

# DC Public Education Boundary and Student Assignment Study

## Wheatley Education Campus Meeting

December 2023



# Agenda

Overview of the Boundary Study

Review challenges related to Wheatley Education Campus

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 for the town halls

Learn about **identified challenges** and **ideas** considered so far

**Collect feedback** on these ideas so we can **further refine them**

Learn how to use the interactive **Boundary Explorer tool** and **online survey** to continue to provide feedback

# 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

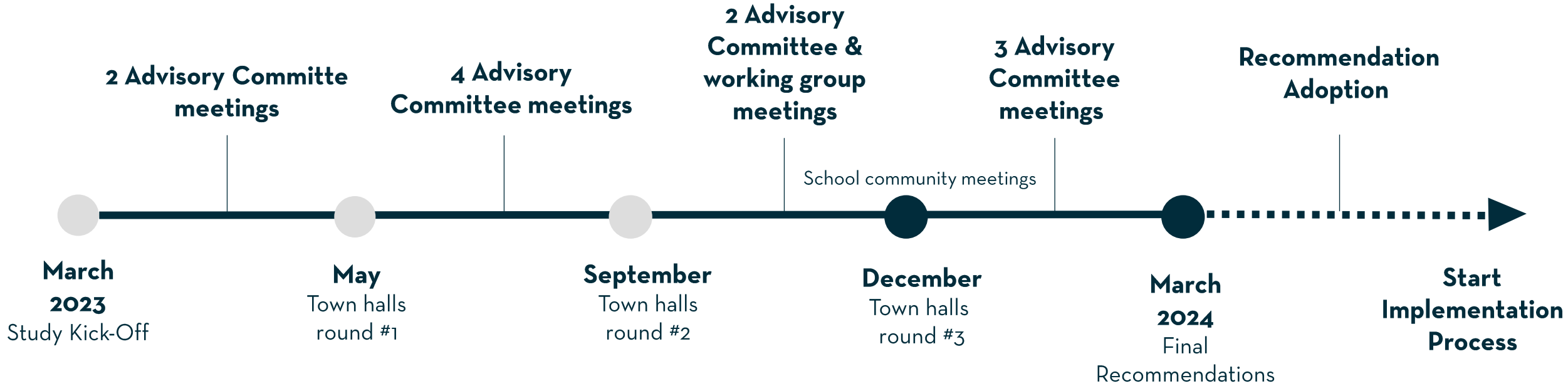
Read more about the guiding principles. [English](#) [Spanish](#)

# 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 (school meetings, Boundary Explorer engagement website, feedback forms)

Continuing to develop ideas, reviewing and incorporating feedback to develop final recommendations

# Implementation timeframe

## Boundary and Feeder Revisions

- Earliest would be **SY25-26**
- Enrolled students can **continue to attend their school** through the last grade offered
- Brief period of **feeder phase-in** and **sibling enrollment grandfathering**

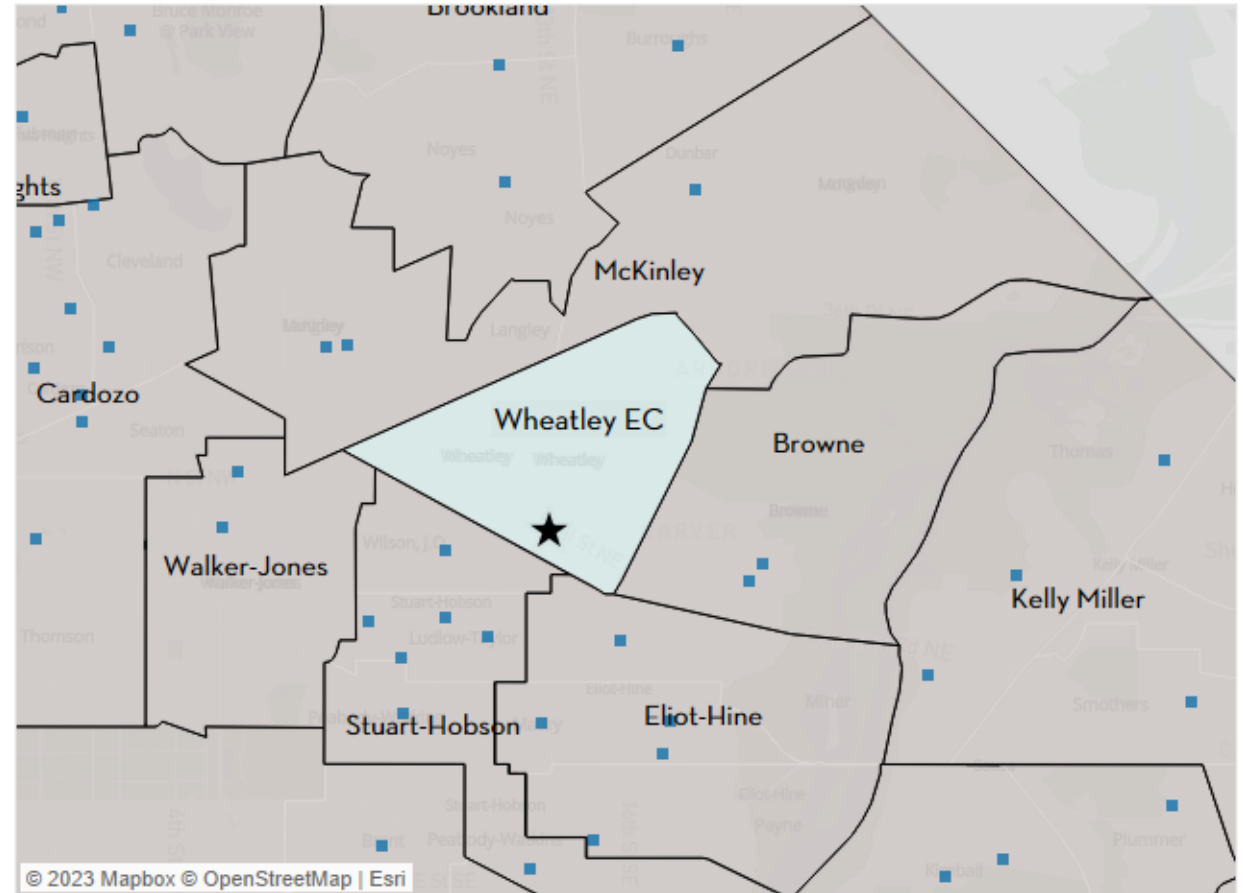
## Grade Configuration and Other Policies

- **Longer timeframe** for implementation
- Once recommendation is accepted, **more school engagement** to come
- **Implementation details** to be determined **in coordination with schools**
- **Phasing in** is expected

# Wheatley EC Challenges



- Low engagement from boundary
- Low enrollment overall and particularly in middle grades

Map of Wheatley EC boundary with nearby DCPS middle schools



# Wheatley Education Campus Enrollment Facts

- Enrollment for the elementary school grades peaked at 240 in SY14-15. The lowest enrollment was 217 in SY20-21.
  - SY23-24 reported enrollment shows an increase over SY22-23
- Enrollment for middle school grades peaked in SY13-14 and matched the SY17-18 low of 70 in SY22-23.
  - SY23-24 reported enrollment remains around the same.

	Enrollment	Enrollment trend	In boundary enrollment (N)	In boundary enrollment (%)	5th grade enrollment	6th grade enrollment
ES	251		129	51	29	-
MS	70		39	56	-	19

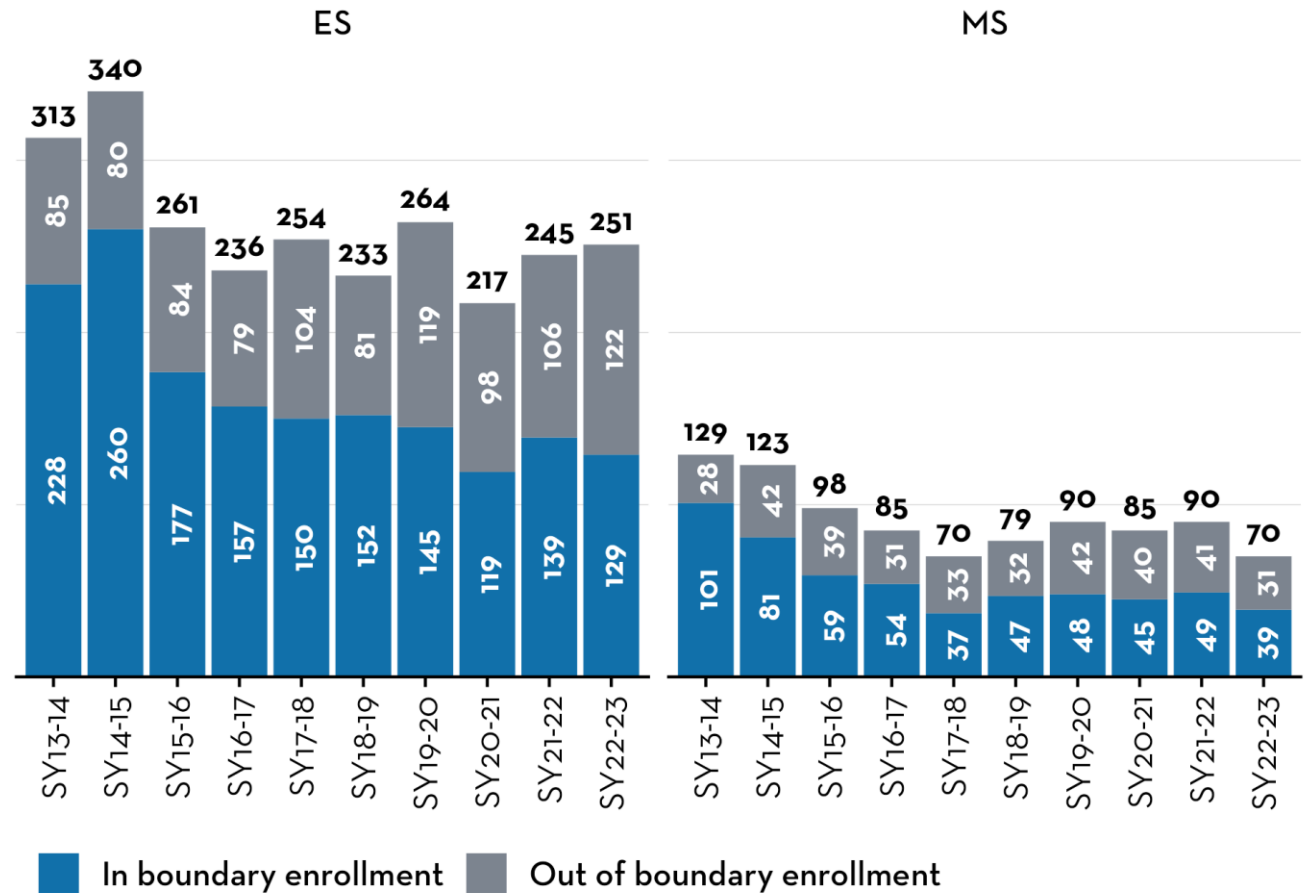
Data as of SY22-23

# Wheatley EC Enrollment by In Boundary

In boundary enrollment for elementary grades in percentage terms has remained static at between 55% and 57% since SY19-20 but there was a drop in SY22-23 to 51%.

By the same measure for middle school grades, there increase each year since SY20-21, from 53% to 56% in SY22-23.

Wheatley EC Enrollment Over Time, by In Boundary



# Wheatley Education Campus School Choices

	# Living in the boundary	Boundary Participation Rate	# other schools attended	Top 5 other schools attended	Median distance traveled for OOB students (miles)
ES	843	15%	127	KIPP DC - Spring Academy PCS KIPP DC - Connect Academy PCS Two Rivers PCS - 4th Street J.O. Wilson Elementary School Center City PCS - Trinidad	1.7
MS	227	17%	53	KIPP DC - Northeast Academy PCS Two Rivers PCS - Young Middle School Center City PCS - Trinidad Brookland Middle School Stuart-Hobson Middle School (Capitol Hill Cluster)	2

Citywide median OOB  
 PK-5 distance = 1.8 miles  
 6-8 distance = 2.5 miles

# Wheatley Education Campus School Choices

Re-enrollment rate is 68% overall compared to the citywide average of 82%.

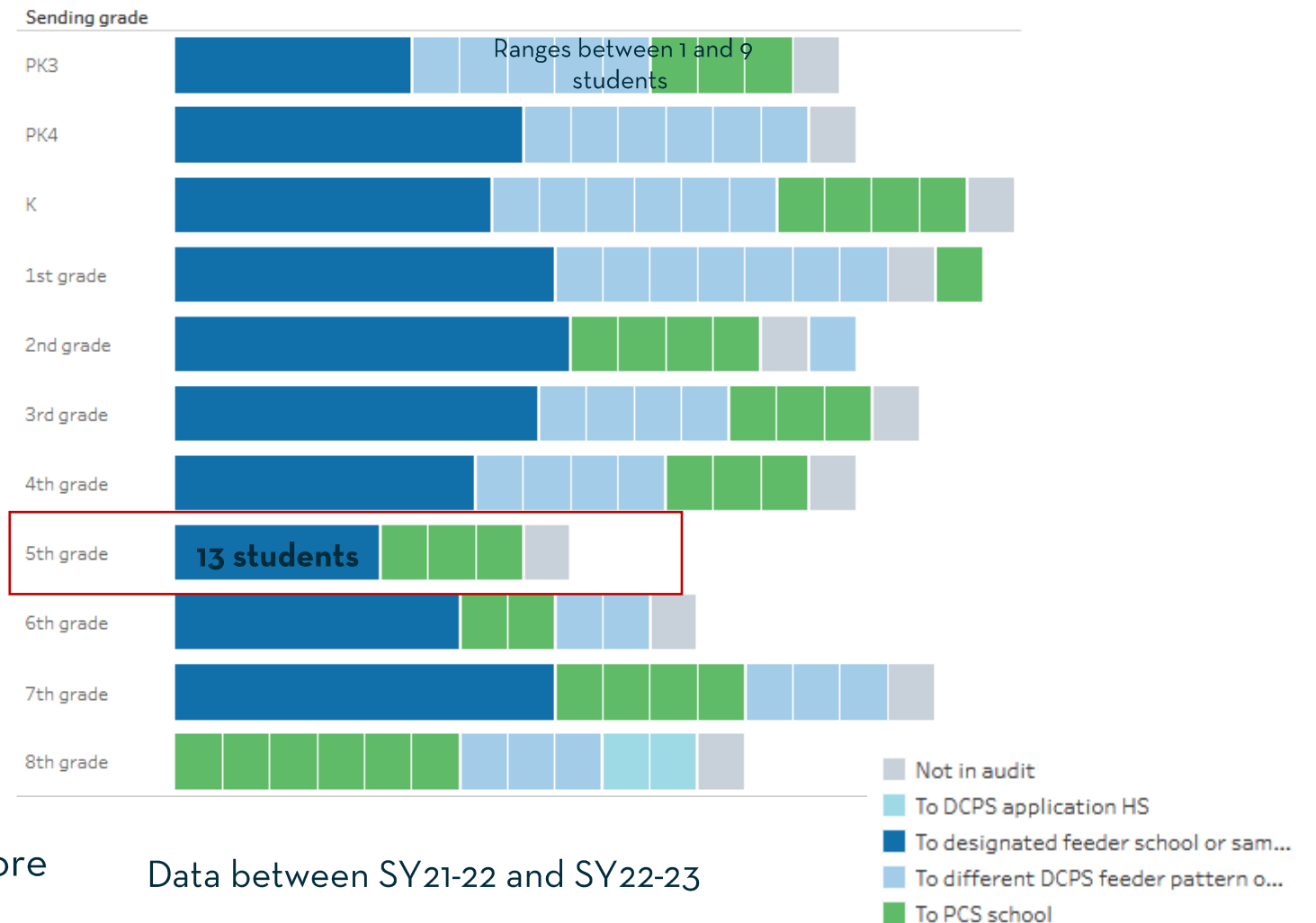
(DC School Report Card)

About half of the 5th grade Wheatley students in SY21-22 continued to 6th grade in SY22-23, 13 students.

Wheatley 6th grade students attract just a few new students from other DCPS or charter schools: CW Harris, Savoy, Rocketship (not shown)

See [EdScape](#) for more details!

Where Do Students from Wheatley Education Campus Go to School the Following Year?

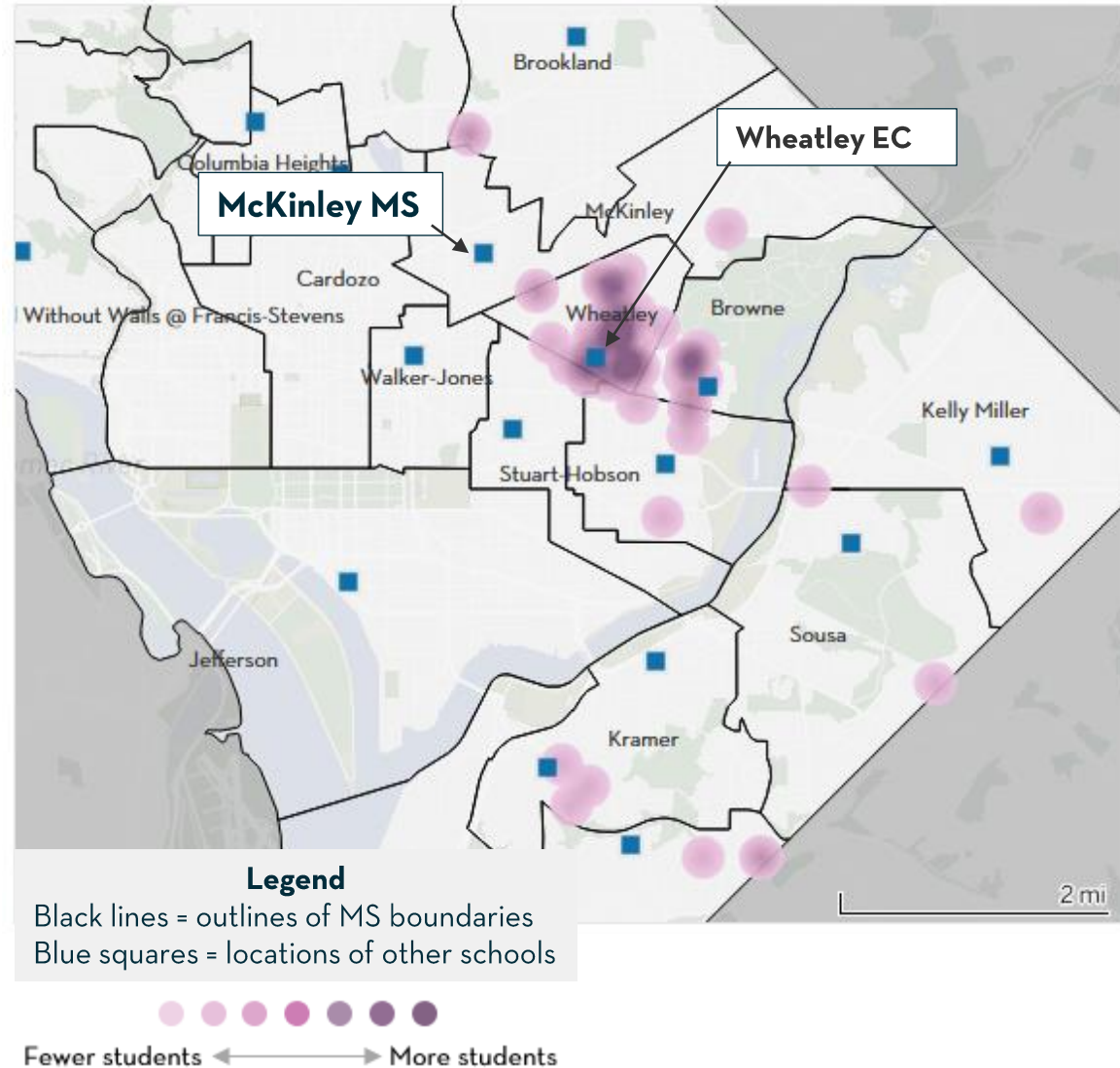




# Where Wheatley EC Students Live

The following map shows the densities of where Wheatley EC students in grades 6-8 live as of SY22-23 by DCPS middle school boundary.

## Where Wheatley EC Students Live by DCPS Middle School Boundaries, SY22-23



# Potential ideas

## Idea 1

Explore whether converting some education campuses (PK-8 schools) to elementary schools (PK-5) would better support elementary programming and enrollment at the feeder middle schools.

Grades 6-8 could potentially move to McKinley MS

**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
- **Final recommendations** – March 2024



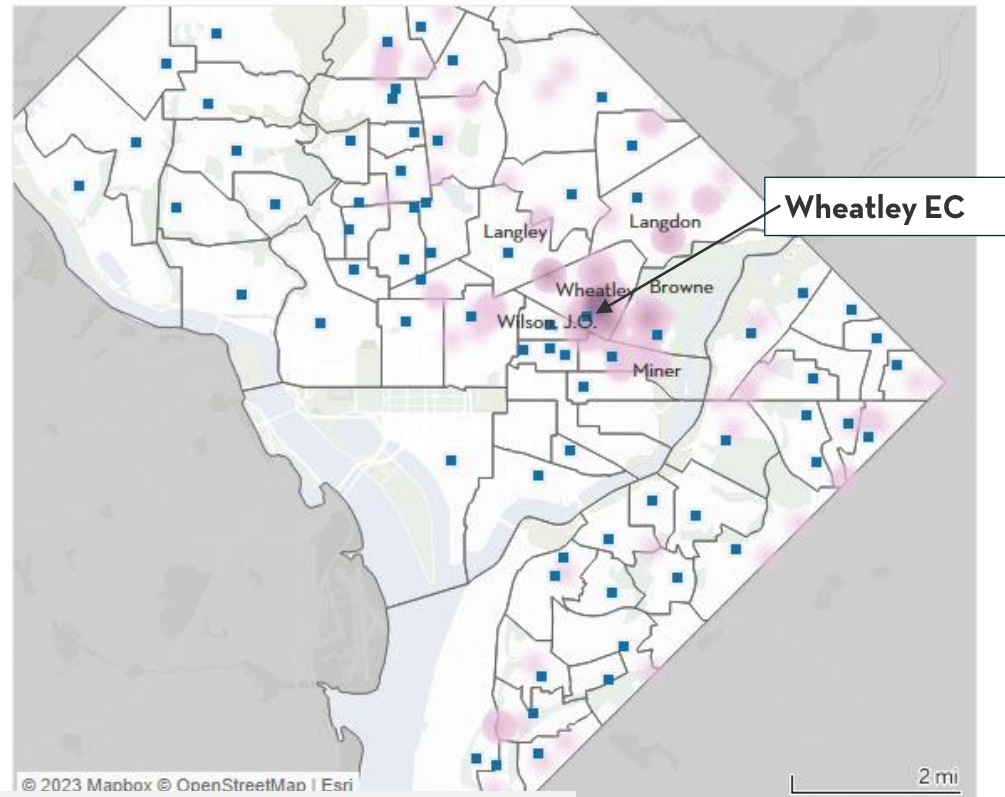
**Visit the Boundary Explorer:**  
[www.dcschoolboundaryexplorer.com](http://www.dcschoolboundaryexplorer.com)

**Complete the feedback form on the  
DME website:**  
[tinyurl.com/DMEBoundarySurvey](http://tinyurl.com/DMEBoundarySurvey)

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

# Appendix: Where Wheatley EC Students Live

Where Wheatley EC Students (PK-5) Live by DCPS Elementary School Boundaries, SY22-23

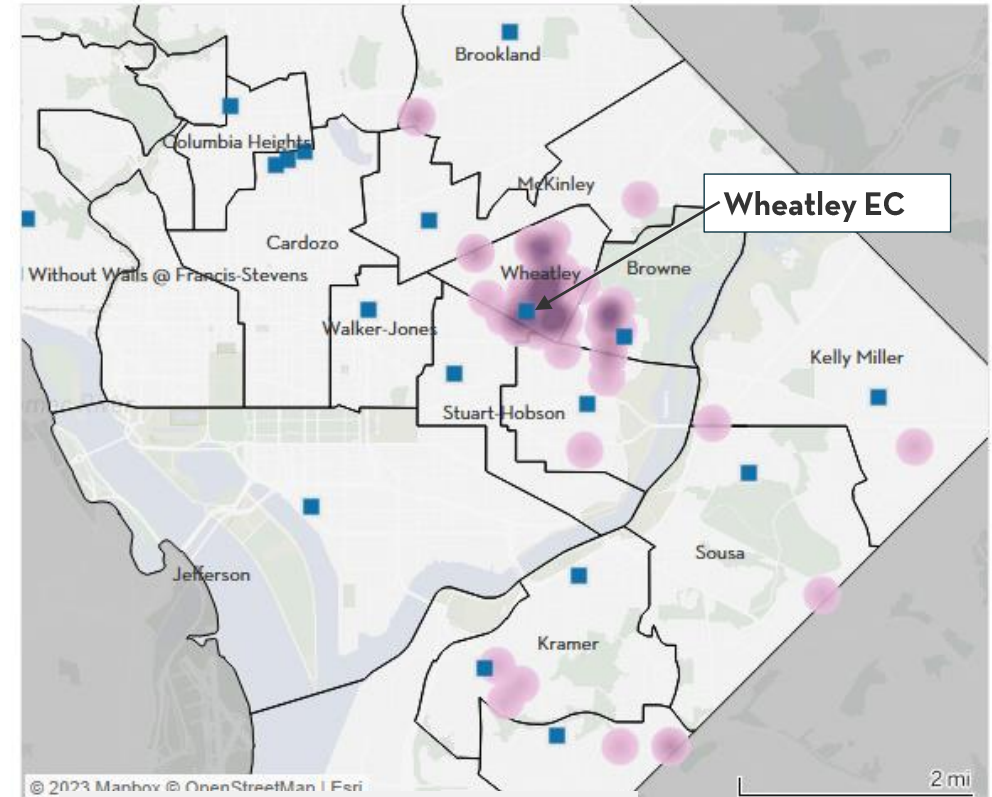


**Legend**

Black lines = outlines of ES boundaries  
Blue squares = locations of other schools



Where Wheatley EC Students (grades 6-8) Live by DCPS Middle School Boundaries, SY22-23



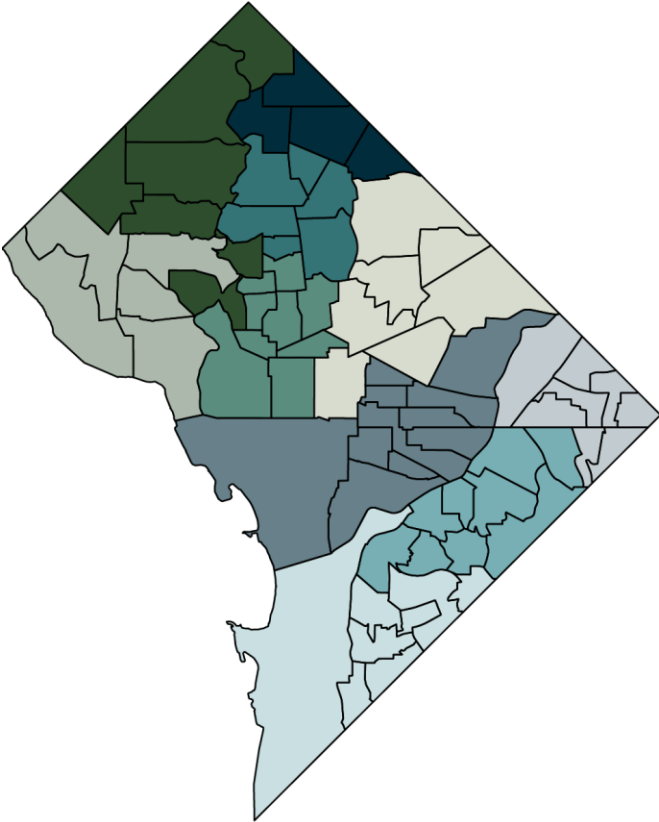
**Legend**

Black lines = outlines of MS boundaries  
Blue squares = locations of other schools

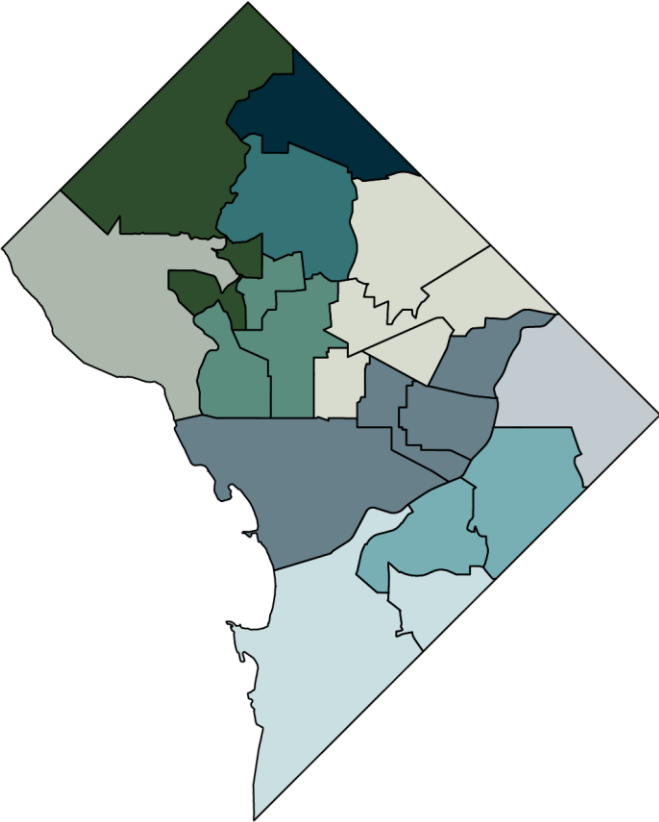
# Appendix: DCPS boundaries SY2023-24

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

Elementary School



Middle School



High School

