

SY15-16 Boundary and Feeder Pattern Changes **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. When will the new boundaries and feeder patterns go into effect?

In August 2014, the Mayor and Chancellor approved and adopted updated school boundaries and feeder patterns for DC Public Schools (DCPS). Information on the changes was sent home with DCPS students and mailed to affected or reassigned addresses. The new boundaries will go into effect for the 2015-2016 school year with extensive phase-in policies that are meant to help ease the transition for many families. For more information on phase-in policies, please see question #2.

To identify your child's in-boundary and feeder-pattern schools, visit the [Enrollment Boundary Information System](#).

2. How will the boundary changes affect my children?

For students currently attending their in-boundary DCPS school:

- If your address was reassigned into a different school's boundary, your child has the right to continue at their current in-boundary school AND, starting in the 2015-2016 school year (SY15-16), will also have the right to attend the new school to which your address has been reassigned. If you decide to enroll in your newly assigned school, then you give up your right to attend your former in-boundary school and would need to apply through the out-of-boundary process if you want to re-enroll in the future.

EXAMPLE: If your address was reassigned from the Stanton ES boundary to the boundary of Garfield ES, your child has the right to stay at Stanton ES through 5th grade OR, starting in SY15-16, enroll in Garfield ES and give up the right to attend Stanton ES.

For SY2015-16¹

- If your address was reassigned into a different school's boundary and one of your children is attending the former in-boundary school, then the non-attending sibling may EITHER attend the former in-boundary school as long as their sibling is enrolled in the school the year before the non-attending sibling enters OR attend the newly assigned school.

EXAMPLE: The Williams family lives in boundary for Oyster Adams EC, and they have two children – Shayne and Amy. Their address was reassigned from Deal MS to Oyster Adams EC. Shayne is an 8th grader at Deal MS and Amy a 5th grader at Oyster Adams EC in SY14-15. For SY2015-16 ONLY, Amy (the rising 6th grader) will have the right to attend Deal MS because Shayne was an 8th grader at Deal in SY14-15.

For SY2016-17 and onward

- If your address was reassigned into a different school's boundary and one of your children is attending the currently in-boundary school, then the non-attending sibling may EITHER attend the former in-boundary school as long as their sibling is enrolled in the school at the time of their entry OR attend the newly assigned school.

¹ The phase-in policies for siblings are different for SY2015-16 and for SY2016-17 and onward due to implementation challenges for SY15-16. Starting in SY2016-17 and onward, The MySchoolDC lottery application will be updated to reflect the original intent of the phase-in document released on October 2014 (i.e., non-attending siblings have a right to the previous in boundary school only if their sibling is enrolled at the time of the younger sibling's entry).

EXAMPLE: The Williams family lives in boundary for Oyster Adams EC, and they have two children – Shayne and Amy. Their address was reassigned from Deal MS to Oyster Adams EC. Shayne is an 8th grader at Deal MS and Amy a 5th grader at Oyster Adams EC in SY15-16. Starting in SY16-17 and onward, Amy (the rising 6th grader) does NOT have the right to attend Deal MS because Shayne will no longer be attending Deal MS when Amy will enter into the school.

EXAMPLE: The Smith family lives in boundary for Stanton ES, and they have two children – Claudia and Jennifer. Their address was reassigned from Stanton ES to Garfield ES. In SY15-16, Claudia attends 2nd grade at Stanton ES and Jennifer is 2 years old and has not started public school yet. Jennifer (the 2 year old) will have the right to attend kindergarten at Stanton ES in SY18-19, as long as Claudia is still enrolled at Stanton ES in 5th grade in SY18-19. Both Claudia and Jennifer also have the right to attend Garfield ES. (Jennifer would receive a sibling preference to Stanton for PK3 and PK4, as opposed to a right, because PK3 and PK4 are not compulsory grades.)

For students currently attending a DCPS school that is NOT their in-boundary school:

- Your child has the right to continue attending his/her current out-of-boundary DCPS school through the final grade level offered by the school AND, starting in SY15-16, will also have the right to attend the newly assigned DCPS school.

For students NOT currently attending a DCPS school and who DO NOT have a sibling in a DCPS school:

- Starting in SY15-16, your child will have the right to attend only the newly assigned DCPS school.

EXAMPLE: The Jones family lives in the Tubman ES boundary, and their only child, Cecilia, currently attends a public charter elementary school. Their address was reassigned from the Tubman ES boundary to the H.D. Cooke ES boundary. Starting in SY15-16, Cecilia's school of right will be H.D. Cooke ES; she no longer has a right to attend Tubman ES.

To identify your child's in-boundary and feeder-pattern schools, visit the [Enrollment Boundary Information System](#).

3. How will changes to the feeder patterns to middle and high school affect my children?

If your in-boundary school is being reassigned to a new middle or high school feeder school, starting in the 2015-2016 school year (SY15-16):

- All students transitioning to 6th or 9th grade in SY15-16, SY16-17, SY17-18 will have the right to attend their current (SY14-15) feeder pattern as long as they are enrolled in 5th or 8th grade, respectively, by **March 31** prior to the transition year OR the newly designated next-level school in the geographic feeder pattern.
- All students transitioning to 6th or 9th grade in SY18-19 and beyond or who enroll **after March 31** prior to the transition year will only have the right to attend their newly designated next-level school in the feeder pattern, unless they have a sibling enrolled in their next-level school in their current (SY14-15) feeder pathway at the time of their entry.

EXAMPLE: In SY15-16, Johnnie is a 4th grader at Eaton ES, which has been reassigned to feed only to Hardy MS rather than both Deal and Hardy MS. Johnnie's sister, Jane, is in 2nd grade in SY15-16. If Jonnie continues to attend Eaton ES in SY16-17, he will have the right to attend either Deal or Hardy in SY17-18. Jane is expected to enroll in 6th grade in SY19-20. If Johnnie is still enrolled at Deal in SY19-20, then Jane will also have the right to attend either Deal or Hardy when she is a 6th grader.

- If your newly designated DCPS in-boundary school is a school that is not yet open, your child will retain his/her current in-boundary and feeder-pattern rights through SY22-23.

EXAMPLE: Families reassigned to the new MacFarland MS will continue to retain their current rights to the middle school or PK-8 school assigned to their address through SY22-23. Once MacFarland MS opens, families will have the option to attend MacFarland MS or their current middle school or PK-8 school through SY22-23. Starting in SY23-24, these families will only have a geographic right to attend MacFarland MS.

To identify your child's in-boundary and feeder-pattern schools, visit the [Enrollment Boundary Information System](#).

4. What is the difference between feeder pattern changes and boundary changes?

A student's feeder pattern is based on the school the child currently attends and designates a middle and/or high school into which that school feeds. This means that 5th grade students at elementary schools are given the right to attend the designated middle school. Similarly, 8th grade students at middle schools and PK-8 education campuses are given the right to attend the designated high school.

A child's in-boundary school is solely based on the child's home address. Every home address has an assigned elementary, middle and high school. Based on the current (SY14-15) boundaries and feeder patterns, some families have a right to multiple schools at the same grade level, and there is no alignment between the rights a family has based on their home address and designated feeder pattern. For example, a family could live in boundary for an elementary and middle school that is not part of the same feeder pattern. The new boundaries and geographic feeder patterns are now aligned – which means that a family's in-boundary elementary, middle, and high school are also linked as a geographic feeder pattern.

EXAMPLE: The Greenberg family currently lives in boundary for Oyster-Adams EC, Deal MS and Wilson HS. Oyster-Adams serves grades PK4 – 8 and feeds into Wilson HS. Their home was rezoned for Oyster-Adams EC and Wilson HS. They no longer have multiple rights to Deal and Oyster-Adams for middle school. Judi is currently a 5th grader at Oyster-Adams EC and has no older siblings. Next year (SY15-16), Judi will only have a right to attend Oyster-Adams EC for 6th grade.

EXAMPLE: The Smith family currently lives in boundary for Eaton ES, Deal MS, and Wilson HS. Their only child, Aaron, is an out-of-boundary 4th grade student at Stoddert ES. Their home address has been rezoned for Eaton ES, Hardy MS and Wilson HS. Eaton currently feeds Deal, but, since the feeder pattern has changed, Eaton will now feed into Hardy. Eaton students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade in SY14-15 will maintain their right to attend Deal since they will be transitioning to 6th grade in either SY15-16, SY16-17 or SY18-19. Since Aaron doesn't attend Eaton, he is not covered by the phase-in policies. When Aaron is ready to transition to middle school, he will have a right to attend Hardy.

To identify your child's in-boundary and feeder-pattern schools, visit the [Enrollment Boundary Information System](#).

5. How will the new boundaries impact the My School DC common lottery?

The 2015-2016 My School DC lottery application will be available starting December 15, 2014. Any family who wishes to enter PK3 or PK4, an out-of-boundary DCPS school (K-12), a selective DCPS high school, or a public charter school (PK3-12) must submit an application through the My School DC lottery. The lottery system will reflect the rights families have to DCPS in-boundary and feeder schools, based on the updated boundaries and feeder patterns. The lottery application will also reflect the extensive phase-in (grandfathering) policies that allow many families to maintain their current rights to schools.

High school application deadline: February 2, 2015

PK3-8 application deadline: March 2, 2015

To submit a My School DC lottery application, visit MySchoolDC.org.

6. In addition to new boundaries and feeder patterns, there are other student assignment policies that were adopted by the Mayor. When will those policies go into effect?

Not all of the recommended policies will go into effect for the 2015-2016 school year (SY15-16). To see the summary of changes for SY15-16 as well as the proposed timeline for other changes, please visit dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/boundaries.

7. If I have questions about the changes and how this impacts my family, who can I contact?

There are multiple resources available to help you understand the impact of the boundary and feeder pattern changes. They include:

- Visiting the [Enrollment Boundary Information System](#)
- Emailing Enroll@dc.gov
- Calling a DCPS enrollment specialist at 202-478-5738