



News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

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Community Meeting Schedule expanded for attendance area boundary map review

Proposed maps to be made public on Tuesday, October 6

Seattle - Reflecting a desire to consult with families from as many areas of the city as possible about the next step in its new student assignment plan, Seattle Public Schools today expanded the schedule of community meetings to review proposed attendance area boundary maps that, if adopted, will play a significant role in where students will attend public school in Seattle.

The updated schedule adds opportunities in the central, northeast, and southwest parts of Seattle.

The proposed maps will be released on October 6 at a work session of the Seattle School Board to be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the John Stanford Center auditorium.

After reviewing all comments, the district will formally introduce recommended boundary maps—including any revisions—at the School Board meeting on Wednesday, November 4. The School Board will vote on the recommended boundary maps on November 18, 2009 (see schedule following page).

“We want families to have plenty of opportunities to hear more about the plan, understand how it works, and to learn about the data-driven process we used to create attendance area boundaries,” said Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, Ph.D. “We welcome the input of all families and will have interpretation services available at the public meetings on our schedule to ensure that all voices are heard.”

Extensive community engagement was also a cornerstone in the creation of the new student assignment plan. In that process, families expressed their desire for a predictable, equitable, and easy-to-understand plan—as well as one that supports greater family participation in schools, brings needed services closer to where students live, fosters diversity, and is feasible and cost effective to implement and sustain.

Predictable Assignment Hallmark of New Plan

The general idea behind the new student assignment plan is that students will receive an initial assignment to an attendance area elementary-, middle-, or high school. This assignment will be based on their address. A student can choose to apply to a school outside their attendance area; that assignment will be based on a series of tiebreakers.

If a student is currently enrolled at a school outside their attendance area, they can stay at that school through its highest grade under a process called “grandfathering”—as long as the services the students need are available at that school.

The new plan will be implemented in phases, beginning in the 2010-11 school year; the assignment rules for the current 2009-10 school year will remain the same.

New Attendance Areas to Replace Outdated Boundaries

If adopted by the School Board, the new attendance area boundaries will replace a set of school reference areas that haven’t been updated in decades, no longer reflect city demographics, and do not accurately address the capacity of the District’s facilities, according to district officials.

By comparison, the development of the new attendance boundaries has been a data-driven process, one designed to reflect demographic shifts and building capacity more accurately—as well as provide greater assignment predictability while preserving choice options.

Community Meetings Span Seattle

There will be a number of public meetings related to the release of the new attendance area boundary maps over the next two months. Interpretation services will be available at all meetings.

The meetings include:

Event	Date/Time	Location
School Board Workshop: Proposed Attendance Area Boundaries	Tuesday, October 6 4:00 pm	John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134
Community Feedback Meeting	Saturday, October 10 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Eckstein Middle School 3003 NE 75 th Street · Seattle, WA 98115
Community Feedback Meeting	Saturday, October 10 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Washington Middle School 2101 S Jackson · Seattle, WA 98144
Community Feedback Meeting	Monday, October 12 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	McClure Middle School 1915 1st Ave W · Seattle, WA 98119
Community Feedback Meeting	Tuesday, October 13 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Aki Kurose Middle School 3928 S Graham Street · Seattle, WA 98118
Community Feedback Meeting	Wednesday, October 14 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Ballard High School 1418 NW 65 th Street · Seattle, WA 98117
Community Feedback Meeting	Thursday, October 15 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	West Seattle High School 3000 California Ave SW · Seattle, WA 98116
Community Feedback Meeting	Friday, October 16 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Denny Middle School 8402 30 th Ave SW · Seattle, WA 98126
Community Feedback Meeting	Saturday, October 17 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Mercer Middle School 1600 S Columbian Way · Seattle, WA 98108
Community Feedback Meeting	Saturday, October 17 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Mercer Middle School 1600 S Columbian Way · Seattle, WA 98108
School Board Workshop Attendance Area Boundaries	Tuesday, November 3 4:00 pm	John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134
School Board Meeting: Introduction of Attendance Area Boundaries	Wednesday, November 4 6:00 pm	John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134
Community Information Meeting	Thursday, November 5 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Roosevelt High School 1410 NE 66th St · Seattle, WA 98115
Community Information Meeting	Saturday, November 7 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Rainier Beach High School 8815 Seward Park Ave S · Seattle, WA 98118
School Board Public Hearing: Attendance Area Boundaries	Monday, November 9 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134
School Board Meeting: Action On Attendance Area Boundaries	Wednesday, November 18 6:00 pm	John Stanford Center Auditorium 2445 3rd Avenue South · Seattle, WA 98134

Families who cannot attend the meetings can submit comments via e-mail to newassign@seattleschools.org and by postal mail to Seattle School Board, P.O. Box 34165, MS 11-010, Seattle, WA, 98124-1165. They can also visit the recently refreshed new student assignment plan Web site at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign/>

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