Board Policy AD: School Attendance Zones

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

An attendance zone will be established and maintained for each school in the City Schools of Decatur. A student's attendance zone is determined by the student's residential address.

School attendance zones may need to be altered for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, population or enrollment changes, capacity or operating efficiency concerns, changes in the use of a school, closure of a school, and the opening of a new school.

The Superintendent may make recommendations to attendance zones, grade configurations, or feeder patterns for Board of Education approval. The Board recognizes that because of our district's size, any changes to attendance zones (e.g. redistricting or rezoning) impact the entirety of the district.

The district will consider the following primary criteria when setting school attendance zones and making redistricting decisions:

- Building utilization (the ratio of available core classroom capacity to projected enrollment)
- Geographic proximity (distance to elementary school), including maximizing walkability and the walk zone
- Efficient and economical operations
- Facility condition
- Equity impacts, including access to instructional programs

Additional criteria for consideration may also include:

- Safety and traffic patterns
- Past rezoning decisions impacting a school or community
- Intact neighborhoods
- Other criteria, to be publicly disclosed at or prior to a final decision by the Board

On an annual basis, the Superintendent shall report to the Board on school utilization and capacity rates.

The Superintendent shall develop a process for community engagement with school attendance zone decisions, which shall include a community forum open to any person residing in the district, and led by a trained facilitator. Board members may participate in the community forum as observers. In the case of school closures, the Board shall follow the procedures required by state law regarding public hearings and comment.

When attendance lines are altered, all students must attend the school serving their new attendance area. The Superintendent may, however, establish conditions for exceptions (e.g. grandfathering).

The Board grants the Superintendent the necessary authority to make school zone determinations, without Board approval, for areas newly annexed into the City of Decatur and the CSD service zone. The Board grants the Superintendent the authority to make adjustments to school zones without board approval for new residential developments.

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Note: ***To access the policy references, CLICK HERE:*** State of Georgia Terms and Conditions ***and close the LexisNexis tab, which will return you to the policy. Click on the links below to be taken to each specific code. You should only have to do this one time per session.***

State	Description
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0060	Consolidation of county schools
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0290	Organization of schools; employment of school administrative managers
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0293	Student attending school in system other than system of student's residence

State	Description
O.C.G.A. 20-02-2096.7	Attendance zones; payments; use of funds.