

DC Public Education Boundary and Student Assignment Study

Sousa MS and Elementary School Feeders Meeting

December 2023



Purpose of the meeting

- We are here to talk about ideas to **re-energize** and **invest** in Sousa MS
- This is **not** about closing Sousa MS
- These are **ideas** at this point – we want to hear from you about others!
- In a high choice system, we want to hear from you about **what you need** to continue to enroll or start enrolling in your **neighborhood school**

Agenda

Overview of the Boundary Study

Review challenges of the Sousa MS feeder pattern

Share potential ideas

Discussion and feedback

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.

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

Legislated per the [Attendance Zone Boundaries Amendment Act of 2022](#)



Read more about the four guiding principles of the Boundary Study: [English](#) [Spanish](#)

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

Advisory Committee

Members

26 committee members +
chairperson DM Kihn

Ward-designated
members

Citywide members

Agency representatives

Timeline

- Meets monthly
- Final recommendations in
March 2024

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



Meetings are live streamed and recorded [here](#)

Guiding principles

The following guiding principles were drafted by the Advisory Committee with significant community input.

- 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



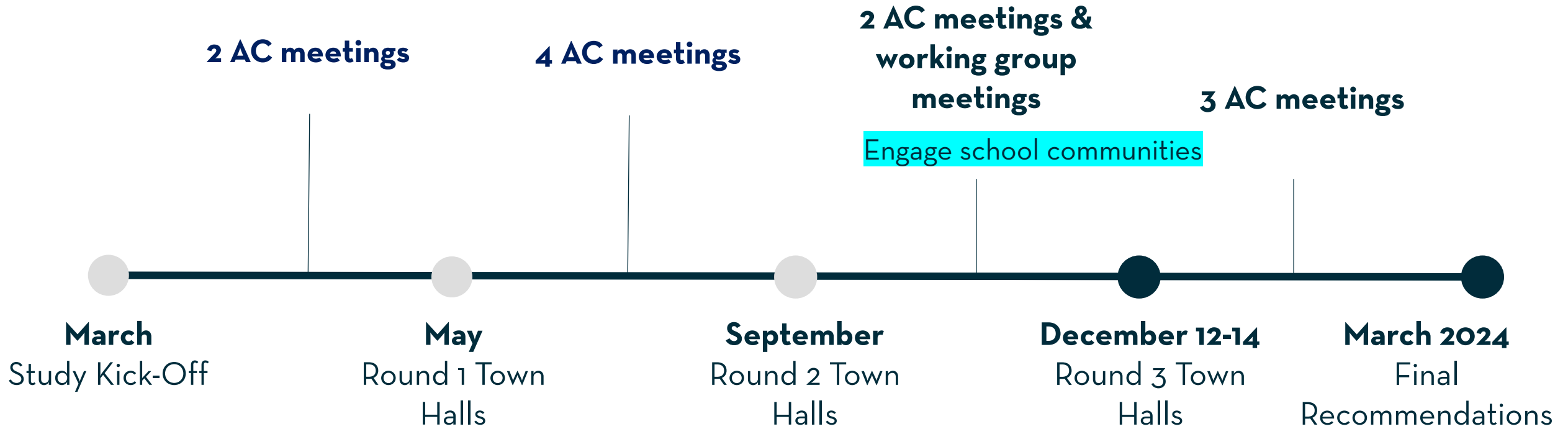
Focused on addressing
7 priority challenges

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

Advisory Committee 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

Roadmap



Where we are in the process

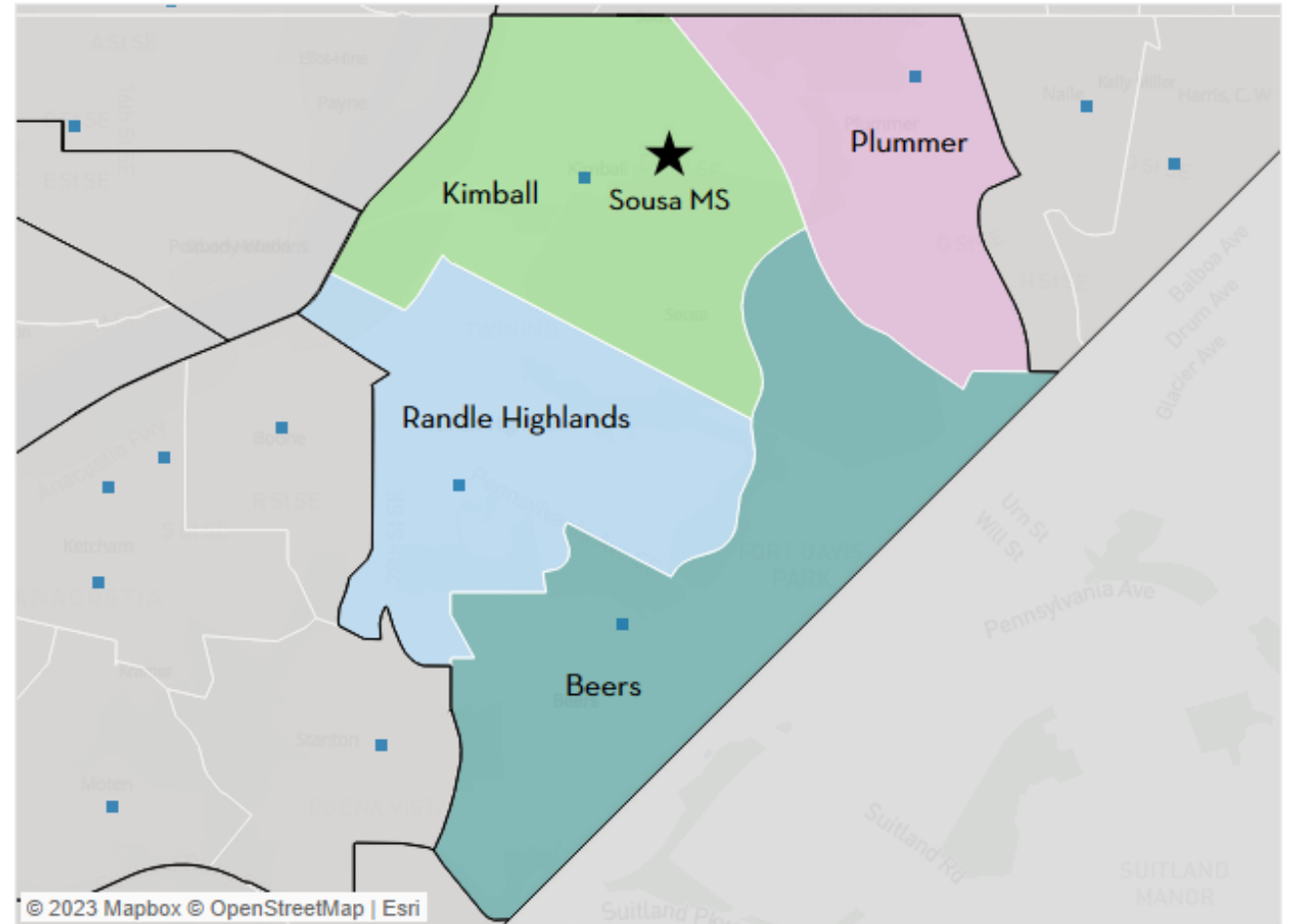
Generating and testing ideas

Hearing from you about those ideas





Continuing to develop ideas and then presenting at the December town hall meetings for further feedback

Sousa MS Feeder Pattern Challenges

- Low engagement from some surrounding elementary feeder schools
- Low enrollment at Sousa MS



Sousa MS Feeder Elementary School Enrollments

	Enrollment	Enrollment trend, SY13-14 to SY22-23	In boundary enrollment %	5th grade enrollment
Beers Elementary School	372		37% (138)	46
Kimball Elementary School	395		70% (276)	51
Plummer Elementary School	203		51% (103)	15
Randle Highlands Elementary School	269		38% (102)	41

Data as of SY22-23

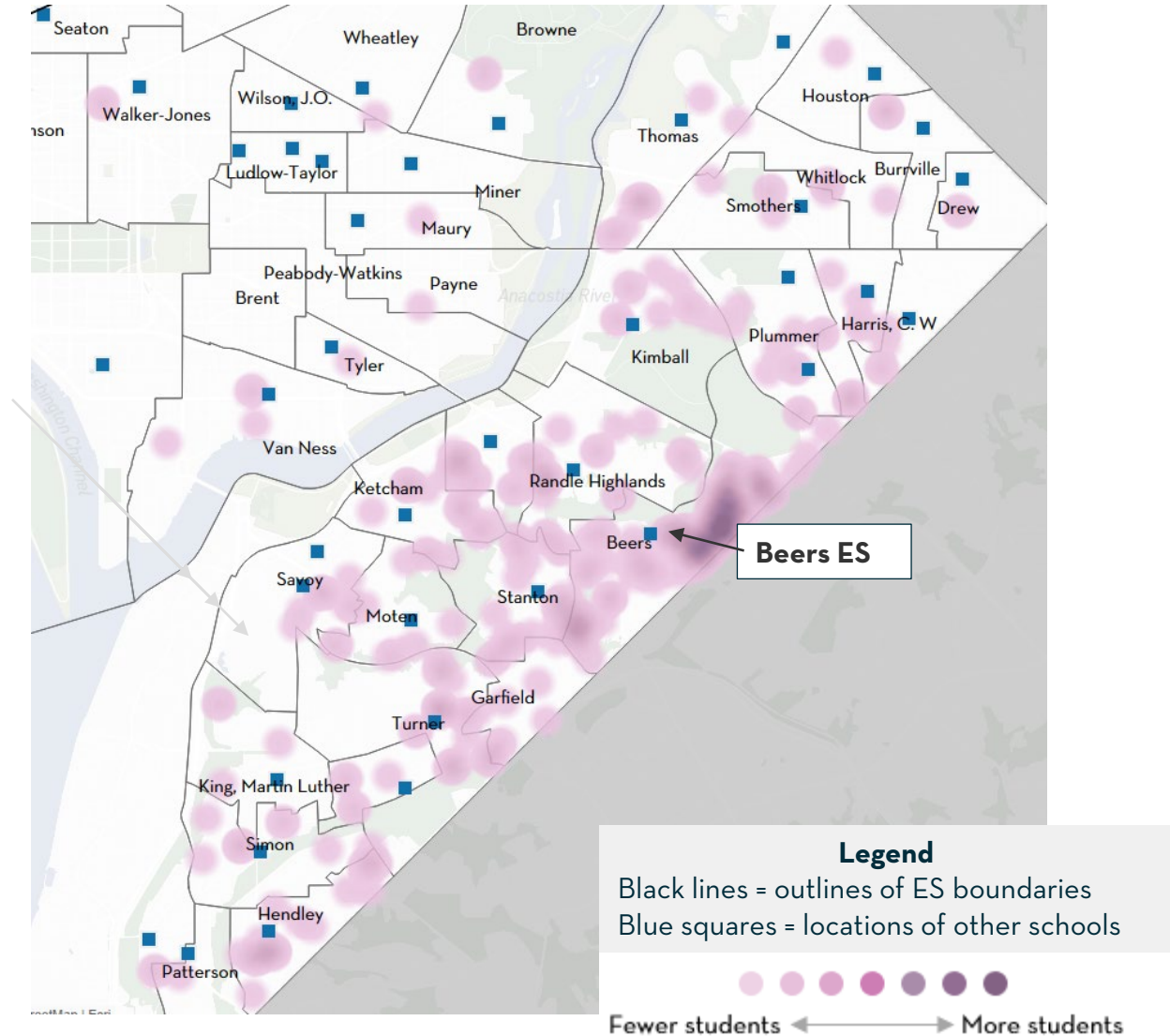
Sousa MS Feeder Elementary School Choices

	# of PK-5 graders living in the boundary	Boundary Participation Rate	# other schools attended	Top 5 other schools attended	Median distance traveled for OOB students (miles)
Beers Elementary School	706	20%	122	Rocketship PCS - Legacy Prep Tyler ES KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS E.W. Stokes PCS - East End Lee Montessori PCS - East End	2.9
Kimball Elementary School	976	28%	127	Rocketship PCS - Legacy Prep DC Prep PCS - Benning ES Plummer ES KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS DC Scholars PCS	2.5
Plummer Elementary School	703	15%	121	KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS Rocketship PCS - Legacy Prep DC Prep PCS - Benning ES DC Scholars PCS KIPP DC - LEAP Academy PCS	2
Randle Highlands Elementary School	540	19%	116	Lawrence E. Boone ES Beers ES Friendship PCS - Chamberlain Elementary Lee Montessori PCS - East End Cedar Tree Academy PCS	2.5
					Citywide median OOB PK-5 distance = 1.8 miles

Beers ES Students

The following maps shows the densities of where Beers ES students live as of SY22-23 by DCPS elementary school boundary.

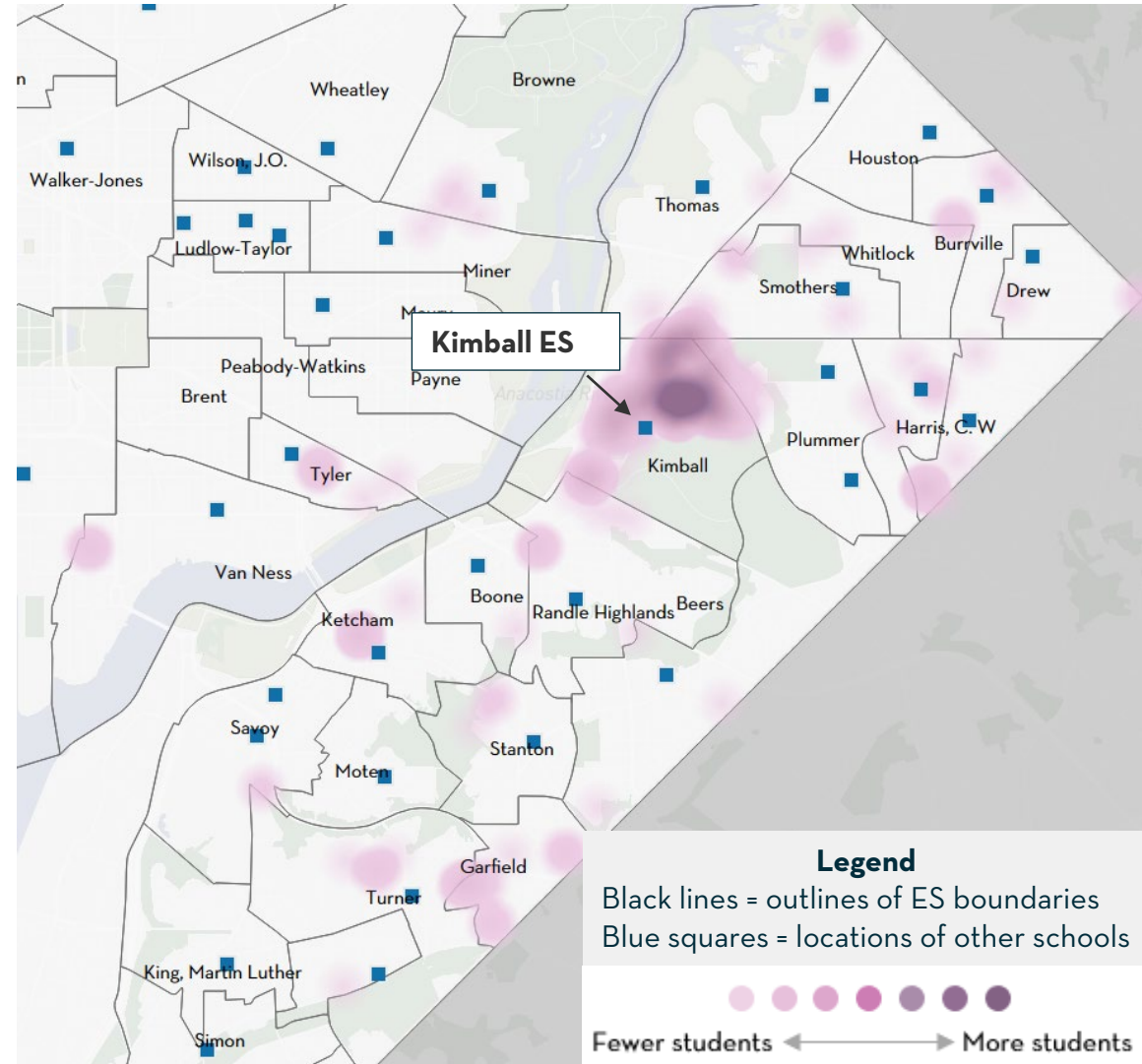
Where Beers ES Students Live by DCPS Elementary School Boundaries, SY22-23



Kimball ES Students

The following maps shows the densities of where Kimball ES students live as of SY22-23 by DCPS elementary school boundary.

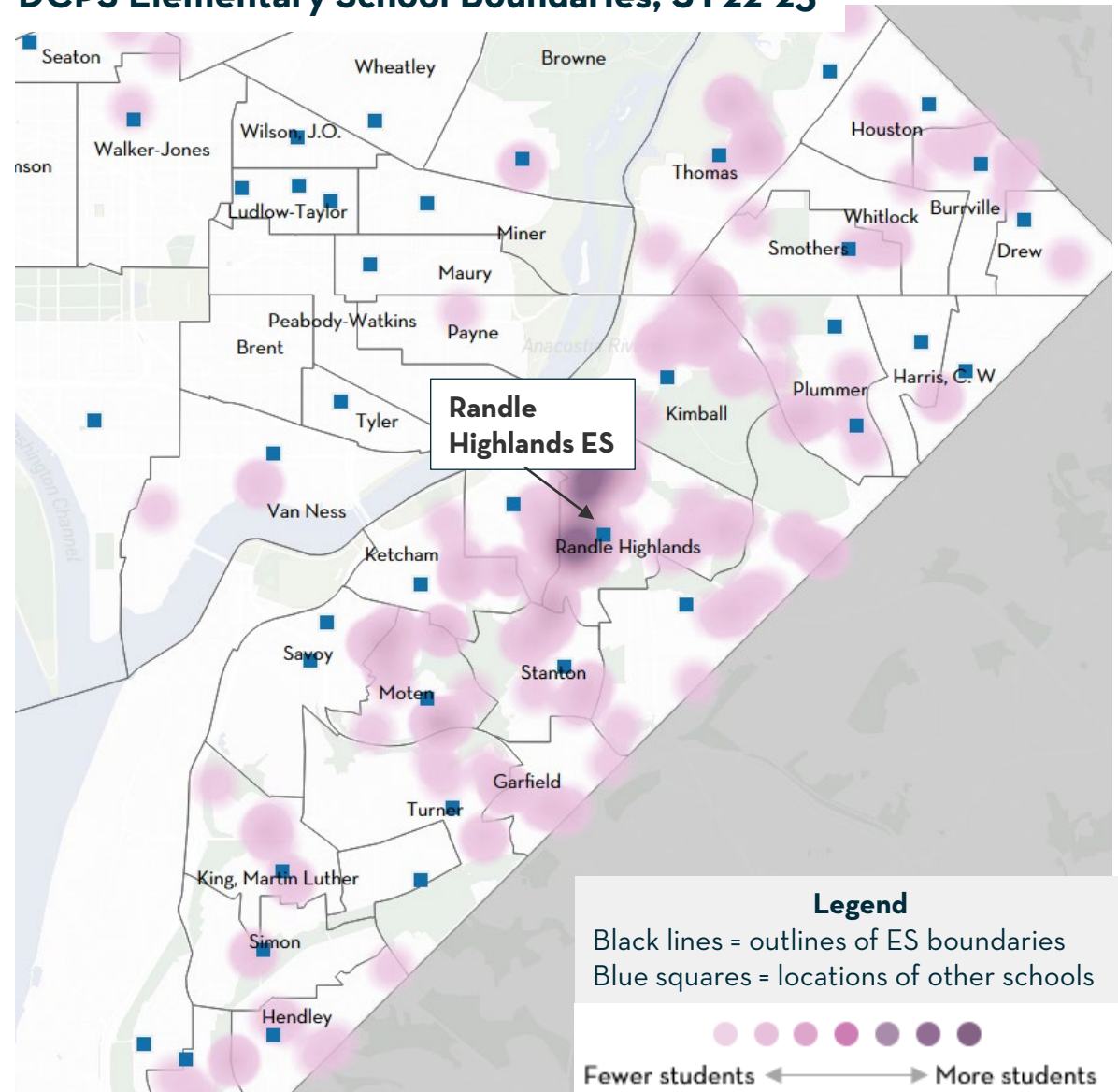
Where Kimball ES Students Live by DCPS Elementary School Boundaries, SY22-23



Randle Highlands ES Students

The following maps shows the densities of where Randle Highlands ES students live as of SY22-23 by DCPS elementary school boundary.

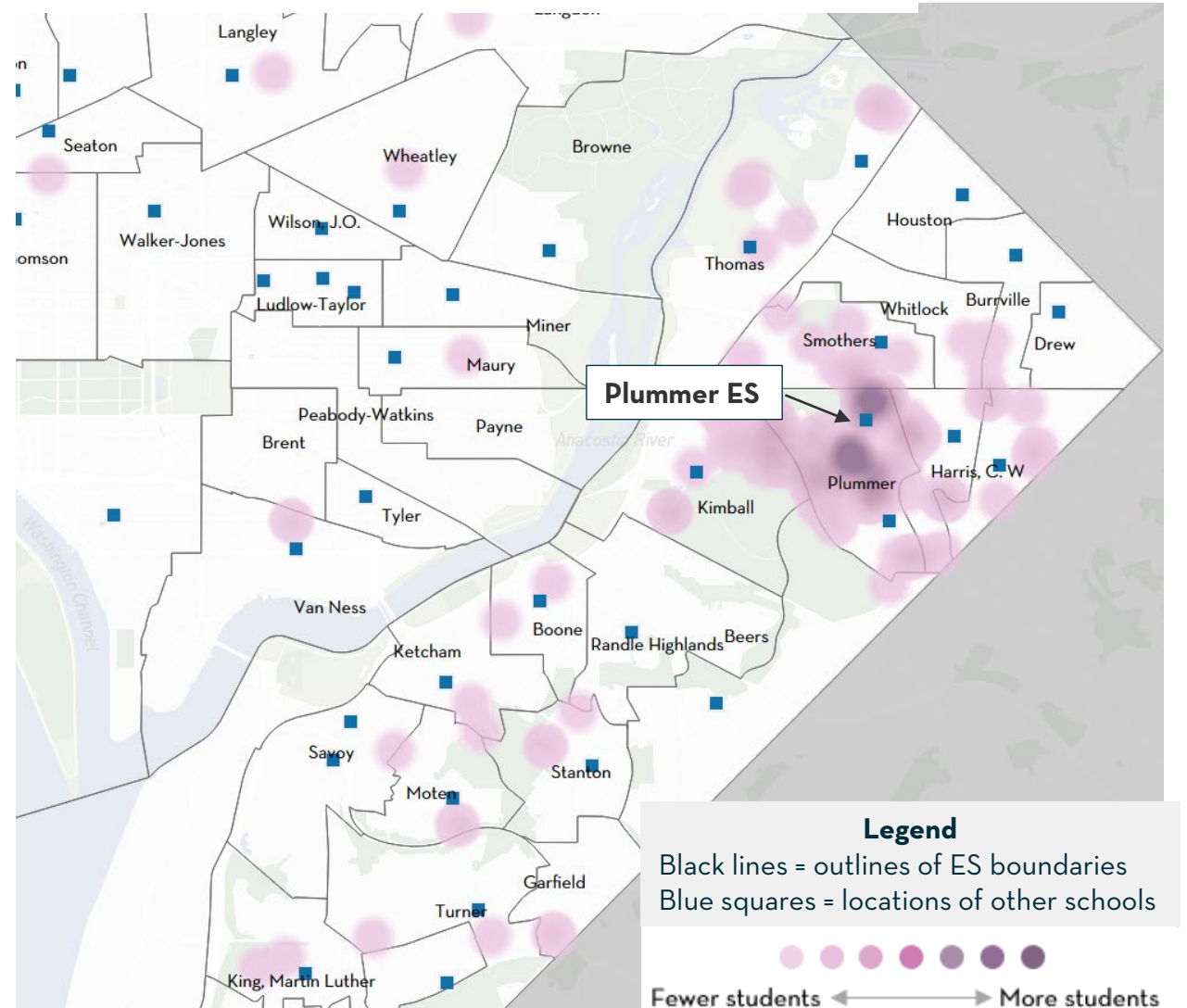
Where Randle Highlands ES Students Live by DCPS Elementary School Boundaries, SY22-23



Plummer ES Students

The following maps shows the densities of where Kimball ES students live as of SY22-23 by DCPS elementary school boundary.


Where Plummer ES Students Live by DCPS Elementary School Boundaries, SY22-23



Sousa MS Enrollment

Sousa MS's enrollment was the highest in SY13-14 (~300 students) and peaked again SY19-20.

In SY22-23, Sousa MS's enrollment was 215 and it has bounced back this year (not shown below).

	Enrollment	Enrollment trend	In boundary enrollment %	6th grade enrollment
Sousa Middle School	215		153 (71%)	70

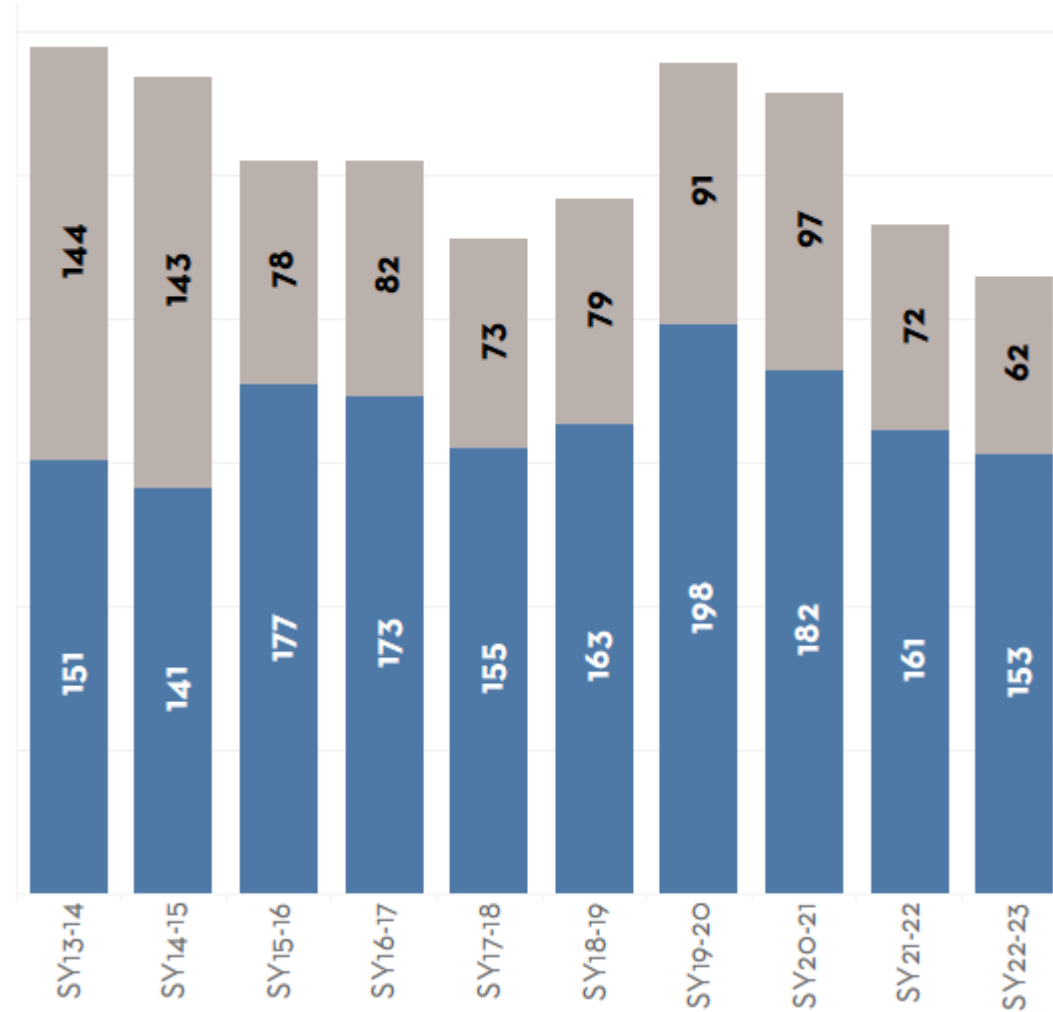
Data as of SY22-23

Sousa MS Enrollment by In Boundary

While overall enrollment has been declining over the last few years, Sousa MS's in boundary enrollment - or those students who enroll from the boundary - has increased.

- 65% in SY2020-21
- 69% in SY2021-22
- 71% in SY2022-23

Sousa Enrollment Over Time, by In Boundary



Where Sousa MS 6th Grade Students Enroll Last Year?

Where Did Students from Sousa Middle School Go to School the Previous Year?

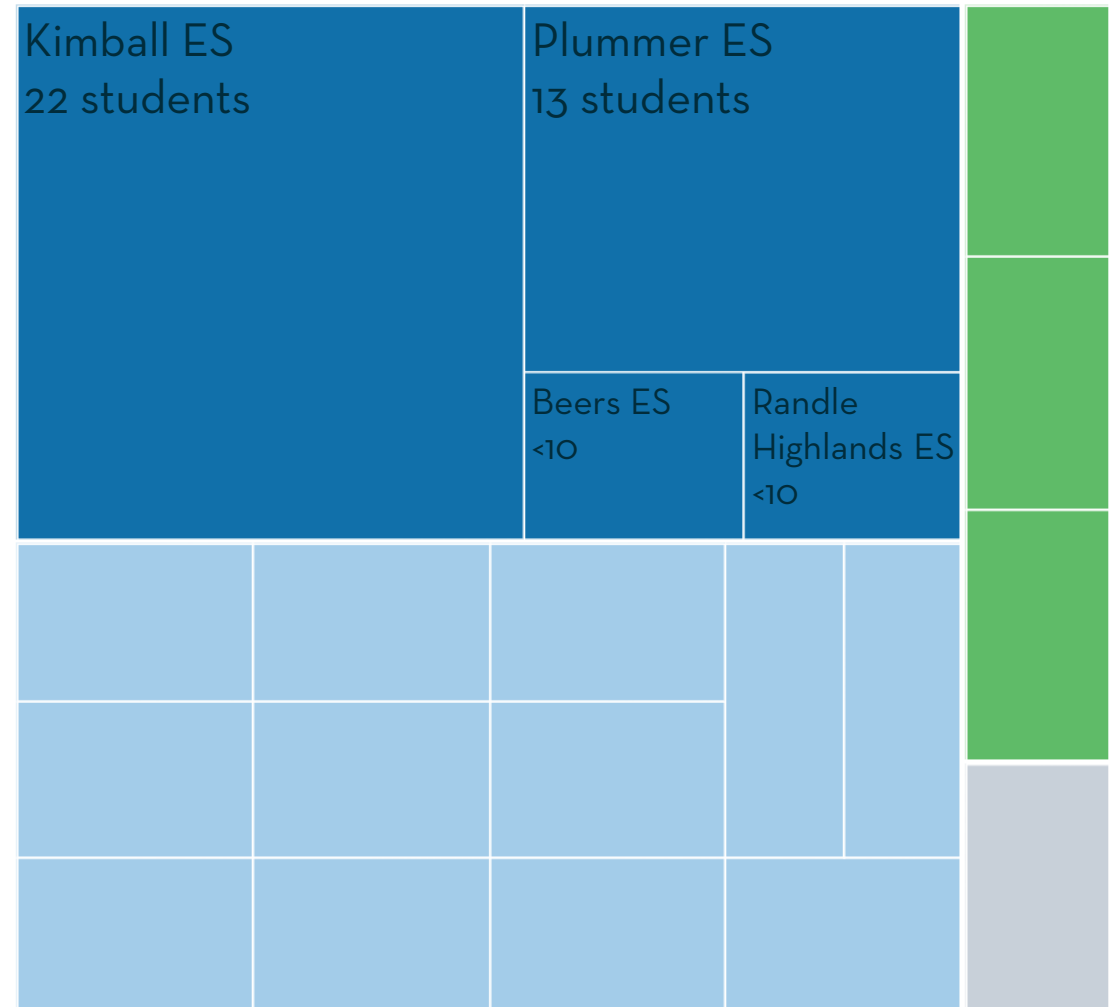
Receiving grade

The greatest number of students came from Kimball ES, 22 students.

Plummer ES sent the second largest number of students, 13 students.

14 other DCPS schools sent <10 students.

6th grade



Data between SY21-22 and SY22-23

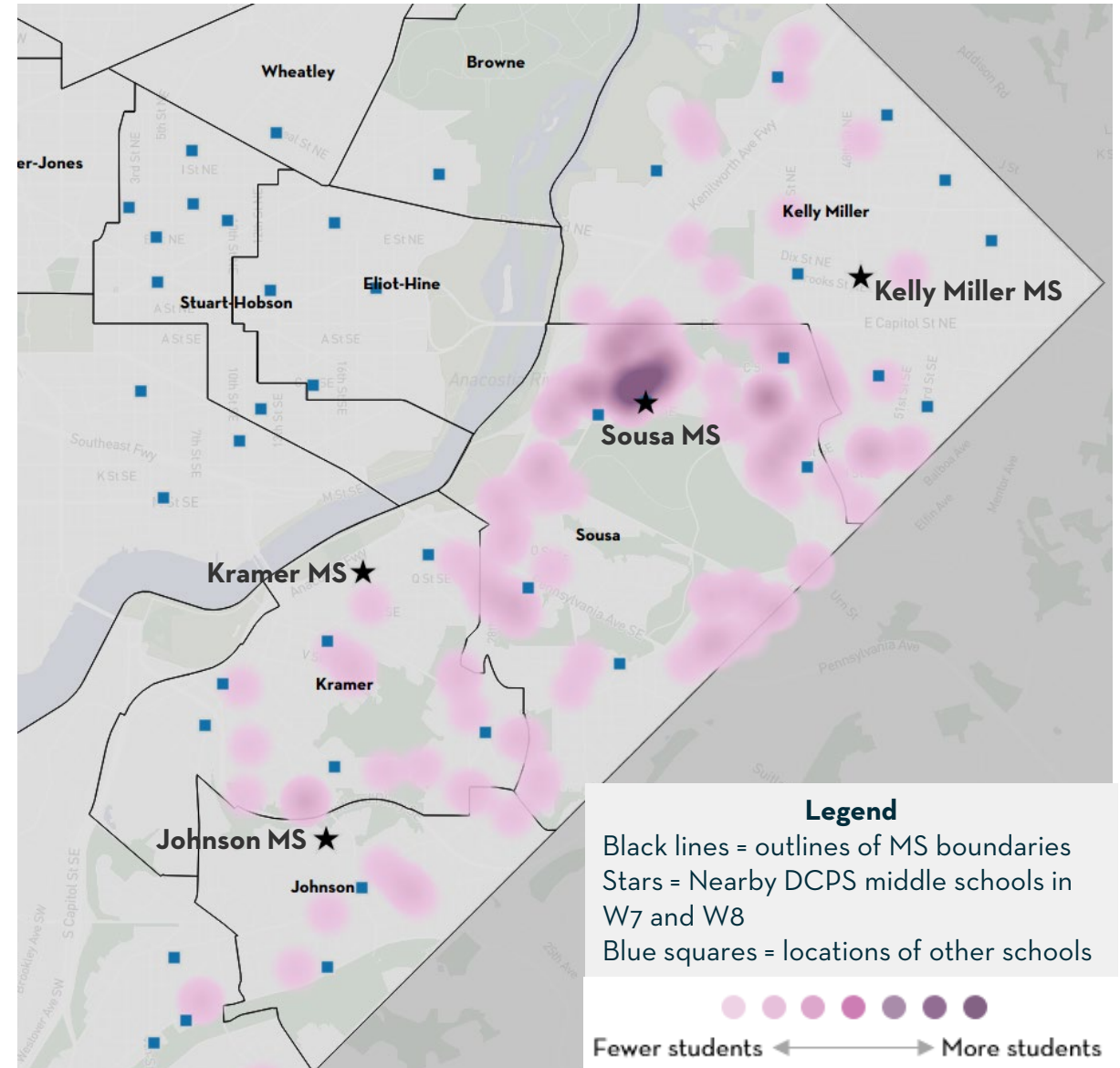
See [EdScape](#) for more details!

Where Sousa MS Students Live

The following maps shows the density of where Sousa MS students live as of SY22-23.

There is a density of students right near the school (for example, Stone Ridge Apartments, Anacostia Gardens, and along 37th Street).

Sousa MS Students by DCPS Middle School Boundaries, SY22-23

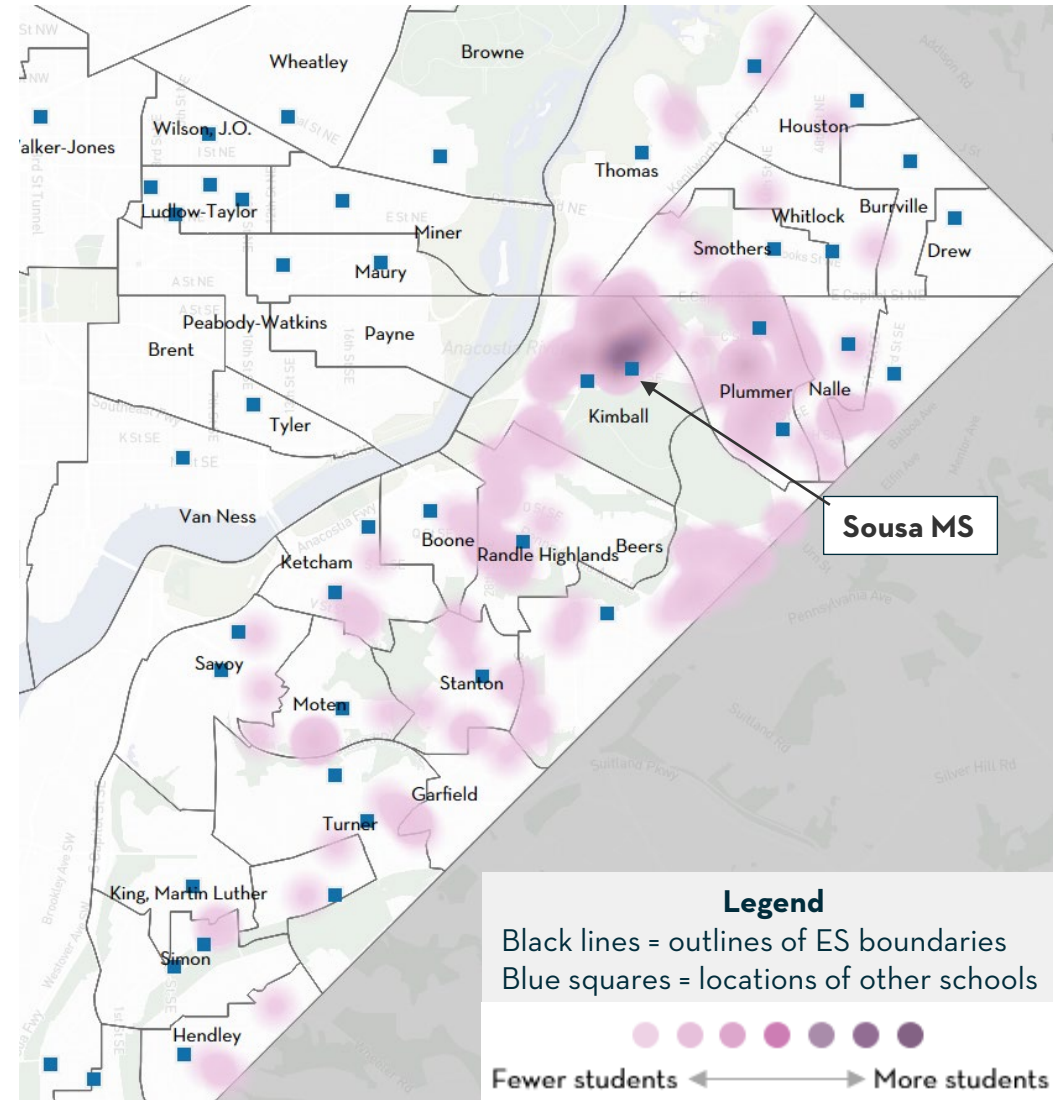


Where Sousa MS Students Live by Elementary Boundaries

The following maps shows the same density of where Sousa MS students live as of SY22-23 by DCPS elementary school boundary.

Most of the students live in the Kimball ES boundary followed by Plummer ES boundary.

Where Sousa MS Students Live by DCPS Elementary School Boundaries, SY22-23



Potential ideas and discussion

Time to walk through two potential ideas and then we'll open the floor to hear about your ideas and reactions

Potential ideas to encourage increased Sousa MS enrollment and investment from feeder schools

Idea 1

Recommend that Sousa MS is added to the Capital Improvements Plan for facility investments to support current and future students and staff.

- Sousa last modernized in 2007; however, it does not meet latest DCPS EdSpecs
- Basement has opportunities for new programming and potential partners
- Facility assessment indicates areas in need of improvement – extended learning spaces and assembly/community spaces

Potential ideas to encourage increased Sousa MS enrollment and investment from feeder schools

Idea 2

Recommend that Sousa MS be moved into the Winston facility (3100 Erie St, SE) after Winston becomes renovated.

This new location may attract additional elementary school feeder students and keep current students to increase enrollment.

Potential ideas to encourage increased Sousa MS enrollment and investment from feeder schools

Other ideas: In a high choice system, we want to hear from families about **what you need** to continue to enroll or start enrolling in your **neighborhood school**.

Reactions?

Thoughts?

Other ideas to consider?

Next steps

- **Share feedback** from this meeting with the Advisory Committee for consideration moving forward
- **Advisory Committee Meetings** – continued discussions
 - December 20
 - January 10
 - January 31
- **Boundary Town Hall 3** – additional feedback and modeling
 - Week of December 11
 - December 12 at 6 p.m. (in person)
 - December 13 at 6 p.m. (virtual)
 - December 14 at 12 p.m. (virtual)
- Schedule meetings specifically with **ES feeders for discussion**
- **Final recommendations** – March 2024



Visit the Boundary Explorer:
www.dcschoolboundaryexplorer.com

Complete the feedback form on the
DME website:
tinyurl.com/DMEBoundarySurvey

*Boundary study resources: <https://dme.dc.gov/boundaries2023>
Questions, please email DME.planning@dc.gov*

Appendix: Implementation timeframe

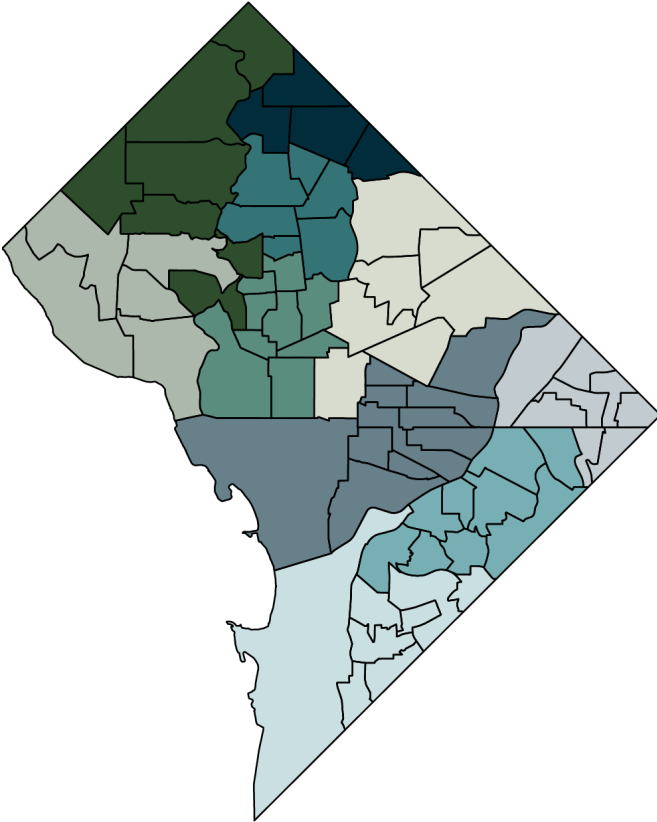
Implementation timeframe

- Earliest would be SY25-26
- Enrolled students can continue to attend their school
- Brief period of feeder phase-in and sibling enrollment

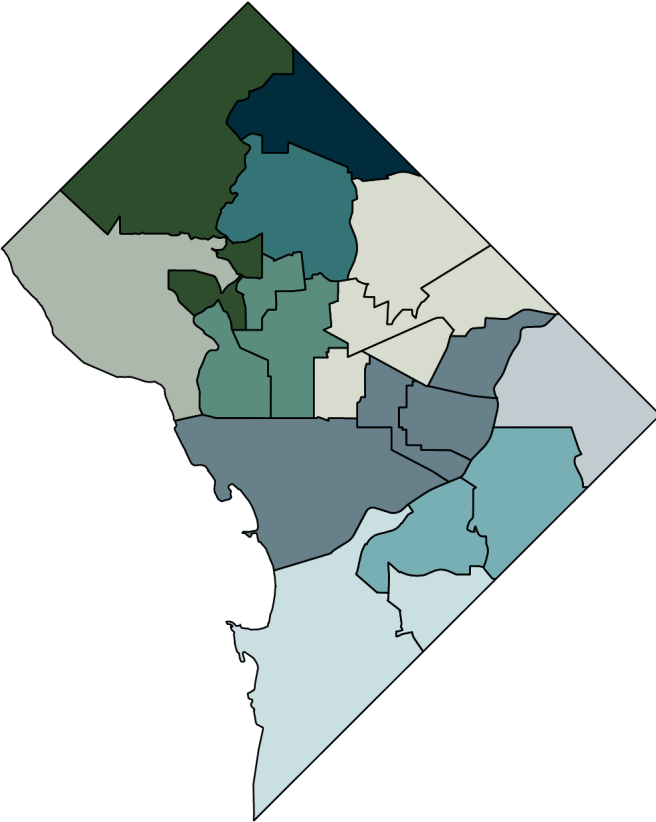
Appendix: DCPS boundaries SY2023-24

Since the 2014 recommendations, geographic boundaries feed from ES to MS to HS.

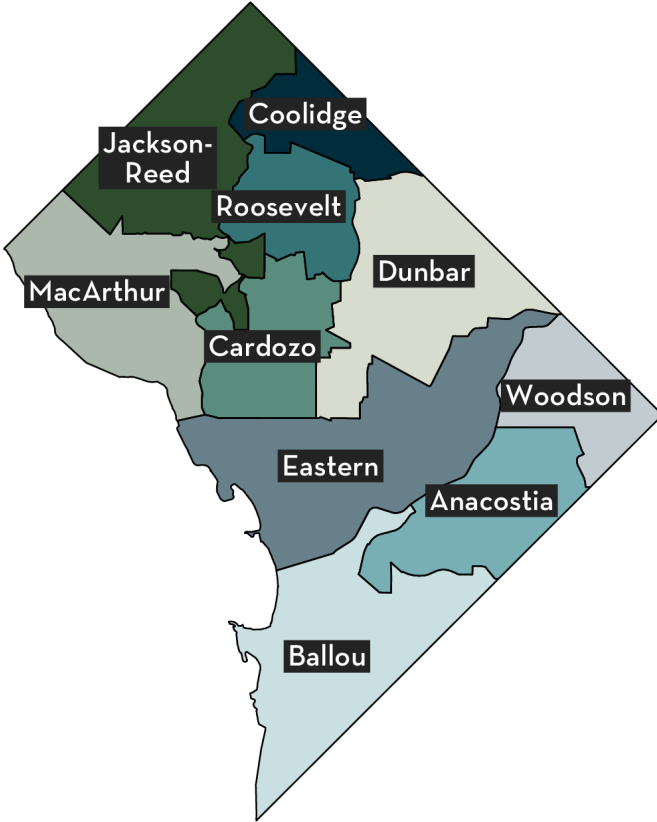
Elementary School



Middle School



High School



Where Sousa MS Students Live

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Density of students right near the school in (for example, Stone Ridge Apartments, Anacostia Gardens, and along 37th Street).

Sousa MS Students by DCPS Middle School Boundaries, SY22-23

