# School Boundary Review for 2020–21

On January 24, the Howard County Board of Education directed the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) to initiate a comprehensive boundary review process, which could ultimately impact all 74 comprehensive schools in the system for the 2020–2021 school year. A countywide review is critical due to population growth that has resulted in crowding at many schools, while some schools in other areas are underutilized.

## Feasibility Study

The process begins on June 13 with the release of the 2019 Feasibility Study, which provides possible boundary adjustment options based on data and available capacity. It is a comprehensive look at the 10-year student enrollment projections. The study is based on the most currently available data, including population growth based on students yielded from sales of existing housing and from projected new housing units, and FARM program participation.

**Data Integrity:** The 2019 Feasibility Study includes data that is carefully analyzed by independent consultant Cooperative Strategies, LLC. Pending available funding in the FY2020 budget, Cooperative Strategies, LLC, will also serve as a neutral facilitator for the process. The consultant will oversee the AAC's work, test alternative scenarios, collect and compile public input, respond to questions and information needs, and advise the Superintendent on a solution.

## Attendance Area Committee (AAC)

This advisory committee reviews options presented in the Feasibility Study and makes recommendations to the Superintendent to help inform his proposal to the Board, scheduled to be presented on August 20.

- AAC members will represent community diversity and every planning region in the county, and include individuals who have served HCPSS in advisory roles or as partners.
- The AAC reviews Policy 6010-School Attendance Areas and the contents of the Feasibility Study, and reports its recommendations to the Superintendent in July.
- The AAC is not responsible for gathering public input or developing attendance area scenarios.

*"A successful outcome for this process depends directly on the level of respect, empathy and careful listening that we as adults model for our children. Regardless of the outcome, every child in Howard County public schools will continue to have access to an excellent education."*

- Superintendent Michael J. Martirano

## Public Input

### Superintendent's Recommendation Public Input Opportunities

- Online Input Form: open June 14 through August 1
- Community input sessions
  – Wednesday, July 10, 7–9 p.m. – Oakland Mills HS
  – Saturday, July 13, 9–11 a.m. – Long Reach HS
  – Tuesday, July 16, 7–9 p.m. – Atholton HS
  – Thursday, July 18, 7–9 p.m. – River Hill HS
- Stakeholders who lack access to technology and are unable attend an input session may mail feedback to the School Planning Office, 9020 Mendenhall Ct., Columbia MD 21045. Print copies of the online feedback form will be provided in limited quantities to school offices.

### Board of Education Public Input Opportunities

- Public Hearings
  – Tuesday, September 17, 7 p.m.
  – Tuesday, September 24, 7 p.m.
  – Thursday, September 26, 7 p.m.

### Information and Updates

- Visit **www.hcpss.org/school-planning** for complete information and updates, a schedule and answers to frequently asked questions.
- Watch for updates in HCPSS News emails, and on Facebook and Twitter.
- Language supports, including interpretation and signing, will be available upon request.

*"We owe it to our students and families to develop a comprehensive plan that ensures optimal learning environments and equitable opportunities for each and every child."*

- Board Chair Mavis Ellis

## Process Timeline

Public Input: July 10, 13, 16, 18
Online Input Form: June 14–Aug. 1

Board decision on any boundary adjustments Nov. 21

Feasibility Study June 13

AAC meets mid-June to mid-July

Superintendent presents recommendation to Board Aug. 20

Board Public Hearings Sept. 17, 24, 26

Board Public Work Sessions Oct. 10, 24, 30, Nov. 5,12,14,18

| JUNE | JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER |
|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|