Loudoun County Public Schools
School Attendance Zone Change Process
Ashburn Area Elementary Schools
Frequently Asked Questions

Question #1. Why is the School Board reviewing (in Fall 2012) the current Ashburn area elementary school attendance zones?
Answer #1. Two new elementary schools will be opening in Fall 2013 – Discovery Elementary School (44020 Grace Bridge Drive, Ashburn) and Moorefield Station Elementary School (22325 Mooreview Parkway, Ashburn). As new schools, the School Board must establish an attendance zone for both Discovery Elementary School (ES) and Moorefield Station Elementary School (ES). The current elementary school attendance zones for Ashburn, Belmont Station, Cedar Lane, Creighton’s Corner, Dominion Trail, Hillside, Legacy, Mill Run, Newton-Lee, Rosa Lee Carter, Sanders Corner, Seldens Landing, and Steuart W. Weller Elementary Schools will be reviewed and possibly changed in establishing attendance zones for Discovery ES and Moorefield Station ES.

Question #2. What specific school communities are involved with the current process of establishing attendance zones for Discovery Elementary School and Moorefield Station Elementary School?

Question #3. If my child’s elementary school is included in the study area for establishing an attendance zone for Discovery Elementary School and/or Moorefield Station Elementary School does that mean he/she will be going to a different elementary school in Fall 2013?
Answer #3. Not necessarily. Notification to a current elementary school community does not indicate that the school’s attendance zone will change with the opening of either Discovery ES or Moorefield Station ES, only that attendance zone adjustments may be reviewed, discussed, proposed and/or adopted for the elementary school.

Question #4. Why do school attendance areas change?
Answer #4. School attendance areas (commonly referred to as attendance boundaries or attendance zones) typically change as a result of the opening of a new school or the significant over or under enrollment of an existing school.
Question #5. Who determines the attendance zone change process?
Answer #5. The Loudoun County School Board establishes all public school attendance zones.

Question #6. When would these elementary school attendance zone changes become effective?
Answer #6. Ashburn area elementary school attendance zone changes adopted by the School Board this fall will take effect in Fall 2013, at the start of the 2013-14 school year, when both Discovery ES and Moorefield Station ES open.

Question #7. Does the School Board and/or School staff already have an attendance zone plan for the Ashburn area elementary schools?
Answer #7. No. The School Board will receive input from staff and the public in formulating possible attendance zones for Discovery ES and Moorefield Station ES.

Question #8. My community’s elementary school is not over capacity and is not projected to be over capacity in the near future. Could our school’s attendance zone still be modified in this current process?
Answer #8. Yes. It is possible that any of the identified elementary school attendance zones (Ashburn, Belmont Station, Cedar Lane, Creighton’s Corner, Dominion Trail, Hillside, Legacy, Mill Run, Newton-Lee, Rosa Lee Carter, Sanders Corner, Seldens Landing, and/or Steuart W. Weller) may change.

Question #9. How can I get involved in reviewing the Ashburn area elementary school attendance zones and establishing an attendance zone for Discovery Elementary School and/or Moorefield Station Elementary School?
Answer #9. Strong community engagement is an important component in the attendance boundary change process and the School Board and staff welcome involvement from Loudoun residents. All attendance zone meetings outlined on the School Board adopted calendar are open to the public and interested citizens are encouraged to attend. (The attendance zone meetings will also be broadcast live on Verizon FIOS Channel 43 and Comcast Channel 18, as well as webcast on Webcast / Overview, whenever possible.)

Members of the public may share their thoughts and concerns with the School Board and staff by attending the work sessions, speaking at the public hearings, and writing to the School Board. Copies of all written comments received by LCPS Department of Planning and Legislative Services (lcpsplan@lcps.org or 21000 Education Court Ashburn, VA 20148) will be provided to the School Board and Division Superintendent.
Throughout the attendance zone change process, information and data regarding the Ashburn area elementary school attendance zone changes will be accessible on the LCPS ‘Planning & Legislative Services’ web page.

While the School Board provides opportunities for public input, the final decision on attendance zones is made by the School Board. Proposed attendance zone plans can be
changed, modified, and/or rescinded by the School Board, and new plans considered by the
School Board up to the point that a plan is adopted.

**Question #10. What are the projected student enrollments for Discovery Elementary School and Moorefield Station Elementary School?**
Answer #10. Projected student enrollments for Discovery ES and Moorefield Station ES will be available only after attendance zones for the schools are adopted by the School Board.

**Question #11. What middle and high schools will students from Discovery Elementary School and Moorefield Station Elementary School proceed to after completing elementary school?**
Answer #11. Until attendance zones are adopted by the School Board for Discovery ES and Moorefield Station ES, the secondary schools to which these two elementary school communities will graduate cannot be determined.

**Question #12. Will any secondary school attendance zones change as a result of this current review of the Ashburn area elementary school attendance zones?**
Answer #12. No. This current attendance zone process only involves Ashburn area elementary school attendance zones.

However, middle and high school attendance zones for the greater Ashburn area will likely be reviewed by the School Board in Spring 2013, in preparing for the Fall 2014 opening of Tailside Middle School (sited adjacent to Newton-Lee Elementary School, at 20325 Claiborne Parkway) and two unnamed high schools (HS-6 and HS-8) slated to open in Fall 2015.

**Question #13. Why doesn’t Loudoun County build schools based on projected growth?**
Answer #13. Neither the Board of Supervisors nor the School Board has been willing to build schools based on future population projections. If schools were built based on projections, millions of dollars could be spent for facilities that might not be fully utilized for years.

**Question #14. Why doesn’t the School Board take steps to control growth?**
Answer #14. The School Board is not directly involved in the decisions regarding Loudoun County’s (or it’s incorporated towns’) growth. School staff provides information and data to the Loudoun County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, as well as to Loudoun’s incorporated towns, regarding the impact of all proposed residential developments in the county.

**Question #15. Do promises made by a builder to a buyer regarding a school’s attendance zone in any way bind the School Board to honor those promises?**
Answer #15. No. School attendance areas are not prearranged with builders and developers.

**Question #16. I live in the 20147 zip code area. Does my zip code bind the School Board in establishing what elementary school attendance zone serves my residence?**
Answer #16. No. School attendance areas are not determined by postal zip code zones.
**Question #17.** How will the students and families prepare if their elementary school attendance zone changes?

*Answer #17.* Beginning in the second semester of the 2012-13 school year, the respective elementary school principals will work together with their communities to facilitate the Fall 2013 transition for students and families.

**Question #18.** What about students who will be starting fifth grade in Fall 2013? Will they be allowed to finish elementary school at their current school or will they have to move to a new elementary school if their attendance zone changes?

*Answer #18.* The School Board makes this decision after the new elementary attendance zones have been adopted; but in the past, the School Board has asked staff to survey families with rising fifth graders to determine if there is an interest to finish elementary school at their current school. If space has been available, the families who responded by a designated deadline (provided in the survey to the families) have been afforded the opportunity for their rising fifth grade student to remain at his/her current elementary school. In these instances, transportation to/from school has been the responsibility of the family, not LCPS.

**Question #19.** What about the siblings of rising fifth grade students? Can siblings receive permission to remain at their current elementary school or will they have to move to the new school if their attendance zone changes?

*Answer #19.* In the past, the School Board has not permitted siblings of rising fifth grade students (from families responding to the designed survey deadline) to remain at their current elementary school.

**Question #20.** How will the new school bus routes be established?

*Answer #20.* LCPS Department of Transportation will begin establishing bus routes once the new school attendance zones are adopted by the School Board. As usual, parents will be notified via their respective schools of bus numbers and student pick-up times prior to the start of the new school year.

**Question #21.** How can parents, guardians, and interested citizens give input on the elementary school attendance zone proposals being reviewed by the School Board?

*Answer #21.* All parties can speak at the identified public hearings and/or address the School Board members via letters and/or email.

Please review the School Board adopted attendance zone meeting [calendar](#).

Public hearings, at which the public is invited to address the School Board specifically about the Ashburn area elementary school attendance zone change process, have been scheduled for October 3, October 16, October 22, November 1, November 7, and December 3. All of the hearings will be held at the LCPS Administration Building (21000 Education Court, Ashburn) and will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Please see the [calendar](#) for the full schedule of work sessions, informational and action item meetings planned in addition to the public hearings.
Copies of all written comments received by LCPS Department of Planning and Legislative Services (lcpsplan@lcps.org or 21000 Education Court Ashburn, VA 20148) will be provided to the School Board and Division Superintendent.

While the School Board provides opportunities for public input, the final decision on attendance zones is made by the School Board. Proposed attendance zone plans can be changed, modified, and/or rescinded by the School Board, and new plans considered by the School Board up to the point that a plan is adopted.

**Question #22. How can I contact members of the School Board?**

Answer #22. School Board member contact information is posted on the LCPS website (www.lcps.org, utilize the ‘School Board’ link near the top of the home page). While you may contact School Board members directly, all written correspondence received by LCPS Department of Planning and Legislative Services (lcpsplan@lcps.org or 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148) will be forwarded to each member of the Loudoun County School Board and the Division Superintendent.

**Question #23. Who should I contact with additional questions about the school attendance zone process?**

Answer #23. Contact Loudoun County Public Schools Department of Planning and Legislative Services at lcpsplan@lcps.org or 571-252-1050.

Throughout the Ashburn area elementary school attendance zone change process, answers to all questions received in writing by LCPS Department of Planning and Legislative Services (lcpsplan@lcps.org or 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148) will be posted on the LCPS ‘Planning & Legislative Services’ web page for interested community members to view. Please review the questions/answers often, as the listing will be updated frequently.