

Accokeek Academy Boundary and Grade Change Options

Upper Campus Cafeteria

March 23, 2017

6:30 pm - 8 pm

Goals of the Meeting

1. Review Problems in District 9
2. Review the Accokeek Academy Boundary and Grade Change Options
3. Share District 9 BOE Member Sonya Williams' Proposed Solution
4. Q&A
5. Accokeek Community Vote

Problems in District 9

1. AA Overcrowding
2. PLES and FWFES communities do not want their students to go to other schools outside of boundaries.
3. FWFES is significantly under capacity and is slated to close.
4. Preserve residents do not want to move out of AA and do not support a boundary change to FWFES.
5. Schools that are under enrolled and old will not receive Maryland State BoE funds for improvements.



Options for Balancing Enrollment

Previous Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reassign “The Preserves” and homes off of Danville Road and Floral Park Road from Accokeek Academy to Ft. Washington Forest ES and Gwynn Park MS.• Change middle school assignment to Gwynn Park MS for Potomac Landing ES and the portion of Ft. Washington Forest ES assigned to Accokeek Academy.• Change high school assignment from Friendly HS to Gwynn Park HS for Potomac Landing ES and the portion of Ft. Washington Forest ES assigned to Friendly HS.
Option A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reassign “The Preserves” and homes off of Danville Road and Floral Park Road to Ft. Washington Forest ES.
Option B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a two-campus academy with the Ft. Washington Forest ES and Potomac Landing ES buildings to serve students in grades K-8 from those communities.
Option C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move the elementary school TAG center program at Accokeek Academy to Ft. Washington Forest ES.• Move the middle school TAG center program at Accokeek Academy to Gwynn Park MS or Isaac Gourdine MS .
Option D	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change middle school assignment from Accokeek Academy to Isaac Gourdine MS for Potomac Landing ES and the portion of Ft. Washington Forest ES that is assigned to Accokeek Academy.

District 9 BOE Sonya Williams Proposal

TAG Phase-In (4 year plan)

	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
2016-2017	Accokeek	Accokeek	Accokeek	Accokeek	Accokeek	Accokeek	Accokeek
2017-2018	Ft. Wash Forest	Accokeek	Accokeek	Accokeek	Accokeek	Accokeek	Accokeek
2018-2019	Ft. Wash Forest	Ft. Wash Forest	Accokeek	Accokeek	IGMS	Accokeek	Accokeek
2019-2020	Ft. Wash Forest	Ft. Wash Forest	Ft. Wash Forest	Accokeek	IGMS	IGMS	Accokeek
2020-2021	Ft. Wash Forest	Ft. Wash Forest	Ft. Wash Forest	Ft. Wash Forest	IGMS	IGMS	IGMS

TAG program composition	Grade								Total
Origin		02	03	04	05	06	07	08	Total
Accokeek Academy K-5 boundary		10	18	18	23	8	17	22	116
Ft. Washington Forest ES boundary		2		1	1	7	4	8	23
Potomac Landing ES boundary		2	2	5	5	16	20	9	59
Other elementary schools		10	7	3	9	58	38	39	164
Total		24	27	27	38	89	79	78	362

Questions

1. What is the impact of the gradual removal of the TAG Center at AA?
2. What is the difference between a TAG Center and TAG pull-out services?
3. Should AA TAG Students be pulled out of AA and attend TAG classes at FWFES and TAG classes at Isaac Gourdine MS instead of their community school?
4. What are the other options the BOE should consider to solve overcrowding at AA?
5. Others?

PETITION

- No Removal of the TAG Center from Accokeek Academy
- Support Options B and D on the BOE's Options for Balancing Enrollment
- Against Options A and C on the BOE's Options for Balancing Enrollment
- Best Immediate Solution: Reorganize the boundary to have non-TAG students from FWFES and PLES attend Isaac Gourdine (62% utilization) or Oxon Hill MS (74% utilization)
- Link:
[https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/no-removal-of-the-tag-center-from-accokeek-academy?source=direct_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/no-removal-of-the-tag-center-from-accokeek-academy?source=direct_link)

Petition (page 1)

NO Removal of the TAG Center from Accokeek Academy

PGCPS Board of Education Member, Sonya Williams (D9)

Accokeek Academy is currently overcrowded and is at 99% utilization. This means that something immediate needs to be done to alleviate the overcrowding while still allowing all Accokeek residents in area code 20607 to attend Accokeek Academy. Our PGCPS Board of Education member in District 9, Sonya Williams, is currently advocating for the removal of the Talented and Gifted Center as the means of addressing this overcrowding problem. Accokeek Academy has developed into a mecca of academic achievement in South County beating county averages, beating state averages, and even exceeding some national averages in several core curricular areas. This is in large part due to the TAG center which Accokeek Academy has used to create a model of academic achievement that can be emulated throughout the county.

Our educators and greater Accokeek community including students and families, have STRONGLY taken a position against the removal of the TAG center. Currently, this solution would move current Accokeek TAG and out of boundary TAG students over a gradual period to Fort Washington Forest Elementary School (school under threat to close due to severe under enrollment) and Isaac Gourdine Middle School, if they want to remain in a TAG identified school. This solution would greatly impact the school classroom and cultural dynamic over time. With a decrease in TAG population, our classrooms will become increasingly differentiated in terms of ability level resulting in TAG pullouts instead of the traditional TAG instruction currently given. TAG pullouts have been shown consistently to be very ineffective. Why interfere and dismantle a model that is significantly working?

Petition (page 2)

Our Accokeek family is strongly in SUPPORT of Option B and D on the BOE's Options for Balancing Enrollment document and AGAINST Option A and C. Ultimately, there are several underutilized schools in the Fort Washington local community that students can be re-routed to. Currently, Fort Washington Forest Elementary School (FWFES) and Potomac Landing Elementary School (PLES) non-TAG students feed into Accokeek Academy. Having these schools feed large numbers of students to Accokeek Academy defeats the purpose of a K-8 school model and negatively impacts all students attending Accokeek Academy. (Accokeek Academy is the only K-8 school in the county that has such feeders; all other K-8 schools operate as "true K-8 schools" with no feeder schools.) It is our opinion that the best immediate solution that also serves the long term problem is to reorganize the boundary to have non-TAG students from FWFES and PLES attend Isaac Gourdine MS (62% utilization) or Oxon Hill MS (74% utilization). If additional enrollment relief is needed, elementary TAG students from FWFES and PLES could be assigned to the TAG Center at Valley View ES (currently underutilized), and the establishment of another middle school TAG Center in South County could be pursued.

Petition (Page 3)

Our Accokeek Academy community also strongly supports these solutions:

1. Option B - creating a new K-8 academy between PLES and FWFES
2. Allowing all current Accokeek Academy students to be grandfathered in and not be impacted by these overcrowding/boundary changes
3. Creating another TAG center in another South County School
4. Building a new school facility in South County
5. Increase utilization of Valley View ES which is an existing TAG Center by redistricting

Ms. Williams is under the impression that the removal of the TAG center has no negative implications on Accokeek Academy and we wholeheartedly disagree. Our educators' years of experience, ACTUALLY BEING IN THE CLASSROOM, as well as many of our community members who have lived in this community for many years, have evidence and data to support our claims. We are also using the power of logic and reasoning which demonstrate the obvious solutions - balance enrollment in other local UNDERUTILIZED schools instead of allowing everyone to attend Accokeek Academy and without removing our TAG center which will dismantle our school's academic culture. Why remove an academic program that is working for the sole purpose of relieving overcrowding when there are other, more logical and reasonable solutions?

Petition (Page 4)

Again, our BOE is supporting a position without taking into account other logical and reasonable options that address the needs of students and families. The inability for our BOE to seriously evaluate the solutions that have tremendous data and rationale which support them, is extremely egregious and disheartening at this juncture. We should never dismantle one school in any way, shape, or form to build up others. We should lift them all up to best address the students in their communities. On behalf of the educators and the greater Accokeek family and community, we are asking you to sign this petition and join our call of action to support striking down the BOE option of removing the Talented and Gifted Center from Accokeek Academy.

All the best,

Arun Puracken

7th/ 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

Accokeek Academy

IMPORTANT Upcoming Meeting

Continuing the Accokeek Academy Boundary Conversation with

District 9 BOE Member Sonya Williams

Thursday, March 30, 2017, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

FWFES Auditorium

PTSA Membership

We have a greater voice when we are greater in numbers and can accomplish more.

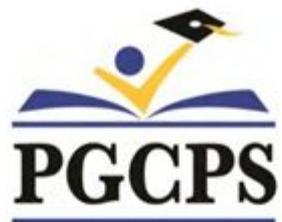
Please consider joining the PTSA at www.aa.ptsa.org.

\$12 Adult Membership

\$10 Staff Membership

\$5 Student Membership

PTSA T-shirts are \$12 each.



Recommended Boundary, Grade and Program Improvements

January 19, 2017



Segun C. Eubanks, Ed.D., *Chair*

Carolyn M. Boston, *Vice Chair, District 6*

David Murray, *District 1*

Lupi Quinteros-Grady, *District 2*

Dinora A. Hernandez, Esq., *District 3*

Patricia Eubanks, *District 4*

Raaheela Ahmed, Esq., *District 5*

K. Alexander Wallace, *District 7*

Edward Burroughs III, *District 8*

Sonya Williams, *District 9*

Beverly Anderson, Ph.D.

Curtis Valentine, M.P.P.

Mary Kingston Roche

Juwan Blocker, *Student Board Member*

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D., *Secretary Treasurer and Chief Executive Officer*



Date	Activity
October 20	Community discussion @ James Madison Middle School
October 26	Community discussion @ Accokeek Academy
October 27	Community discussion @ Bladensburg High School
December 8	Follow up community discussion @ Thomas Stone Elementary School
December 14	Follow up community discussion @ Potomac Landing Elementary School
January 19	Discussion - Boundary, Grade and Program Adjustments @ Sasscer
January 26	Board Public Hearing
TBD	Postal Mail Notification of Recommended Changes
February 2	Introduction of CEO's plan to Board of Education (First Reader)
February 8	Public Hearing Northern Area @ Bladensburg HS
February 9	Public Hearing Southern Area @ Sasscer
February 23	Board of Education Vote on CEO's Plan (Second Reader)
March 3	Postal Mail Notification of Approved Changes
August 2017	Implementation of Approved Changes



Recommendations for Grade Organization

After the 2016-2017 school year, sixth grade students from the following elementary schools will be assigned to their neighborhood middle school:

Drew Freeman MS

- Francis S. Key ES
- District Heights ES
- William Beanes ES

Isaac Gourdine MS

- Rose Valley ES

Oxon Hill MS & Thurgood Marshall MS

- Valley View ES

Ernest E. Just MS

- Ardmore ES
- Kingsford ES

Gwynn Park MS & Stephen Decatur MS

- Clinton Grove ES

G James Gholson MS

- Cora L. Rice ES
- Carmody Hills ES

Oxon Hill MS

- Flintstone ES
- Glassmanor ES
- Oxon Hill ES



Specific Study Areas

Accokeek Area

- Accokeek Academy
- Ft. Washington Forest ES
- Potomac Landing ES
- Gwynn Park MS
- Isaac Gourdine MS
- Gwynn Park HS
- Friendly HS

Buck Lodge Area

- Buck Lodge MS
- Calverton ES
- Martin Luther King Jr. MS

Mt. Rainier Area

- Thomas Stone ES
- Mt. Rainier ES

Fairmont Heights Area

- Fairmont Heights HS
- Margaret Brent Regional
- Duval HS

Melwood Area

- Melwood ES
- James Madison MS
- Stephen Decatur MS



Accokeek Area



Accokeek Area

Accokeek Academy:

- School is not a true K-8
- Utilization is 99% (target is 80-95%)
- Preliminary revised capacity is 1,473
- Reconfiguration of interior spaces resulted in additional classrooms
- Residential growth has continued

Ft. Washington Forest Elementary School:

- Utilization is 66% (target is 80-95%)
- Enrollment is 285 (preferred minimum is 411)
- Identified in MPSP as a possible consolidation

Gwynn Park Middle School has 138 open seats

Isaac Gourdine Middle School has 304 open seats

Oxon Hill Middle School has 202 open seats

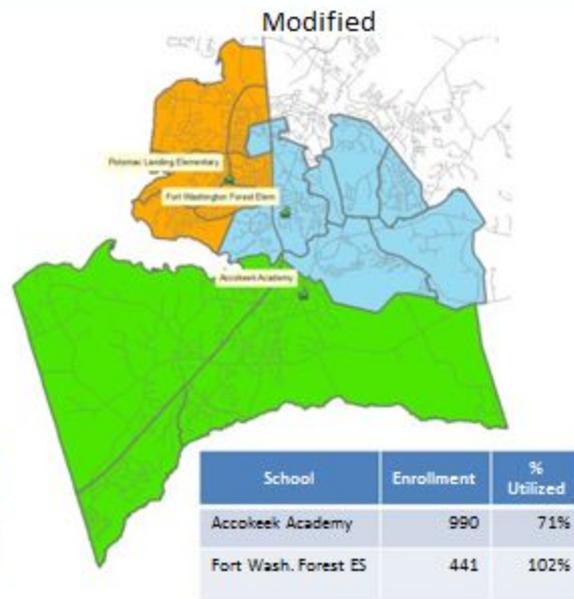
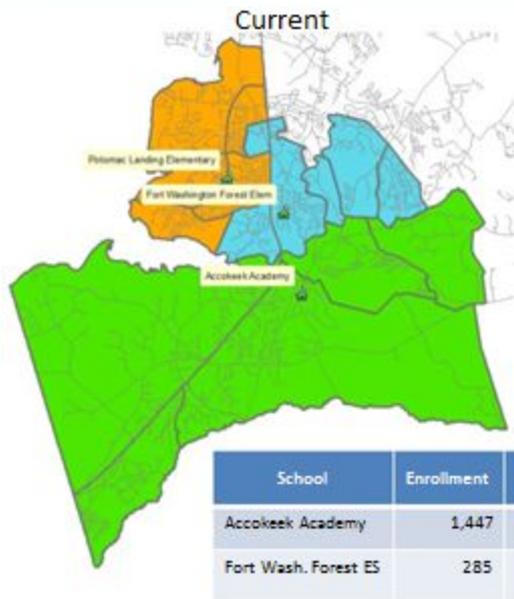


Options for Balancing Enrollment

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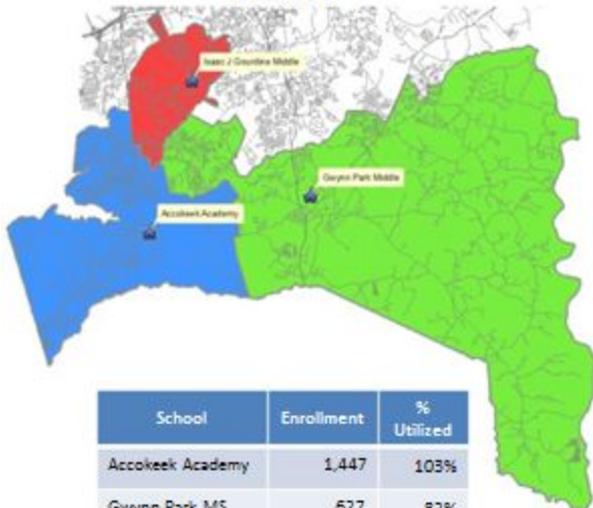
Previous Proposal Elementary School Boundaries



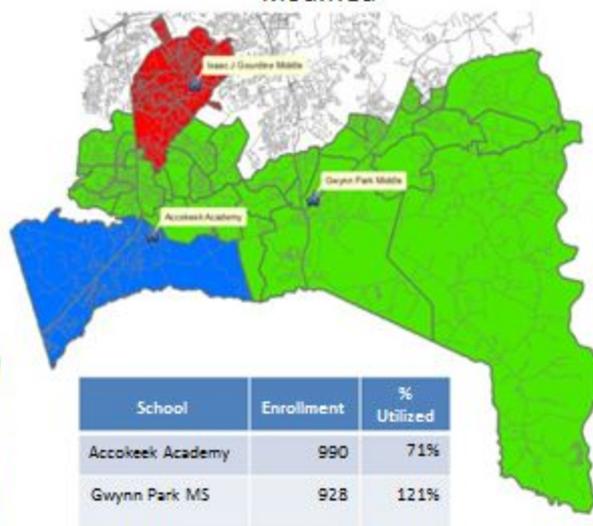
No phasing assumed.

Previous Proposal Middle School Boundaries

Current



Modified

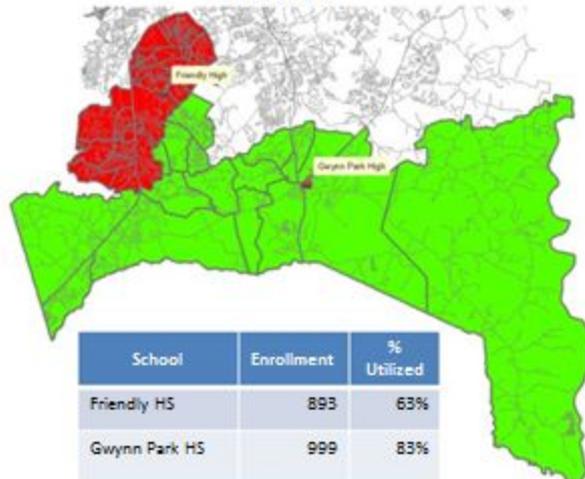


No phasing assumed.

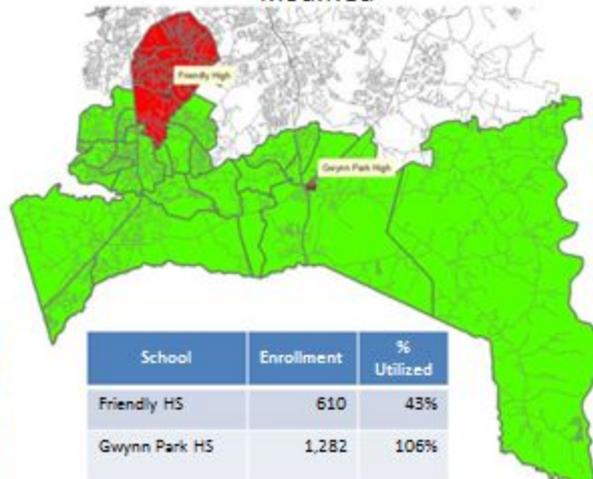


Previous Proposal High School Boundaries

Current



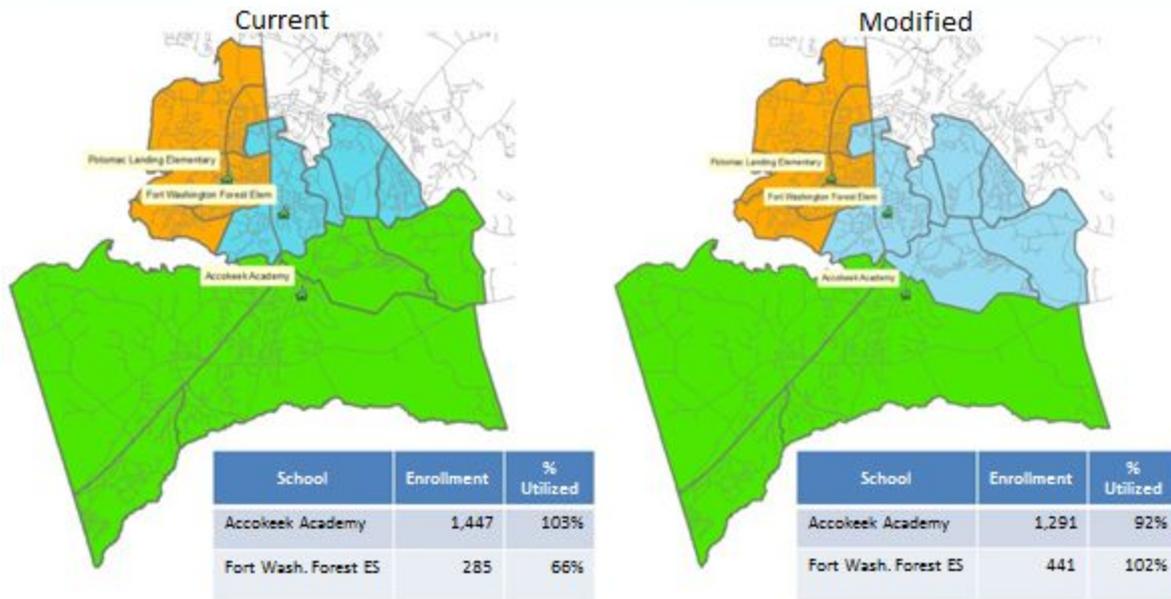
Modified



No phasing assumed.



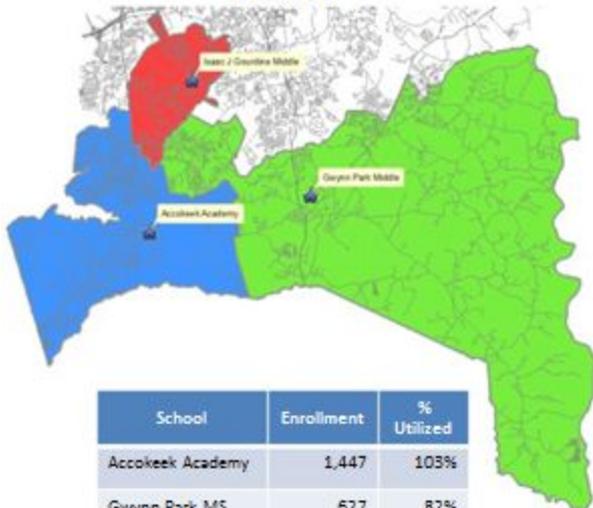
Option A Elementary School Boundaries



No phasing assumed.

Option A Middle School Boundaries

Current

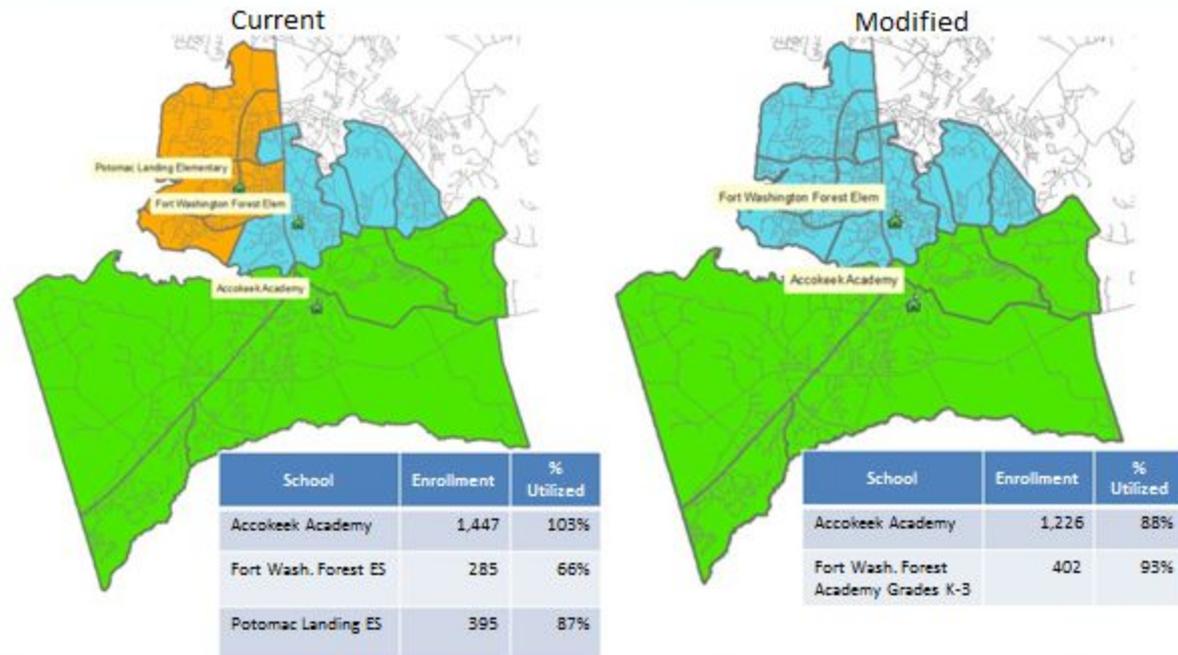


No change in boundaries.

School	Enrollment	% Utilized
Accokeek Academy	1,447	103%
Gwynn Park MS	627	82%
Isaac Gourdine MS	487	62%



Option B Elementary School (K-8) Boundaries

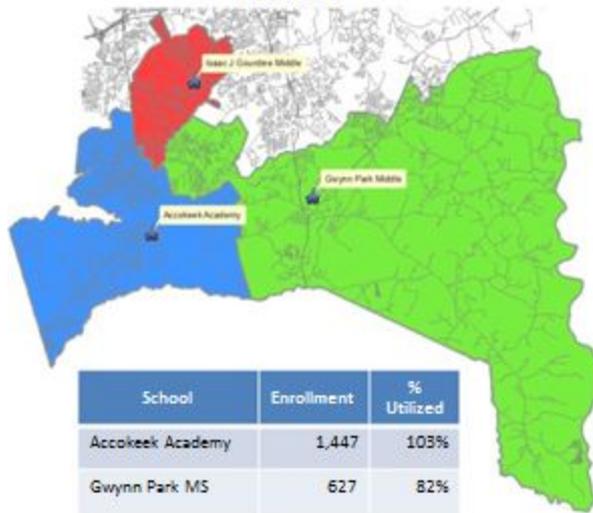


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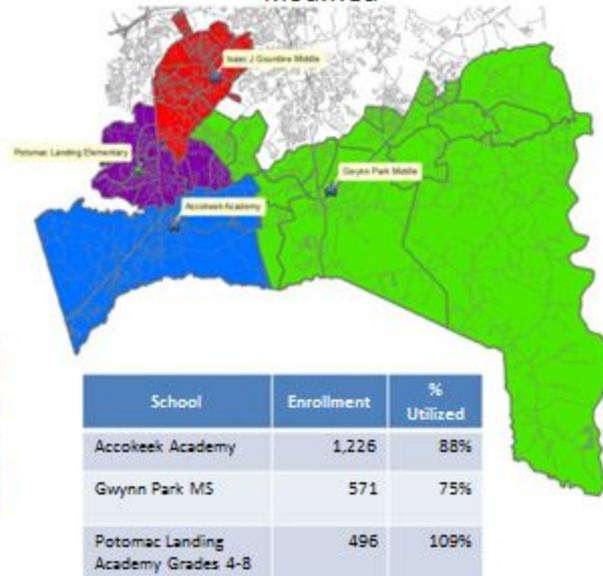


Option B Middle School (K-8) Boundaries

Current

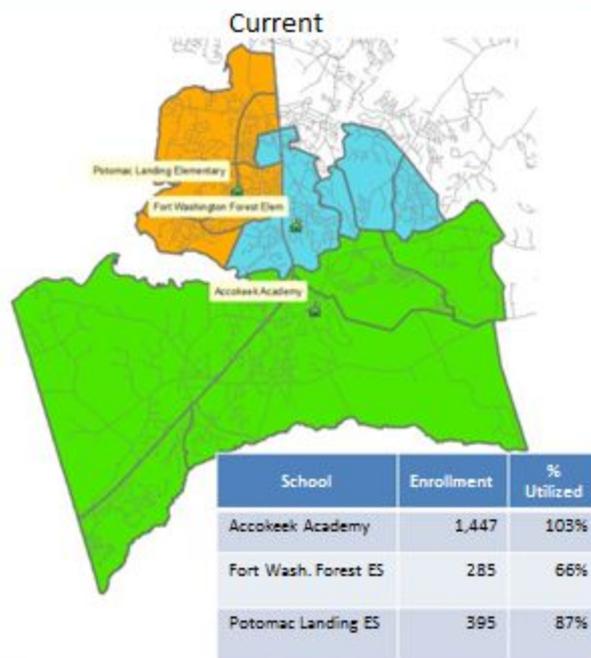


Modified



No phasing assumed.

Option C Elementary School Boundaries



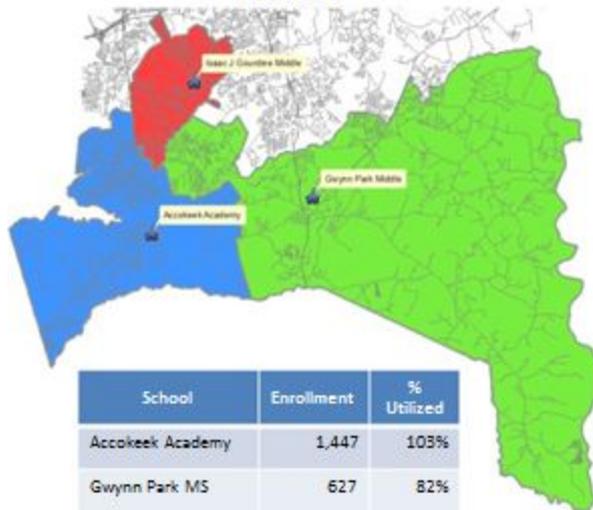
No change in boundaries.

School	Enrollment	% Utilized
Accokeek Academy	1,167	83%
Fort Wash. Forest ES	385	89%
Potomac Landing ES	395	87%

No Change in Boundaries.

Option C Middle School Boundaries

Current



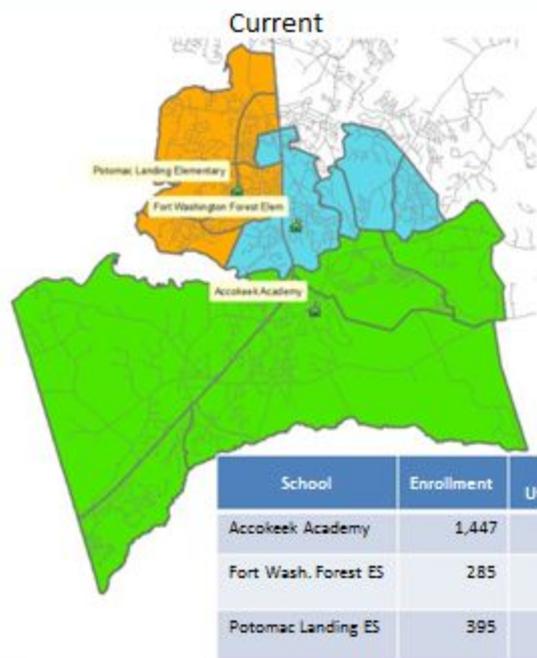
School	Enrollment	% Utilized
Accokeek Academy	1,447	103%
Gwynn Park MS	627	82%
Isaac Gourline MS	487	62%

No change in boundaries.

School	Enrollment	% Utilized
Accokeek Academy	1,167	83%
Gwynn Park MS	852	111%
Isaac Gourline MS	712	90%

No change in boundaries.

Option D Elementary School Boundaries



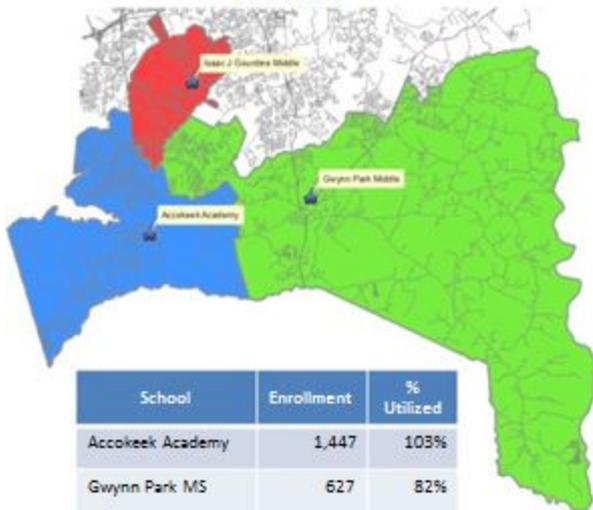
No change in boundaries.

School	Enrollment	% Utilized
Accokeek Academy	1,226	88%
Fort Wash. Forest ES	285	66%
Potomac Landing ES	395	87%

No change in boundaries.

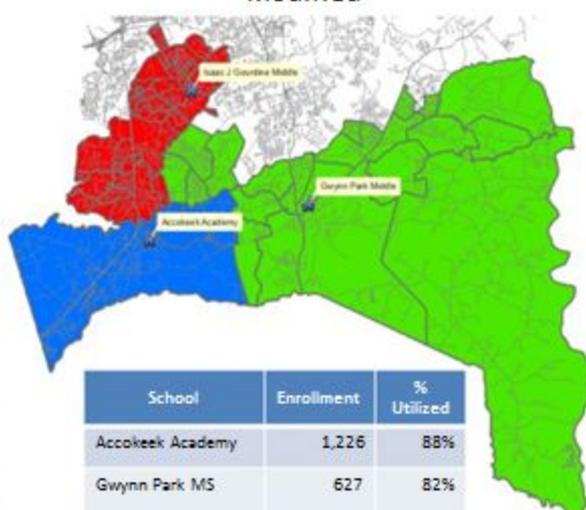
Option D Middle School Boundaries

Current



School	Enrollment	% Utilized
Accokeek Academy	1,447	103%
Gwynn Park MS	627	82%
Isaac Gourdine MS	487	62%

Modified



School	Enrollment	% Utilized
Accokeek Academy	1,226	88%
Gwynn Park MS	627	82%
Isaac Gourdine MS	708	90%

No phasing assumed.



Feedback for Accokeek Area

- **School Specific Comments from the Community:**
 - acknowledged the issue of overcrowding at Accokeek Academy.
 - suggested unifying the boundary of Accokeek Academy to create a true K-8 academy.
 - in favor of maintaining the TAG program.
 - suggested verification of student addresses as a means of reducing overcrowding.
 - suggested the conversion of Potomac Landing ES & Ft. Washington Forest ES to a multi-campus PK-8 Academy.
 - expressed concern regarding how a change in the middle school boundaries from Accokeek Academy to Gwynn Park Middle or Isaac Gourdine Middle would affect students' academic performance.
 - agreed unanimously that the previous recommendation from the CEO was the least favored plan.

- **In general, the community was concerned about:**
 - expanding special programs so that they are available at all schools.
 - unevenness in academic rigor and performance across district schools.
 - a need to improve transparency in district decision making.