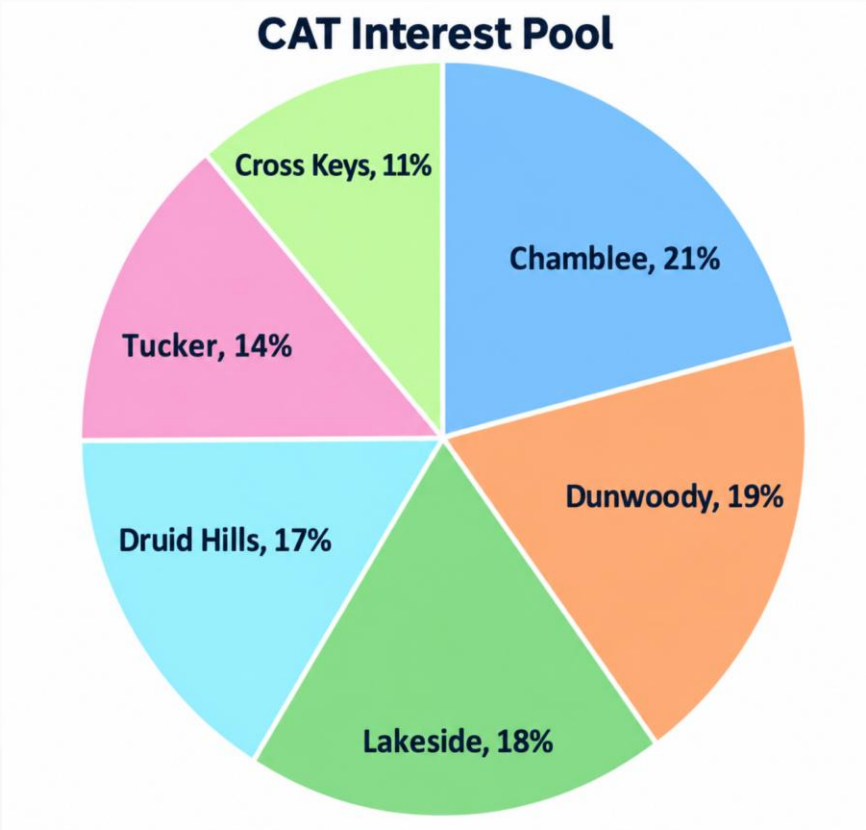
The Interest Form went live on August 11th and remained open through August 25.

Interest forms were received from representatives of all 44 schools across the six clusters

903 CAT Interest Forms Submitted

Category	%	#
Parent/Guardian	59%	533
School Staff	16%	146
Community Partners	6%	53
PTO/PTSA	6%	51
PAC	5%	49
Previous SAP Participant	5%	42
Student	2%	16
District Staff	1%	13

Remember, CATs are one engagement channel, not the only engagement channel.



Online Public Survey Updates

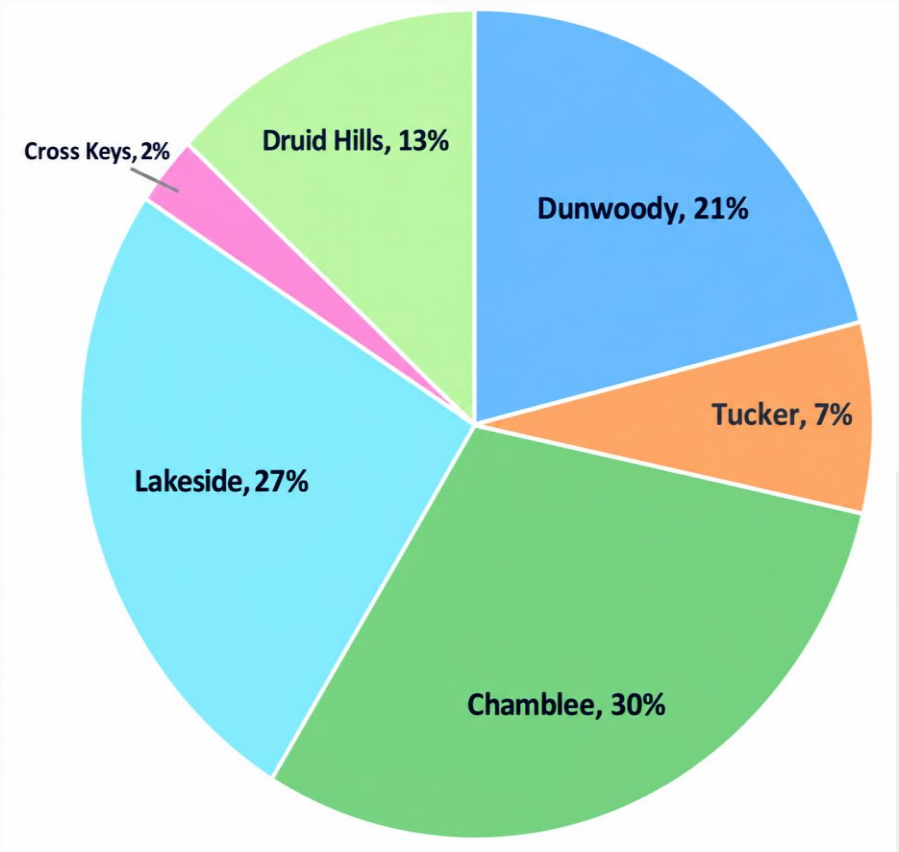
Online Public Survey Results
Survey Window: August 26–September 8

- 2,328 surveys were completed
- 81.2% of respondents identified as a parent/guardian of a currently enrolled student
- 82.0% reported being moderately to extremely familiar with the Student Assignment Project
- 94.0% indicated they would consider attending a public comment session

Most frequently selected secondary criteria

- 73.2% Intact neighborhoods
- 56.8% School feeder alignment
- 48.5% Safety and traffic patterns

Respondents' School Affiliation by Focus Cluster



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Virtual Focus Group Updates

Stakeholder Virtual Focus Group	Staff Virtual Information Sessions
August 31 – September 9	August 31 and September 1
195 registrants 14 sessions 120 attendees	110 attendees
Key Themes • Desire for greater clarity regarding the process and decision-making timeline • Questions regarding how community feedback will inform decisions • Concerns about potential impacts on school performance • Interest in a dedicated middle school for the Cross Keys cluster • Questions regarding future programming for Sequoyah High School	Key Themes • Questions regarding the timing and approach for addressing overcrowding • Decision-making and implementation timelines • Concerns about employment stability, transfers, and staffing • Protection of instructional and specialty programs

Community Advisory Teams Major Themes

- Trust, Transparency, and Accountability
- Meaningful Influence of Stakeholder Feedback
- Data-Informed and Evidence-Based Decision-Making
- Access to Programs and Educational Opportunities
- Preservation of School Communities and Neighborhood Connections
- Class Size, School Capacity, and Staff Stability
- Clarity Regarding the Role of the Community Advisory Teams

Next Steps

Community Engagement Series	Public Comment Sessions	Community Advisory Team Meetings	Online Survey Windows	Virtual Focus Groups
Series 1	Sept. 1 and Sept. 3	Sept. 8 and Sept. 10	Aug. 26 - Sept. 8	Aug. 31 - Sept. 9
Series 2	Sept. 22 and Sept. 24	Sept. 29 and Oct. 1	Sept. 21 - Oct. 5	Sept. 24 - Oct. 6
Series 3	Oct. 20 and Oct. 22	Oct. 27 and Oct. 29	Oct. 13 - Oct. 25	Oct. 16 - Oct. 26

- **September 15**: Publish preliminary possibilities and concepts for community review and feedback
- **September 21**: Launch Engagement Series #2
- **September 25**: Engage the Student Advisory Council

Continue analyzing stakeholder feedback through public comment sessions, Community Advisory Team meetings, online surveys, and virtual focus groups to inform the development and refinement of preliminary student assignment possibilities and concepts.

Questions and Discussion

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