

AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,

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OPTION ANALYSIS: TALKING POINTS  
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Option 1a: Elementary School

Assumptions/Parameters:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>x Focus of Option 1 is on Areas 1 and 3</li><li>x Assumes students living in the zone attend their home school</li><li>x Pre-K and schools with 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders are added back to estimates regardless of where they live (for ES).</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>x Assumes New Elementary School in area 3</li><li>x Evaluate school boundaries, but do not cross over planning area lines</li><li>x Consider balancing utilization and demographics</li></ul> |
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Overview of findings/results (utilization):

- x Many schools with low/high utilization rates could find relief if students attended their zoned schools.
  - o North Aiken ES 66% utilization (enrolled) vs. 84% (live-in)
  - o East Aiken School of the Arts 97% (enrolled) vs. 83% (live-in)
  - o Area 2 schools such as Belvedere and Hammond Hill ES.
- x Area 1 schools can get a balance of utilization through boundary adjustments.
  - o Many existing satellite boundaries can be eliminated (i.e. Chukker Creek, Millbrook)
    - f Chukker Creek still draws from center of town, but zones as a whole are more compact around the schools.
    - f Millbrook now has 1 zone that surrounds the school.
    - f Millbrook sends area to Aiken ES (southern satellite area)
    - f Chukker Creek sends area to Millbrook (north ern satellite) and also to East Aiken ES
    - f JD Lever and North Aiken ES trade areas to balance utilization and demographics
- x Area 3 schools have a better balance of utilization and new schoolshows to bring all schools in the area to below 100% utilization
  - o New School takes from Byrd ES and Warrenville ES.

Overview of findings/res ults (demographics):

- x Minority percentage would improve in schools if students attended their home school
- x Percent minority brought closer to the district average in all Area 1 elementary schools
- x Overall improvement in minority percentage for Area 3 schools, and New ES is close to district average in terms of percent minority
- x Poverty (i.e. Free/Reduced Lunch) rates are improved in Option 1 for Area 1 elementary schools, with exception of JD Lever (goes up 1%).
- x Poverty rates for Area 3 schools improve as a result of Option 1 rezoning
- x The New School in Area 3 is close to the district average in terms of the district average poverty rate

Overview of findings/results (feeder patterns):

- x Feeder pattern splits are improved in Option 1.
  - o North Aiken currently splits to 3 middle schools, where in option 1, it is balanced between 2 middle schools.
  - o JD Lever split in option 1 is less balanced than current

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Option 2: Elementary School

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OPTION A

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Option 3: Elementary School

Assumptions/Parameters:

- x Comprehensive look at boundaries across all levels, except for rural Area 4
- x Assumes students living in the zone attend their home school
- x Pre-K and schools with 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders are added back to estimates regardless of where they live (for ES).
- x No new construction
- x Consider balancing utilization and demographics

Overview of findings/results (utilization):

- x Many schools with low/high utilization rates could find relief if students attended their zoned schools.
  - o North Aiken ES 66% utilization (enrolled) vs. 84% (live-in)
  - o East Aiken School of the Arts 97% (enrolled) vs. 83% (live-in)
  - o Area 2 schools such as Belvedere and Hammond Hill ES.
- x All elementary schools have enrollment balanced across the district
- x Gloverville and Jefferson Elementary Schools still at 100%
- x Some schools that are operating comfortably will be operating in the mid to high 90% utilization ranges
- x Area 2 schools have satellite boundaries resolved, and boundaries are mostly contiguous across the county (except for Chukker Creek)
- x Redcliffe ES takes in southern part of Warrentonville ES
- x Not an extensive amount of crossing over across planning area boundaries

Overview of findings/results (demographics):

- x Overall improvement in percent minority and poverty levels in elementary schools

Overview of findings/results (feeder patterns):

- x Feeder pattern splits are improved in Option 3 than current.
    - o Highest number of 'pure feeders' among all options from Elementary to Middle
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