

DC Public Education Boundary and Student Assignment Study Town Hall

September 26 & 27
2023



Agenda

- Welcome
- Reintroduction
- Study updates
- Priority challenges
- Scenarios & scenarios modeling
- Boundary explorer + survey
- Next steps



Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education

Develops and advances the Mayor's vision for educational and workforce excellence in Washington, DC.

Work to create a city where:

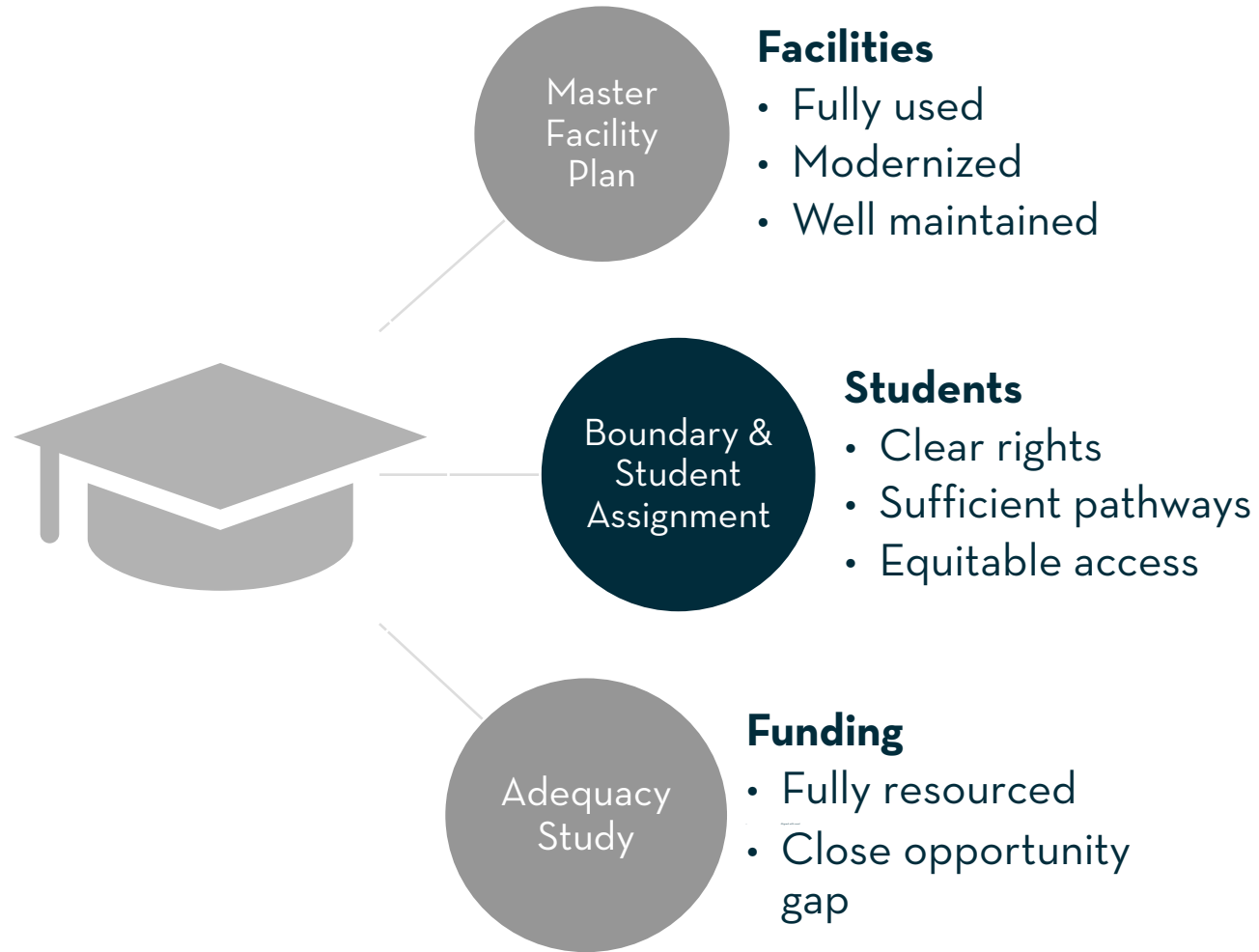
- all children, youth and adults thrive;
- every child knows joy, feels safe, and is ready to learn;
- every student attends a high-quality school; and
- every youth and adult has opportunities for strong continuing education and family-sustaining jobs.

Reintroduction

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Major DME projects for 2023



What is the 2023 Boundary and Student Assignment Study?

A set of recommendations based on analytic findings and community feedback about how families and students can access public schools.

Types of recommendations:

- Updated DCPS school boundaries
- Revised school feeder patterns
- Suggested programmatic opportunities
- Added enrollment lottery preferences



Goals of the study

Clear Rights

Students have clear assignments to schools of right based on DCPS attendance zones and feeder pathways

Adequate Capacity

There is adequate capacity in the geographically zoned DCPS facilities at each grade level (pre-kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high), including feeder pathways, taking current and future population and enrollment trends into account

Equitable Access

There is equitable access among District students to high-quality public schools

Consultant team



Advisory Committee

Members

26 committee members +
chairperson DM Kihn

Ward-designated
members

Citywide members

Agency representatives

Timeline

- Meets monthly
- Final recommendations in
Feb 2024

[Scan to learn more about the
Advisory Committee and members](#)



Meetings are live streamed and recorded - find past recordings [here](#)

Study updates

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Roadmap

2 AC meetings

- Understand objectives
- Formulate preliminary guiding principles and values

4 AC meetings

- Finalize guiding principles and priority challenges
- Understand impacts of policy levers

2 AC meetings & working group meetings

- Develop three scenarios for community feedback
- Engage school communities

3 AC meetings

- Synthesize scenario tool feedback to develop final recommendations



Guiding Principles

- A strong system of by-right neighborhood schools
- Equitable access to high quality schools
- Predictable and continuous access to schools
- Racially and socio-economically diverse schools

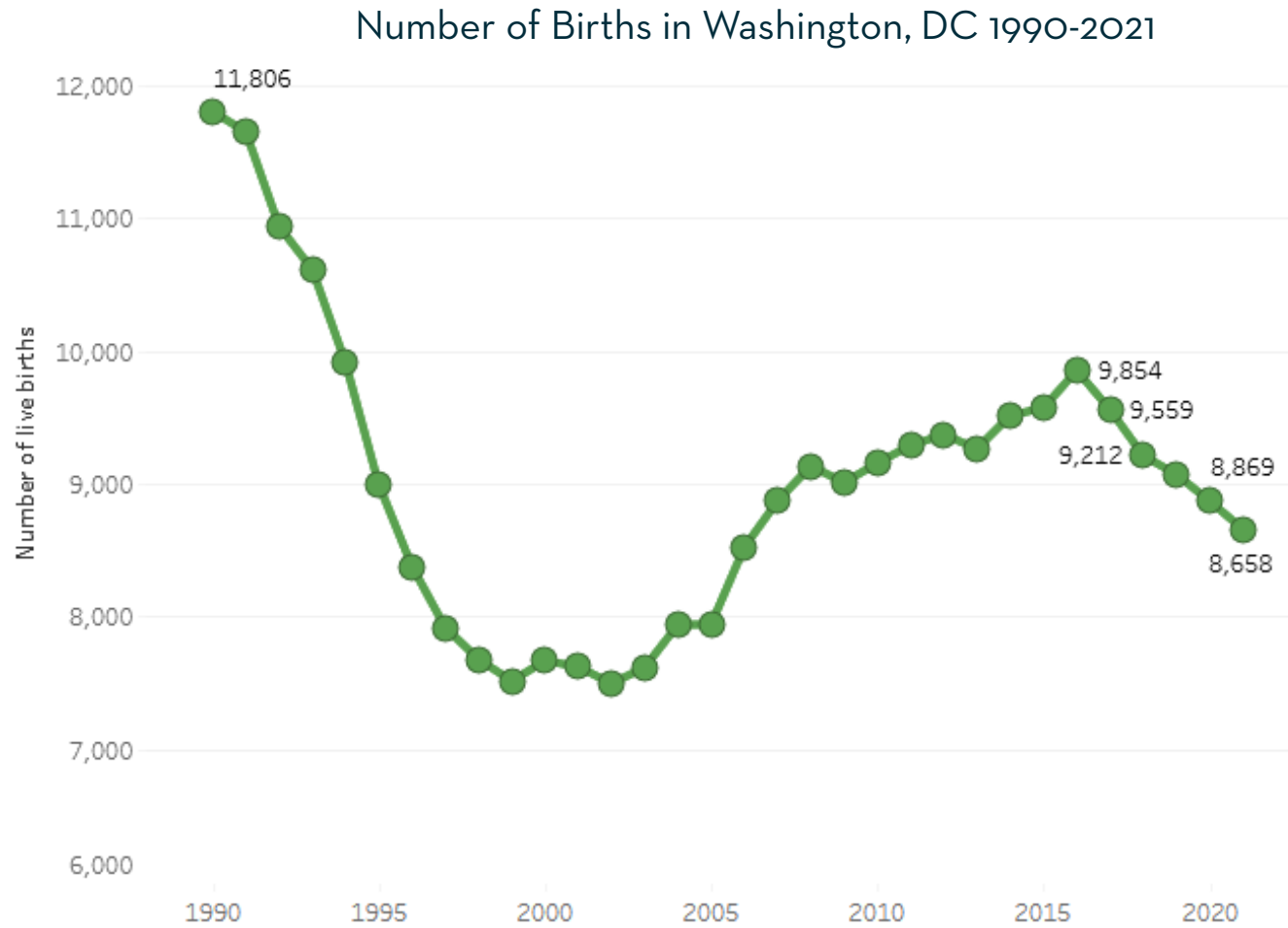
Read more about the guiding principles. [English](#) [Spanish](#)

Priority challenges

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Citywide population growth trends and forecast



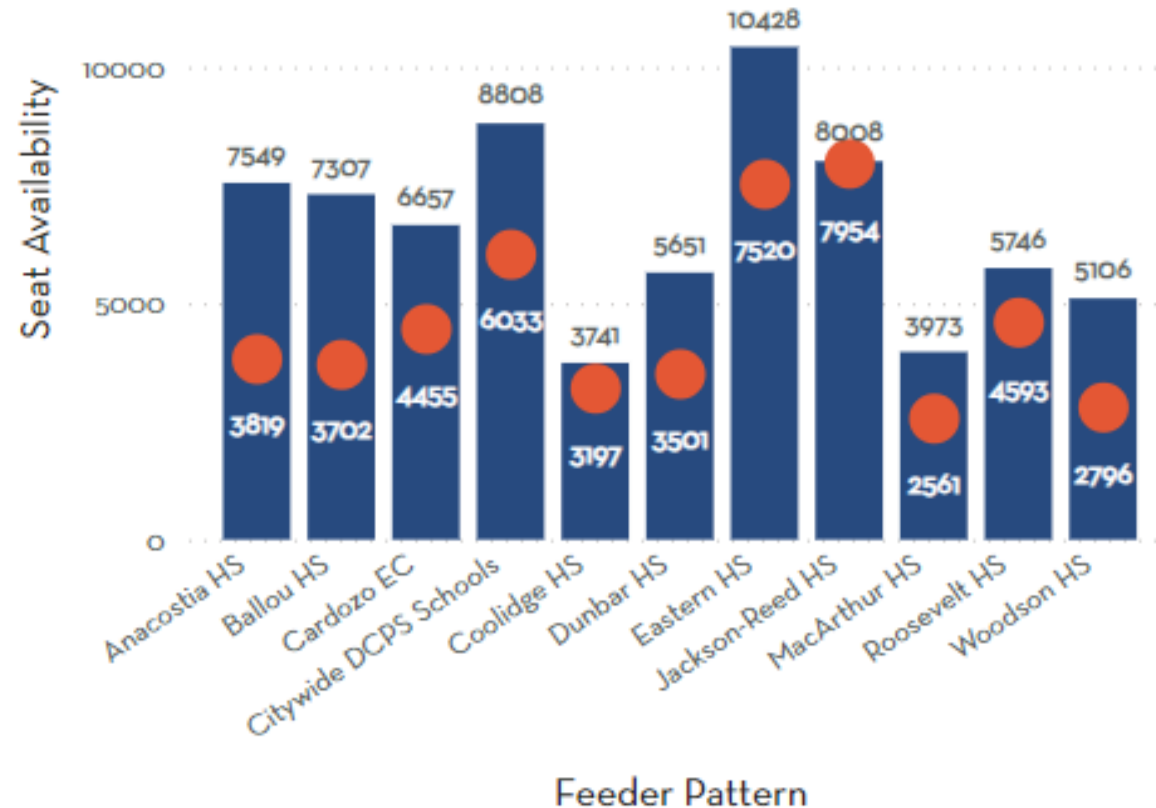
Priority challenge

Unbalanced enrollments among DCPS boundary schools lead to overutilization in some schools and underutilization in other schools

Priority challenge example: DCPS utilization by feeder pattern

Seat Analysis - All Grades

● Capacity ● SY 22-23 Enrollment



69% of all DCPS seats are utilized.*

- ES/K-8 seats 72%
- MS seats 59%
- HS seats 69%

*Utilization data as of 9/19/2023

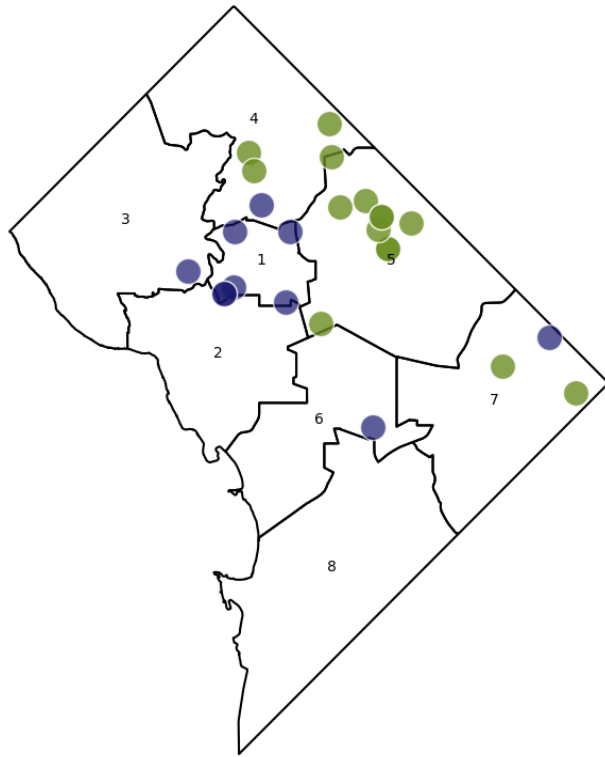
Priority challenge

Inequitable availability of robust programming and rigorous curriculum (e.g., dual language, CTE, STEM, IB, and arts) in all communities across the city

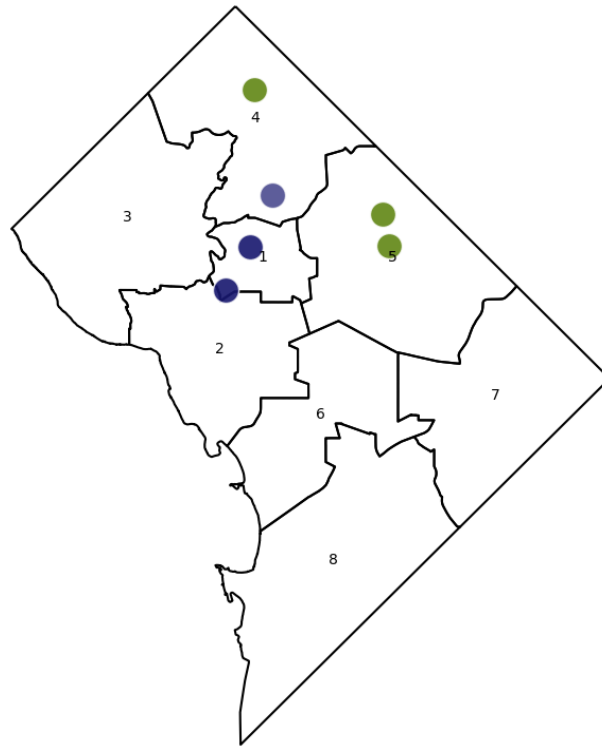
Priority challenge example: Language Programs

Wards 7 and 8 are underserved by Dual Language / Language Immersion programs, especially at the middle and high school level.

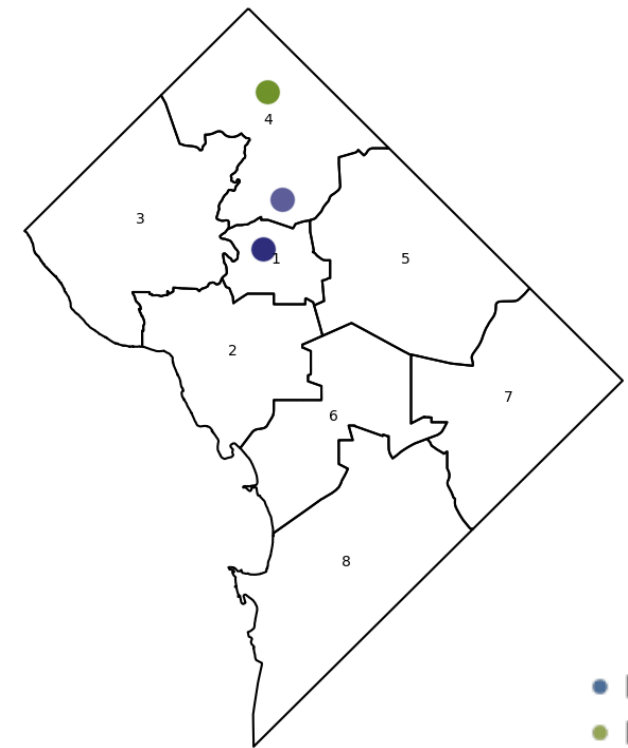
Elementary School: Dual Language/Immersion



Middle School: Dual Language/Immersion



High School: Dual Language/Immersion

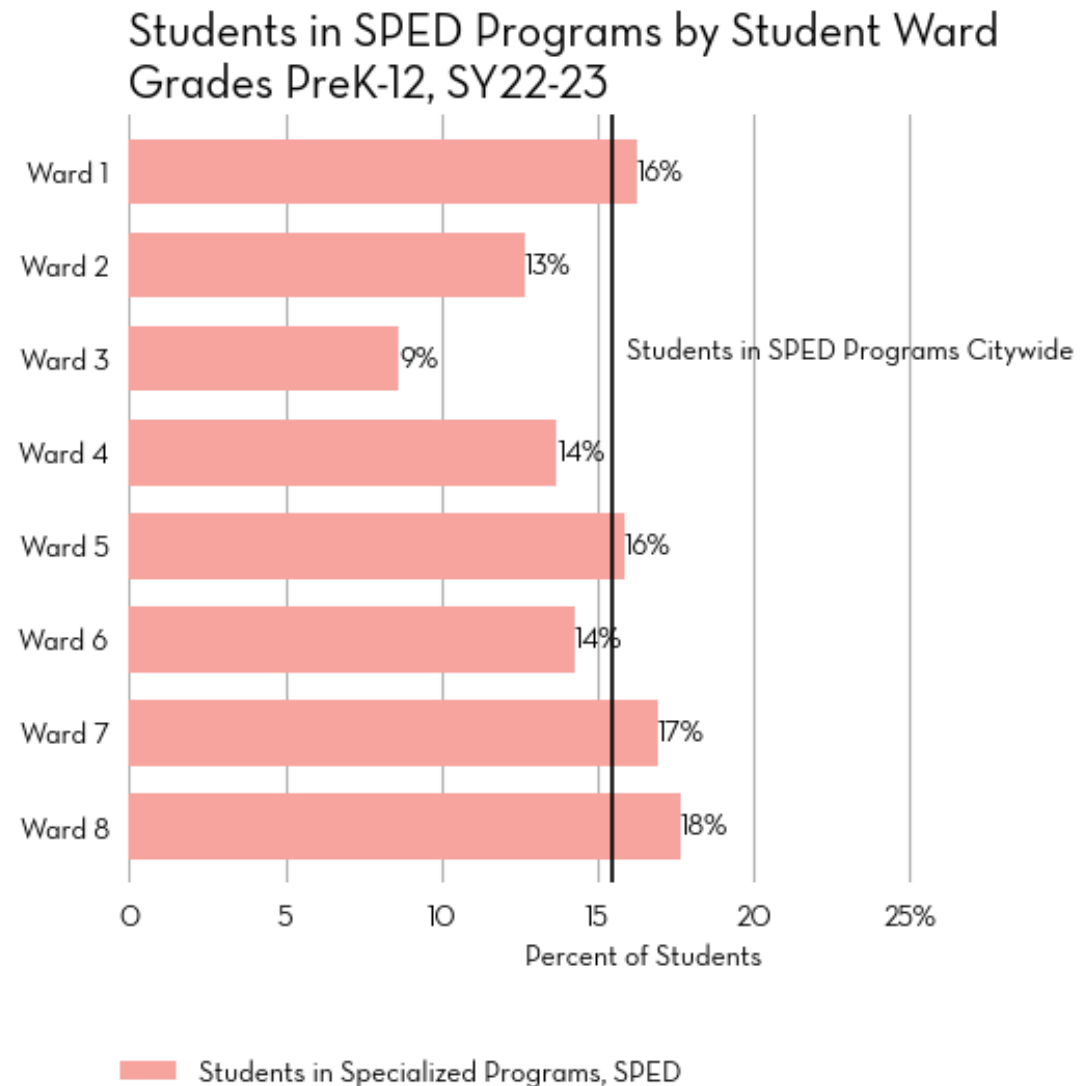


● DCPS
● PCS

Priority challenge

Inequitable availability and access to special education programming near families, especially in Wards 7 and 8

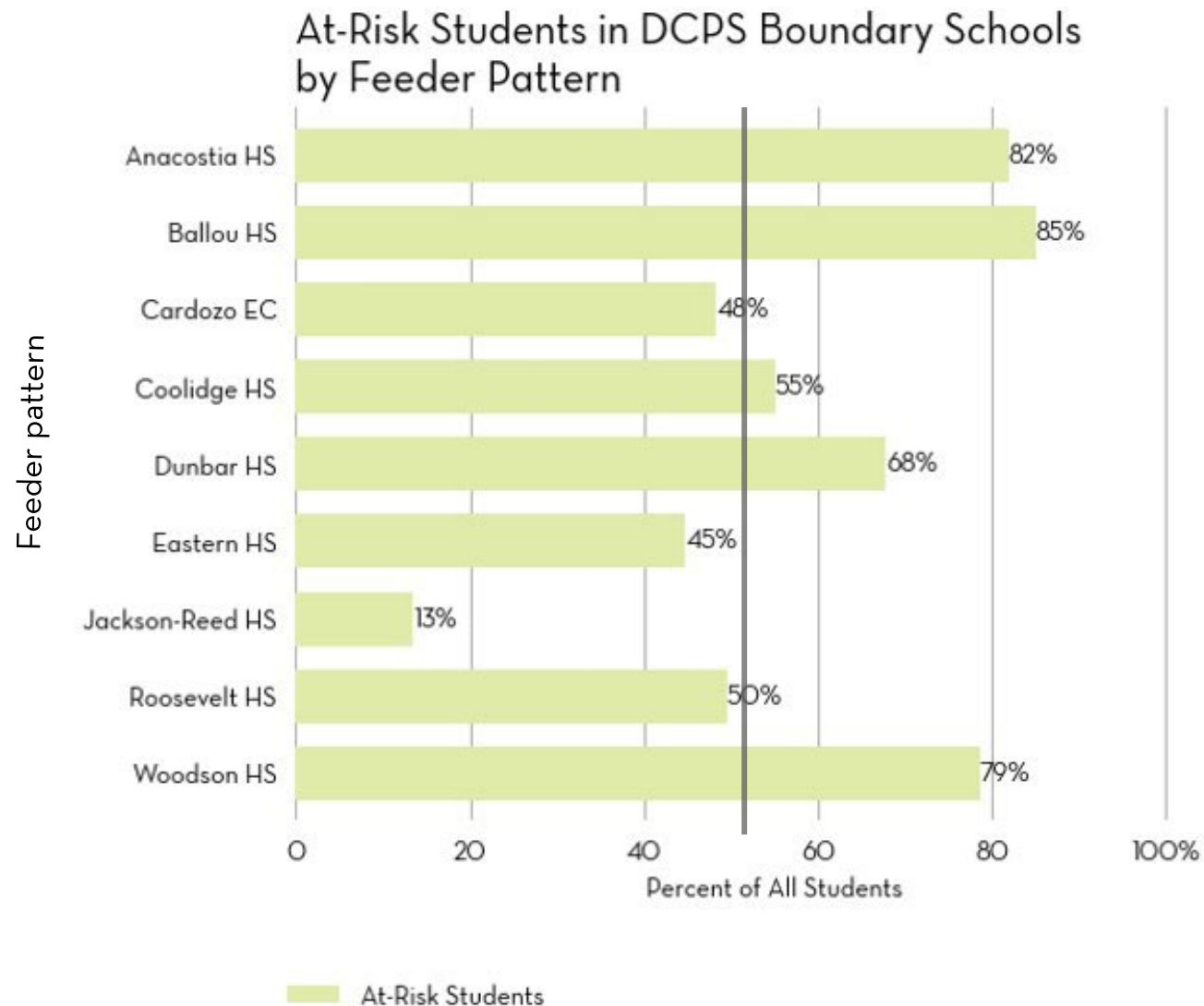
Priority challenge example: Special Education



Priority challenge

Socioeconomically and racially segregated schools

Priority challenge example: Socioeconomic segregation



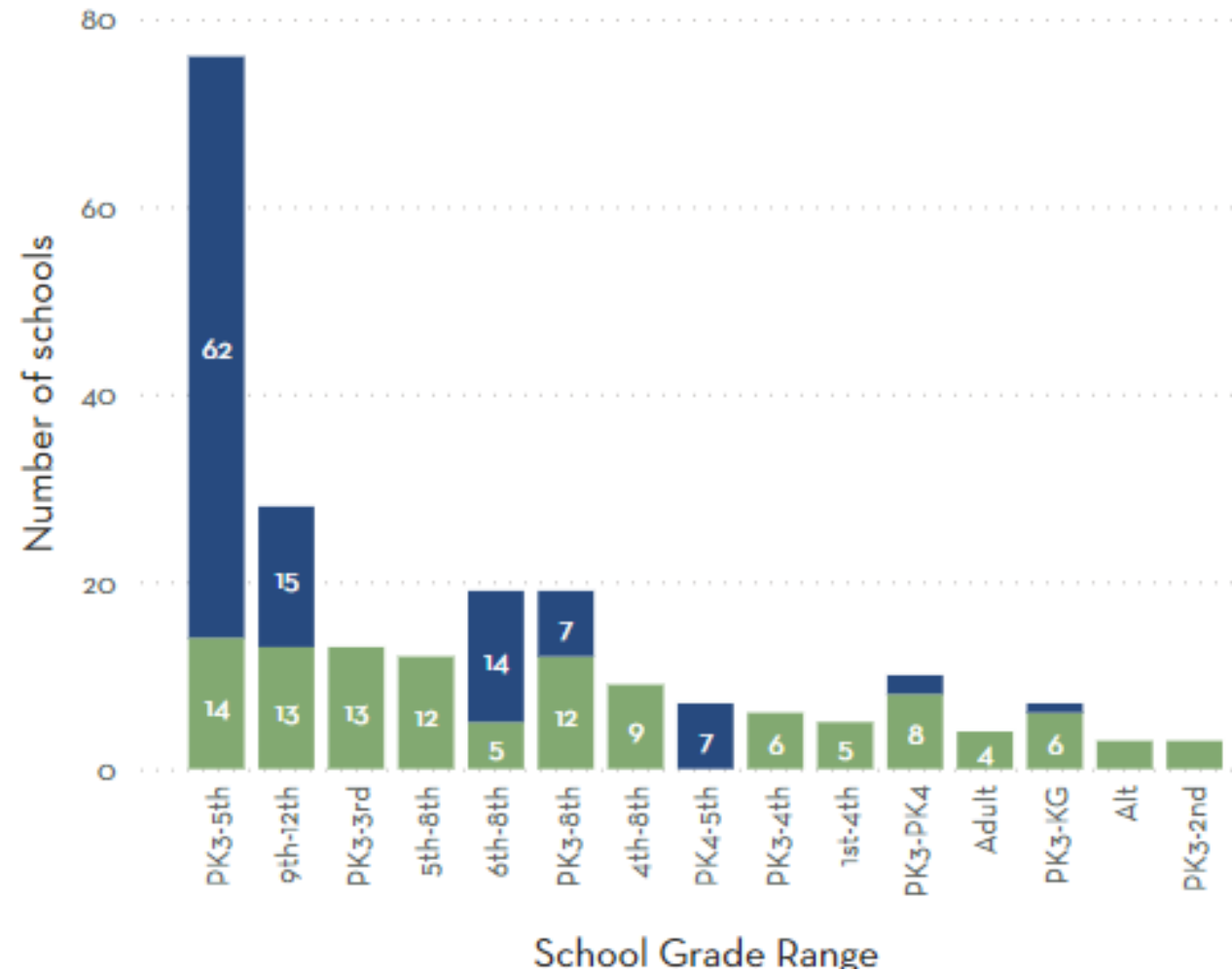
Priority challenge

System-related enrollment instability

Priority challenge example: enrollment instability

Grade configurations of DC Public Schools (top 15)

School Sector ● DCPS ● PCS

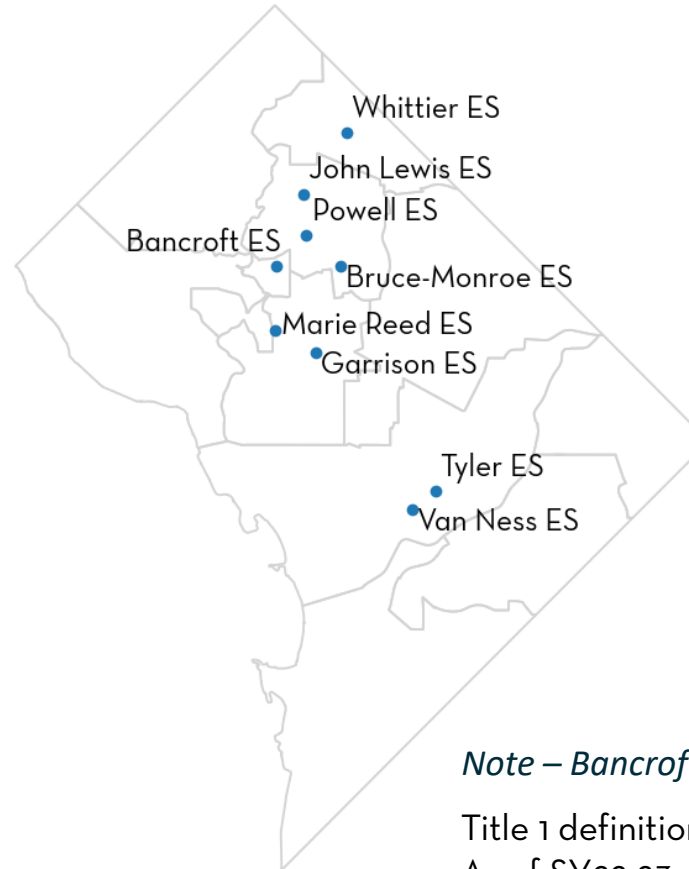


Priority challenge

Mismatched access to early childhood seats in Title 1 schools

Priority challenge example: PK3 and PK4 in-boundary preference waitlists at Title 1 schools

In-Boundary Waitlists of >5PK3 or PK4 Students at Title 1 DCPS Schools (SY22-23)



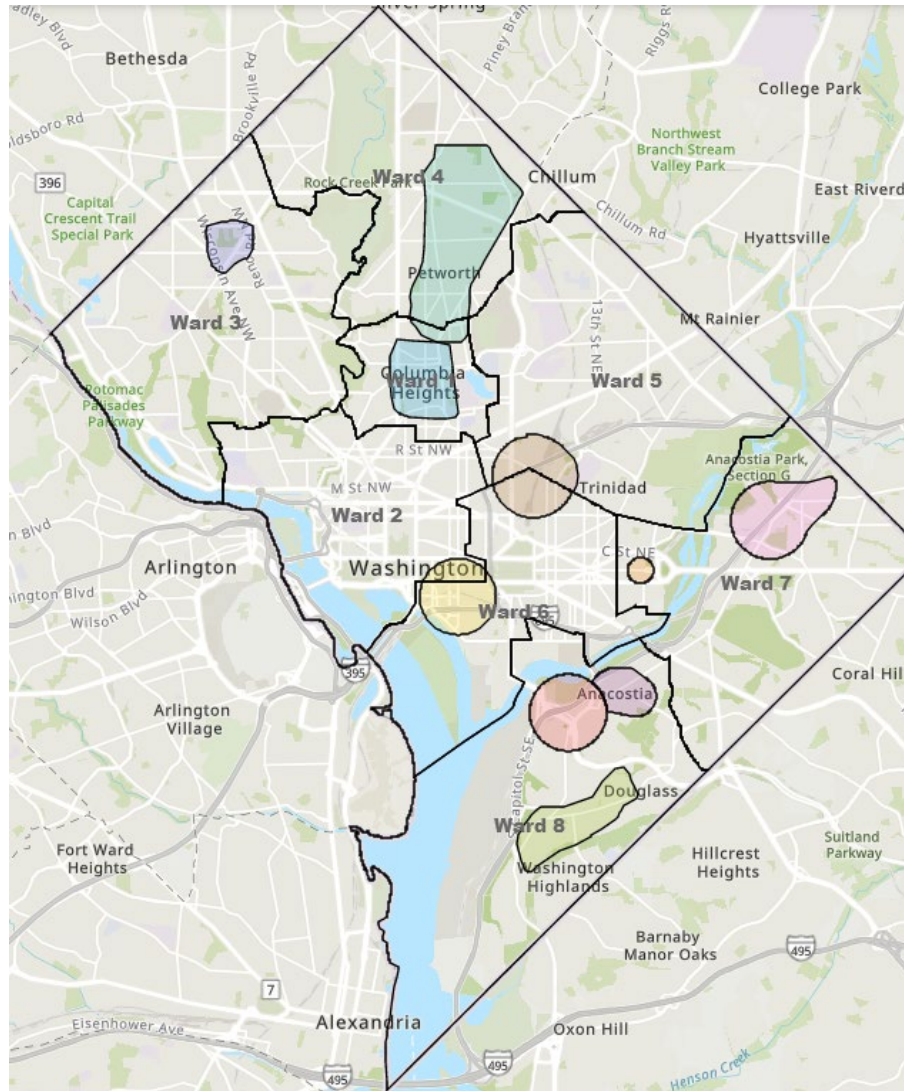
Note – Bancroft ES no longer has Title 1 status as of SY23-24

Title 1 definition = 35% or more students qualify for free or reduced lunch.
As of SY22-23, DCPS has 86 Title 1 and 30 non-Title 1 schools.











Priority challenge

Some students and families feel unsafe traveling to and from school

Priority challenge example: Safe Passage program addressing student safety



SY 23-24 Safe Passage Priority Areas

-  Anacostia Metro Station
-  Columbia Heights
-  Congress Heights
-  Good Hope Road SE
-  Hill East
-  L'Enfant Plaza
-  Minnesota Ave Metro Station
-  NoMa - Gallaudet U Metro Station
-  Petworth - Brightwood
-  Tenleytown

Feedback

- What ward do you reside in?
- What are your school community(ies)?
- How have these priority challenges impacted you and your community? Be specific about which community you're referring to in your response.

Use Mentimeter to provide your response.

Go to www.menti.com and use the code **1402 0549**



Priority challenges

- Unbalanced enrollments among DCPS boundary schools
- Inequitable availability of robust programming and rigorous curriculum
- Inequitable availability and access to special education programming near families, especially in Wards 7 and 8
- Mismatched access to early childhood seats in Title 1 schools
- Unsafe traveling to and from school
- System-related enrollment instability
- Socioeconomically and racially segregated schools

Scenarios & scenario modeling

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What is a scenario?

A scenario is set of potential boundaries, feeders, capital programs, and related policies that can be quantitatively modeled and tested for the approximate impacts as if they had been implemented in SY22-23.

Scenario Goals:

- Identify and test potential solutions to address priority challenges
- Show a set of potential outcomes/impacts in this process
- Help evaluate trade-offs between different priorities
- Provide direction for the final set of boundaries, feeder patterns, and policy recommendations

Draft scenarios

Scenario 1

Strengthen system of by-right neighborhood schools; balance enrollment and utilization among by-right neighborhood schools and feeders.

Scenario 2

Enhance programmatic options; ensure equitable programmatic options and predictable programmatic pathways.

Scenario 3

Expand opportunities to attend quality schools and programs for those historically discriminated against and marginalized.

Final recommendations will come from all 3 scenarios and can include "unmodel-able" policies!

Policy Levers

Policies

- Assignment structures
 - Boundary changes
 - New boundaries
 - Feeder changes
 - Grade configuration changes
 - Choice sets
- Lottery and choice
 - OOB seats offered
 - At-risk set-asides
 - Charter school proximity preference
- Other policies
 - Standardize MS charter grade band configurations

Programs

- Changes to programming within schools
- Expansion of early childhood programs at Title I schools
- Expansion of shared program opportunities for secondary students (CTE, virtual)

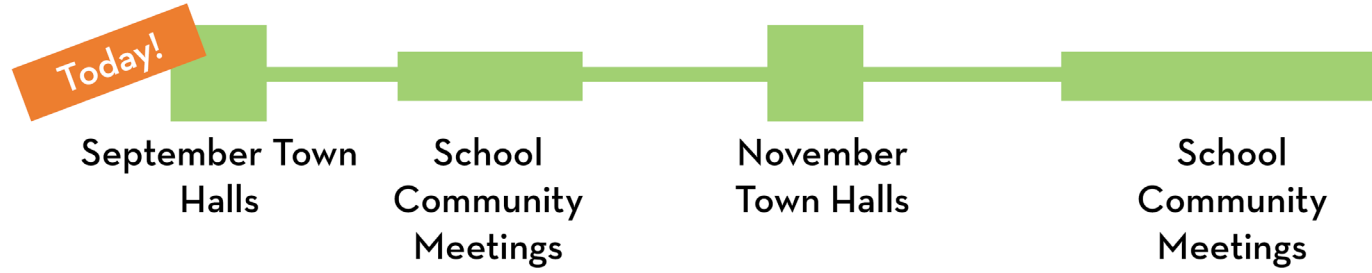
Capital

- Facility modernization
- Reimagine space in underutilized facilities
- Additional capacity

Not all levers can be modeled (non-modeled levers are shown in **grey**), but all may be considered for potential recommendations.

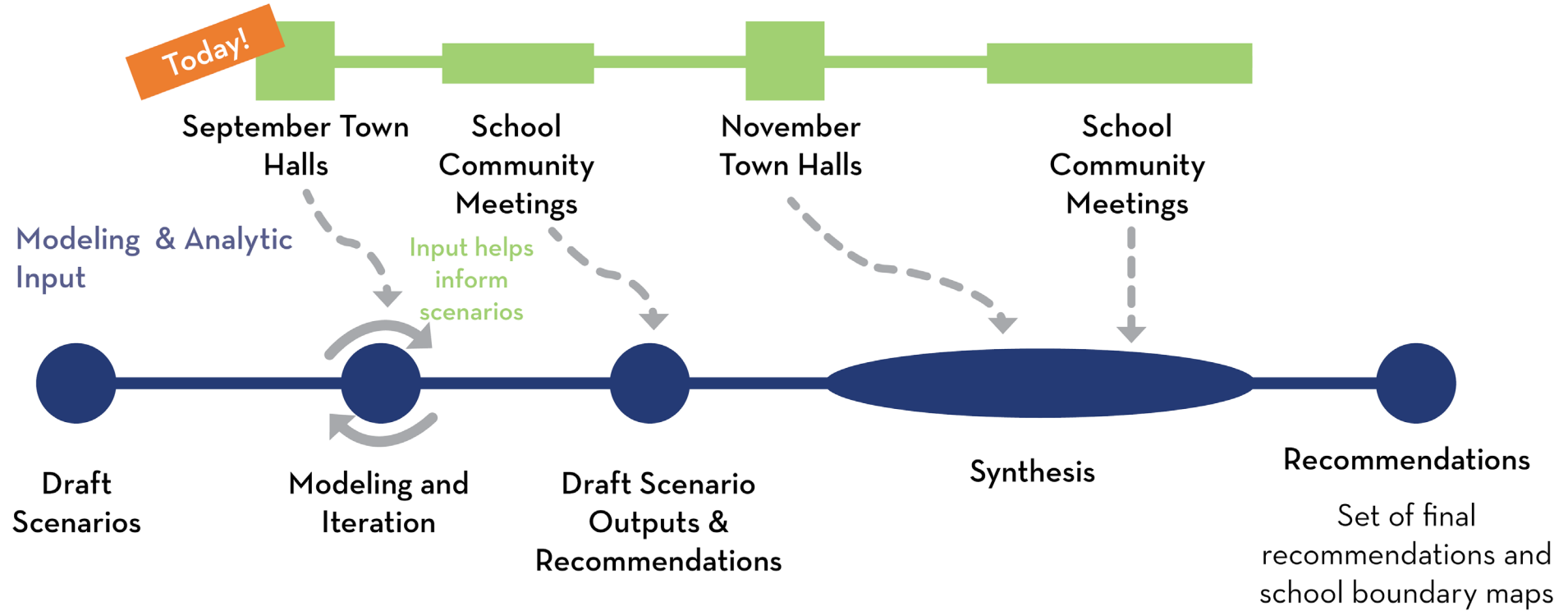
Scenario modeling process

Public Input

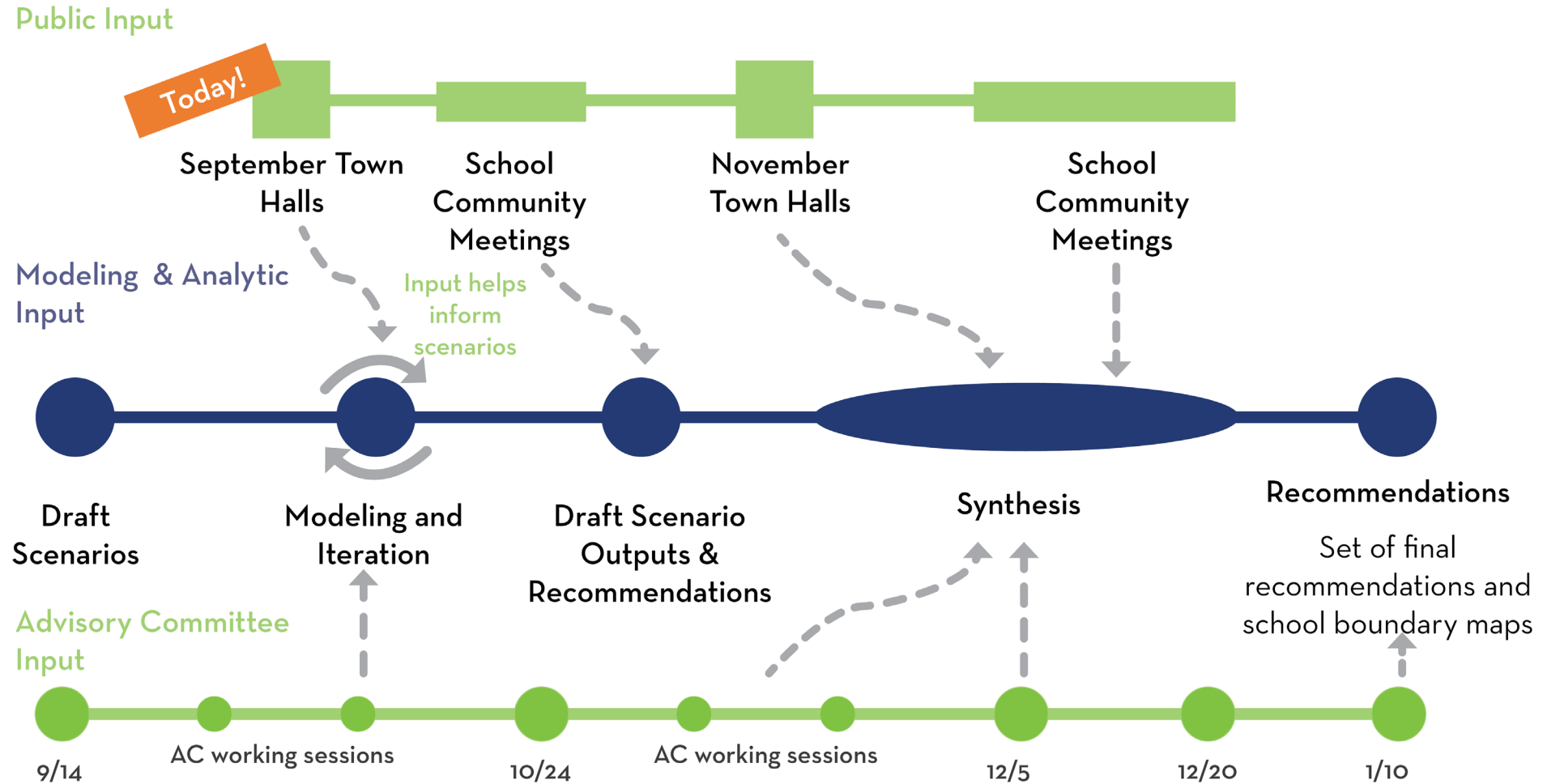


Scenario modeling process

Public Input



Scenario modeling process



Feedback

- Which solutions or policy levers should we consider when trying to solve specific challenges?
- What is the specific challenge and what is your proposed solution?

Use Mentimeter to provide your response.

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 1402 0549



Boundary explorer + survey

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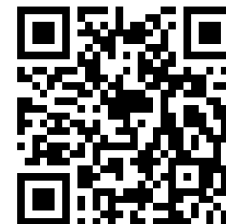
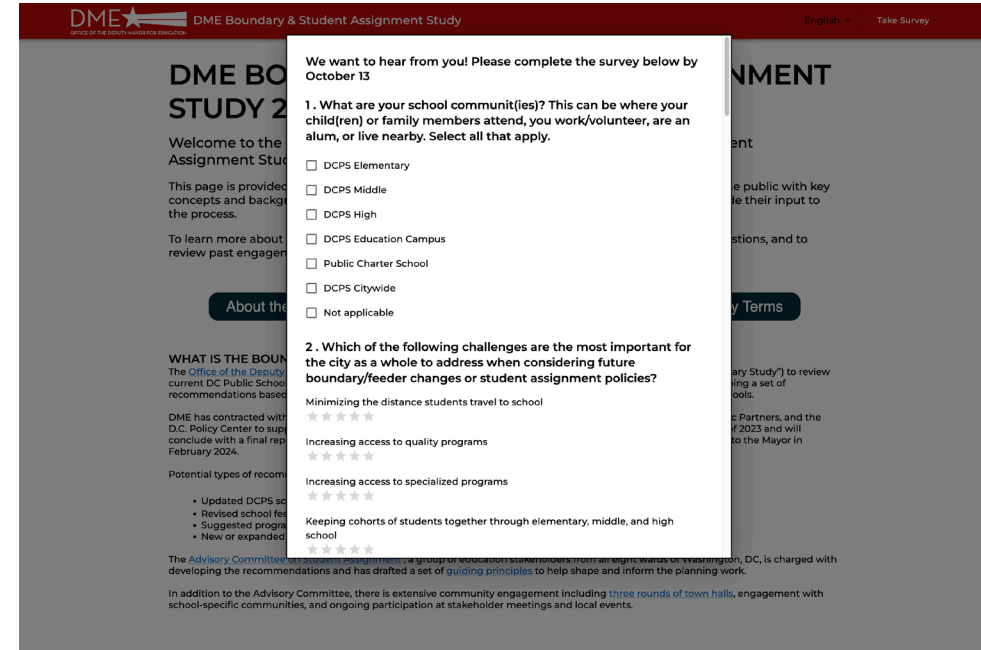
Interactive website and survey

- What you will find on the interactive website:
 - Information and context about the Boundary study
 - A map tool that allows users to explore current DCPS boundaries and find their assigned schools
 - A survey to share your input
- Website is available in Spanish and Amharic.

The screenshot shows the 'DME Attendance Boundary Analysis' website. At the top, there is a red header with the title 'DME Attendance Boundary Analysis', a language dropdown set to 'English', and a 'Take Survey' button. Below the header is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search your address'. To the left of the map, there is a sidebar with a 'Clear Results' button and a 'School Level' dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is open, showing options: ES, MS, HS, K-8, and 6-12. Below the dropdown, the selected school is 'Amidon-Bowen Elementary School' at '401 I Street SW', which 'Serves ES grades'. There are expandable sections for 'Utilization', 'Distance', 'Capture Rates', and 'Program'. The 'Distance' section is expanded, showing: 'Avg. In-Boundary distance: 0.4 miles', 'Avg. Out of Boundary distance: 3.7 miles', 'Median In Boundary distance: 0.4 miles', and 'Median Out of Boundary distance: 3.7 miles'. The 'Program' section is also expanded, showing 'STEM' with a red 'X' icon, 'Arts' with a red 'X' icon, and 'Dual Enrollment' with a red 'X' icon. The main area is a map of Washington, DC, with various school boundaries color-coded. A legend in the bottom-left corner of the map identifies symbols for 'DCPS by-right', 'DCPS Citywide', and 'Public Charter School'. The map shows the city's layout with labels for various neighborhoods like Bethesda, Silver Spring, Arlington, and Alexandria.

Interactive website and survey

- Your feedback will help:
 - Deepen the understanding of existing challenges and opportunities families experience in accessing DC public schools
 - Identify school-specific opportunities and challenges related to boundaries or assignment policies
 - Begin to evaluate the trade-offs between three scenarios the Advisory Committee is exploring
- **Please complete the survey by October 13.**



Go to
www.dcschoolboundaryexplorer.com
and click "Take Survey."

10/11/2023: Note that QR code has been updated since this slide deck was presented.

Q&A

- Please use the Q&A function on Zoom

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Next steps

- Advisory Committee Meetings
 - October 24
 - December 5
 - December 20
 - January 10
- School Community Engagements - October & November
- Boundary Town Hall 3 - November



Visit the Boundary Explorer:
www.dcschoolboundaryexplorer.com

Click "Take Survey."

10/11/2023: Note that QR code has been updated since this slide deck was presented.

Boundary study resources: <https://dme.dc.gov/boundaries2023>

Appendix

Appendix: Priority challenges

- Unbalanced enrollments among DCPS boundary schools
- Inequitable availability of robust programming and rigorous curriculum in all communities across the city
- Inequitable availability and access to special education programming near families, especially in Wards 7 and 8
- Mismatched access to early childhood seats in Title 1 schools
- Some students and families feel unsafe traveling to and from school
- System-related enrollment instability
- Socioeconomically and racially segregated schools