



Overview: Ockley Green Middle School and feeder school boundary change draft options

PPS enrollment is steadily increasing, presenting an opportunity to address overcrowding and under-enrollment for strong schools in every neighborhood. Last spring the school district committed to changing from a mixture of K-8, K-5 and middle schools to a mostly K-5 and middle school model over time.

Ockley Green Middle School opened this fall as the first step of the K-8 reconfiguration. Beach, Chief Joseph, Peninsula and Woodlawn Elementary Schools feed into Ockley Green Middle School. However, these same schools that converted to K-5 – Beach, Chief Joseph, Peninsula and Woodlawn – now need to have their student enrollment balanced, so that there is space for 5th graders at Chief Joseph next fall, instead of Ockley Green, where they’re currently attending. Educational program opportunities across these schools also need to be more evenly matched.

A volunteer committee called the District-wide Boundary Review Advisory Committee (DBRAC) held listening sessions last year to better understand local interests and concerns about changing the boundary lines that determine which schools your child attends. DBRAC members also heard about the challenges that exist at Beach school, where a small neighborhood program shares the building with a Spanish Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program, which serves students in this region.

PPS staff have developed three draft options to address the challenges and opportunities prioritized by DBRAC. The draft options are based on the same set of goals and assumptions.

DRAFT OPTION GOALS

Allow Chief Joseph to hold grades K-5, and Ockley Green to hold only grades 6-8, in future years without being overcrowded.*

Maintain enrollment of close to 330 students, and preferably closer to 400 students, at each K-5 school.

Allow students to attend their closest schools, where possible.

**This year, Chief Joseph is a K-4 and 5th graders from this school attend Ockley Green*

DRAFT OPTION ASSUMPTIONS

Make changes within the boundaries of the Ockley Green feeder schools only. Do not add students from other neighborhoods or send students from Ockley Green and feeder schools to other schools.

Assume limited growth across the K-5 schools, based on forecasts prepared by the PSU Population Research Center from 2015-16 PPS enrollment.

Assume the rate of students who transfer in and out of Ockley Green and feeder schools remains the same through the next 5 years.

Achieve goals without planning for future classroom or other facility additions.

Assume current funding levels and program requirements continue in the future.



The draft options use contrasting methods to achieve result:

- **Draft Option A** relies on community suggestions for major roadways for some new boundaries, and keeps the Spanish DLI program at Beach.
- **Draft Option B** moves the Spanish DLI program to Chief Joseph and uses a computer-generated algorithm to redraw boundary lines for Beach, Peninsula and Woodlawn neighborhood schools.
- **Draft Option C*** removes school boundaries and instead relies on a computer-generated algorithm to evenly assign students each year up to a set number of classrooms and seats.

***Note: Draft Option C** was developed in response to a request by the PPS School Board. Because this method is a departure from current PPS policy, the option is modeled for one year of new students only. Additional analysis will be conducted if this method is preferred over the current system of school boundaries.

On November 5th PPS released an overview of each draft option, including the potential changes in enrollment, school utilization and racial, ethnic and socio-economic impact. DBRAC will evaluate and suggest improvements to the draft options based upon community feedback and the guidelines set out in the DBRAC values framework. Feedback opportunities are listed below. The committee is scheduled to submit their advice in a report to Interim Superintendent Bob McKean in December 2016. He will make a recommendation to the School Board in early 2017 that will include details such as potential transportation costs, impact on transfer students and other important matters. The School Board will then decide on school boundary and program changes, which will be implemented beginning the 2017-18 school-year.

At the same time, PPS will be working across other parts of the district to collect feedback on new middle school programs and discuss short-term solutions for schools that will not convert to a K-5/middle school configuration until 2018 or later. The DBRAC committee will resume looking at other areas of the district once the Ockley Green Middle School and feeder school boundary issues have been resolved.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

The following are opportunities for families in the feeder schools of Ockley Green Middle School to share their feedback and suggestions for developing recommendations for DBRAC:

A short survey is available online in Spanish and English: www.pps.net/ockleygreensurvey

Paper copies of the survey will be available at Beach, Chief Joseph, Ockley Green, Peninsula and Woodlawn for families to provide feedback.

Families can also provide suggestions during a series of meetings at feeder schools.

Tuesday, Nov. 15Black Family Information Night at Beach 6-7pm

Wednesday, Nov. 16Peninsula PTA meeting, 6-7:30pm

Wednesday, Nov. 16Chief Joseph PTA Meeting, 6:30-7:30pm

Wednesday, Nov. 16Beach PTA Meeting, 6:30-7:30pm

Friday, Nov. 18Principal’s Coffee at Beach, 9-10am

Friday, Nov. 18Principal’s Coffee at Ockley Green, 9:30-10:30am

There may be additional dates, yet to be determined.