



<b>Admissions/Withdrawals: School Attendance Zone Modifications</b>	<b>JC</b>	<b>7/23/09</b>
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**RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:**

The Cobb County School District (District) adheres to Georgia and Federal law and Cobb County Board of Education (Board) Policy [\(Policy BBA \[Board Powers and Responsibilities\]\)](#) to establish attendance zones for all Cobb County schools.

**RULE:**

**A. RECOMMENDED SIZE OF SCHOOLS:**

Size of schools will be determined according to the Laws of the State of Georgia, State Board of Education Rules and Standards of AdvancED/Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

**B. CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED:**

The District should give balanced consideration to the following criteria when establishing or revising school attendance zones:

1. Efficient and effective school sizes and enrollment;
2. Time, distance and safety of students traveling between home and school; and
3. Efficiency of feeder patterns.

**C. PROCESS:**

Attendance zone modifications may be necessitated by a number of circumstances as described below.

**1. Establishment of School Attendance Zones for New Schools:**

When a new school is opened, the District adheres to Georgia (including but not limited to [HB539](#)) and Federal law and Board of Education [Policy BBA](#) in developing proposed attendance zones for the new school and the existing schools impacted by its opening.

**2. Revision of School Attendance Zones for Existing Schools:**

Attendance Zone changes may occur for existing schools even when there is no redistricting due to the opening of a new school. In these instances, the following procedures shall apply:

- a. Map(s) of the new attendance zone for the affected school(s) should be:
  - (1) Developed by the appropriate division;
  - (2) Displayed at the impacted schools and on the District Web site for a minimum of 20 calendar days prior to the hearing to receive public input.
- b. An announcement of the hearing to receive public input regarding the proposed attendance zone revision(s) should be made 20 calendar days prior to a meeting being held;
- c. Following the public hearing, the original or revised map(s) should be displayed at impacted schools and on the District’s Web site for an additional 30 calendar days to provide appropriate time to receive additional public comment;
- d. The finalized proposed attendance zones will be presented to the Board for approval.

**3. New Developments:**

The construction of new developments of homes or other dwellings may necessitate the development being moved from one attendance zone to another in order to place the new development in a single attendance zone, more nearly balance school enrollments or facilitate transportation requirements. Unless the Board of Education directs that the District utilize the procedures outlined above for the revision of attendance zones

for existing schools, the following procedures should be followed:

- a. Recommended attendance zones adjustments shall be:
  - (1) Developed by the appropriate division; and
  - (2) Presented to the Superintendent.
- b. The Superintendent may approve the proposed adjustments or return them with suggestions for further study.
- c. Once approved by the Superintendent, these attendance zone adjustments shall be submitted to the Board for review utilizing the same procedures as the Board's review of proposed Administrative Rule changes (Board of Education [Policy BGD](#) [Review of Administrative Rules]).

#### **D. TRANSPORTATION:**

##### **1. Elementary/Middle/High School:**

- (a) When attendance zone changes occur, a student shall be eligible for bus transportation if he/she elects to attend the school in the approved attendance zone.
- (b) If the student elects to remain at the school he/she currently attends:
  - (1) The parent/guardian/student may:
    - a) Provide their own transportation; or
    - b) Submit the specified form requesting to and receive written approval from Transportation to board a bus at an approved bus stop for that school with the following limitations:
      - 1) The student will not be granted permission to board the bus prior to the fourth week of school in order to determine available ridership capacity;
      - 2) The District must determine the bus has available seat space for the student (additional buses will not be assigned nor additional stops created on the route to accommodate students living outside the attendance zone of the school they attend);
      - 3) It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to safely convey these students to and from the bus stop they have selected. Therefore, a bus route shall not be extended nor shall a bus stop be relocated to meet students living outside the attendance zone of the school they attend.
  - (2) In the event there not be sufficient seats for students living outside the attendance zone of the school they attend, students will be selected by random lottery.
  - (3) Transportation privileges may be withdrawn from students living outside the attendance zone of the school they attend in the following circumstances:
    - a) The student commits repetitive Code of Conduct violations (Administrative [Rule JICDA-E](#) [Student Conduct: Code of Conduct {Elementary}]; Administrative [Rule JICDA-M](#) [Student Conduct: Code of Conduct {Middle School}]; or Administrative [Rule JICDA-H](#) [Student Conduct: Code of Conduct {High School}]);
    - b) The parent/guardian disrupts or interferes with the operation of the bus; (Administrative [Rule EEA](#) [Student Transportation]);
    - c) The students who live in the attendance zone of the school the bus serves increases over the course of the year to the point there are no longer seats available for students who live outside the attendance zone of the school they attend.

##### **2. High School Senior Class:**

When a new high school is opened, it will not have a twelfth-grade class. Transportation will be provided to these seniors to the school they currently attend.

#### **E. AFFECTED STUDENTS:**

When attendance zone changes are made for any of the above reasons, the students affected may elect to remain in the school which they currently attend or enroll and

attend the school in their approved attendance zone.

**1. HIGH SCHOOL:**

When attendance zone changes occur at the high school level, rising tenth-, eleventh-, and twelfth-grade students may elect to continue to attend their current high school.

**a. Siblings:**

Qualified siblings of these students may also attend the same high school:

- (1) This provision attempts to prevent siblings from being required to attend different high schools at the same time.
- (2) The younger sibling must be a student in high school at some time during the high school tenure of the older brother or sister. The high school student and his/her sibling must be in the following matching grades in the school year prior to the effective date of the attendance zone change:

High School Grade	Middle School Grade
9	6, 7, 8
10	7, 8
11	8

**2. MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

a. When attendance zone changes occur at the middle school level, rising seventh- and eighth-grade students may elect to continue to attend their current middle school.

**b. Siblings:**

Qualified siblings of these students may also attend the same middle school.

- (1) This provision attempts to prevent siblings from being required to attend different middle schools at the same time.
- (2) The younger sibling must be a student in middle school at some time during the middle school tenure of the older brother or sister. The middle school student and his/her sibling must be in the following matching grades in the school year prior to the effective date of the attendance zone change:

Middle School Grade	Elementary School Grade
6	4, 5
7	5

**3. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**

a. When attendance zone changes occur at the elementary school level, rising kindergarten (in those schools with District-sponsored programs for students younger than kindergarten and who live in the attendance zone affected by the attendance zone change), first-, second-, third- and fourth-grade students may elect to continue to attend their current elementary school.

**b. Siblings:**

Qualified siblings of these students may also attend the same elementary school.

- (1) This provision attempts to prevent siblings from being required to attend different elementary schools at the same time.
- (2) A younger sibling of a student attending the school affected by the attendance zone change can attend the same elementary school if the student will continue to attend the elementary school the school year the younger sibling meets all admission requirements and attends the school.

Adopted: 5/23/91

Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04

Reviewed: 9/16/01; 9/18/02; 6/9/04

Revised: 5/27/93; 4/26/02; 8/25/05; 3/8/06; 6/13/07; 1/9/08; 4/15/09; 7/23/09