

Atlanta Public Schools School Capacity Study 2011

SRT 2 Community Meeting:
Thursday, February 2, 2012
Price Middle School

***NOTE:** This presentation contains added explanatory notes and minor technical corrections to the original version that was presented on 2/2/2012.

Tonight's Agenda

- Presentation – 18 slides including maps
 - Review Revised Options A and B
 - Key elements of and differences between the Options
 - How Options address school capacity issues in SRT 2
- Public Comment
 - 90 minutes to receive and record your questions and comments
 - Also use the forms to submit your comments in writing
- We will remain after the public comment period to answer questions at the maps

Why is APS doing this study?

- The School District faces a very big challenge
 - The north and east sides of the City are growing– APS will need to find space for about 5,000 more students over the next 10 years
 - The south and southwest sides of the City are stable. Even with future redevelopment, the number of students will drop slightly over the next 10 years as families age
 - The south and southwest sides have more neighborhood schools which serve smaller areas. Several schools have half the number of students they were designed for
 - APS budgets are being spent on operating more buildings with fewer students - losing State aid and diverting funds away from education

Study Process

Phase I: Data Collection/Modeling



Phase II: Alternatives Analysis



Phase III: Implementation Strategies



Submit Report: to the Superintendent and brief the School Board on findings



Post Completion: Superintendent considers findings & makes recommendations to the School Board

Tonight presents the results of narrowing 4 Options down to 2 that will be presented to the Superintendent of Schools.

Public process continues after submission of our report.



What happens next?

- We will listen to your feedback tonight and study the written comments - along with comments from the last round of meetings
- We will consider that input to possibly refine the two Options ...
 - No major changes will be made before submitting our report
- Estimate the financial impacts of the 2 Options
- Prepare a draft report for the Superintendent
 - We will test any other ideas or changes Superintendent Davis may request before he makes his recommendations to the School Board
- APS starts its public meeting process

Key SRT 2 Issues

- Elementary schools were built to serve many more students than now live in the area
- Demolition of public housing has reduced the number of students in the area – that trend is ending
 - Our enrollment projections provide an allowance for added students in the event that some of these sites redevelop in the future
- Schools are not ideally located compared to where most students live
- Future enrollment is projected to decline - extra space is not needed
 - Elementary grades should stay about the same over the next five years, then fall 13% by 2021
 - Middle school enrollment is also expected to drop by 10%
 - High school enrollment should continue to increase slightly - by 3%
- Options to deal with these changes are limited in this part of the City

School Impacts

- SRT 2 has 16 schools (excluding charters) that are built to serve 12,750 students
 - Current student enrollments at all grade levels is just below 8,400
 - Enrollment is projected to drop by another 680 over the next ten years
- Five schools have fewer than 400 students.
- Nearly 4,400 empty seats today – growing to more than 5,000 in 10 years
 - All recommended closures would remove roughly 2,250 seats – leaving another 2,100 available for unforeseen future growth

How have the Options changed?

- We received more than 8,200 comments and 800 e-mails since December
 - A summary is posted on the APS web site
- Residents all over the City strongly oppose any change to their own schools and neighborhoods
- We double checked and updated study information to make sure it was correct
- Other information is still being studied by APS and may be included in the Superintendent's recommendations
- Superintendent Davis developed "guiding principles" to assist us in developing options

Guiding Principles

- Superintendent developed 21 guidelines
- It is impossible to follow all 21 guidelines in all zones
- Some of the relevant guidelines for SRT 2:
 - Keep “school feeders” consistent from elementary through high schools
 - Draw zones that can work for **10 Years**
 - Recommend where schools could be closed IF forecasted students do not support multiple schools
- These guidelines helped to narrow the range of options we could use address SRT 2 challenges

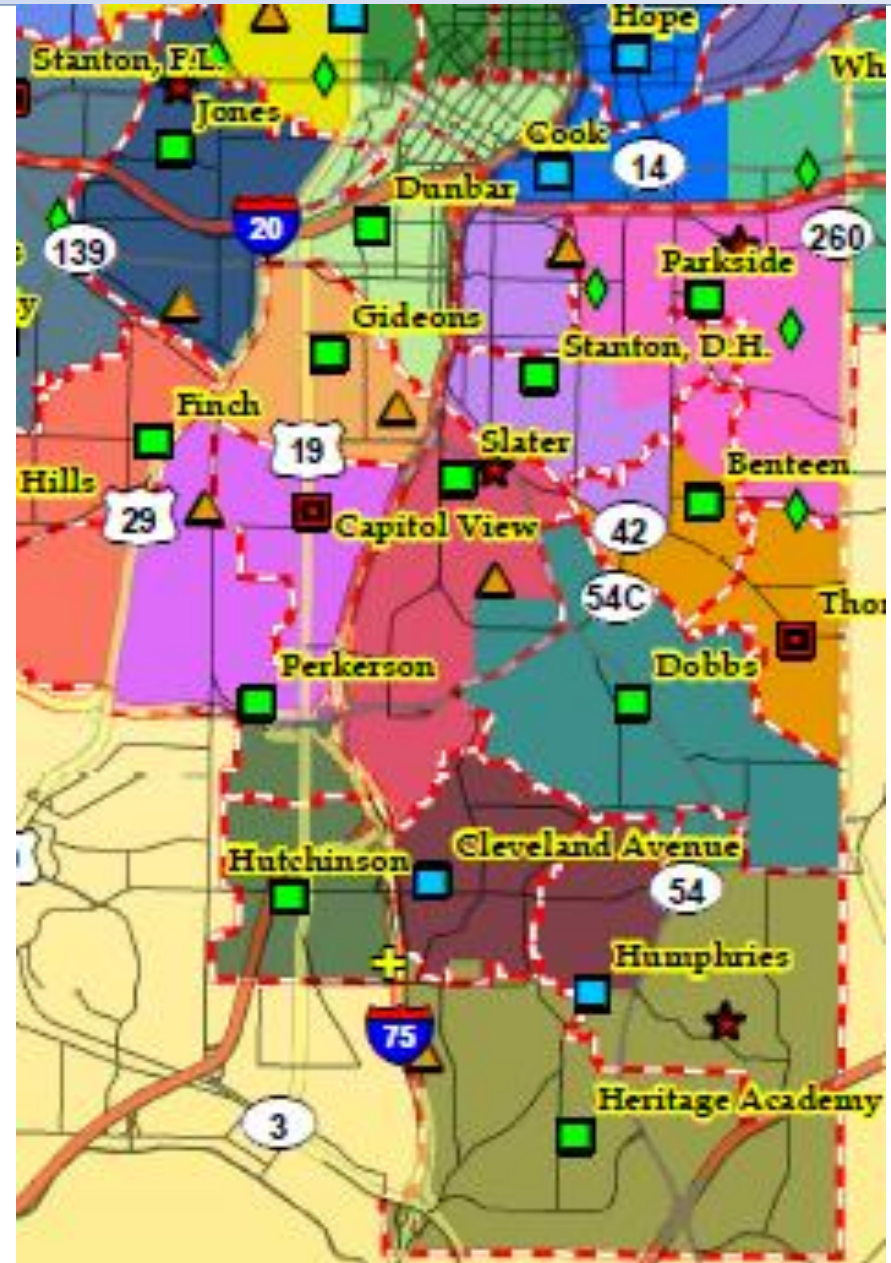
Proposed SRT 2 school closings/ zone changes

- Close Thomasville Heights – move students to Benteen
- Close Capitol View– move students to Perkerson
- Combine Cleveland Avenue and Humphries zones into one area (the choice of which school to keep open will be decided by APS)
- Close Parks Middle School – move students to ML King and Sylvan Middle Schools

The main difference between the 2 Options as they affect SRT 2 is in the way the MS and HS feeder zones are drawn

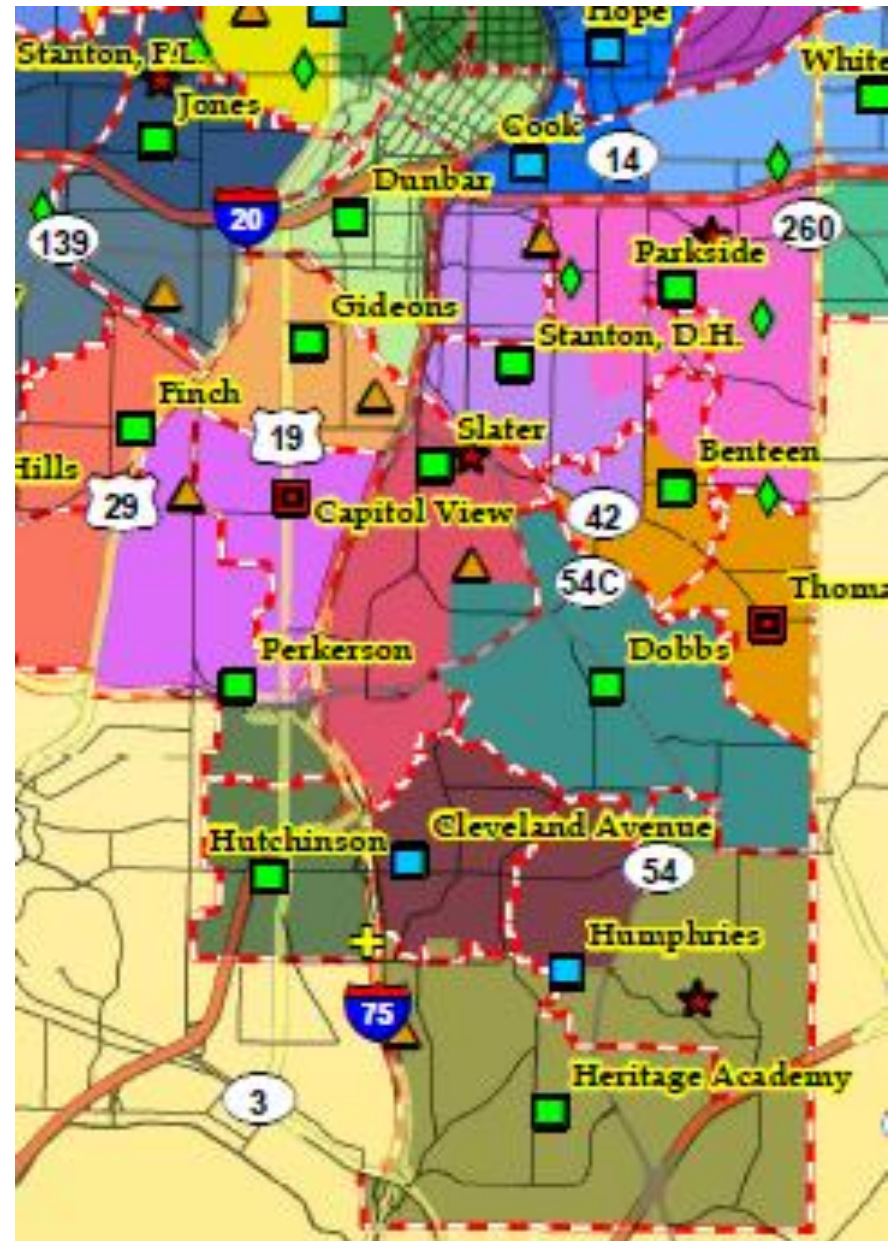
Elementary Attendance Zones – Option A*

***NOTE:** School closings identified on the following maps are possible, based solely on projected enrollment changes and available space at nearby schools to receive the affected students. NO judgments have been made concerning the academic performance of any school or other policy factors which are outside the scope of this demographic study.



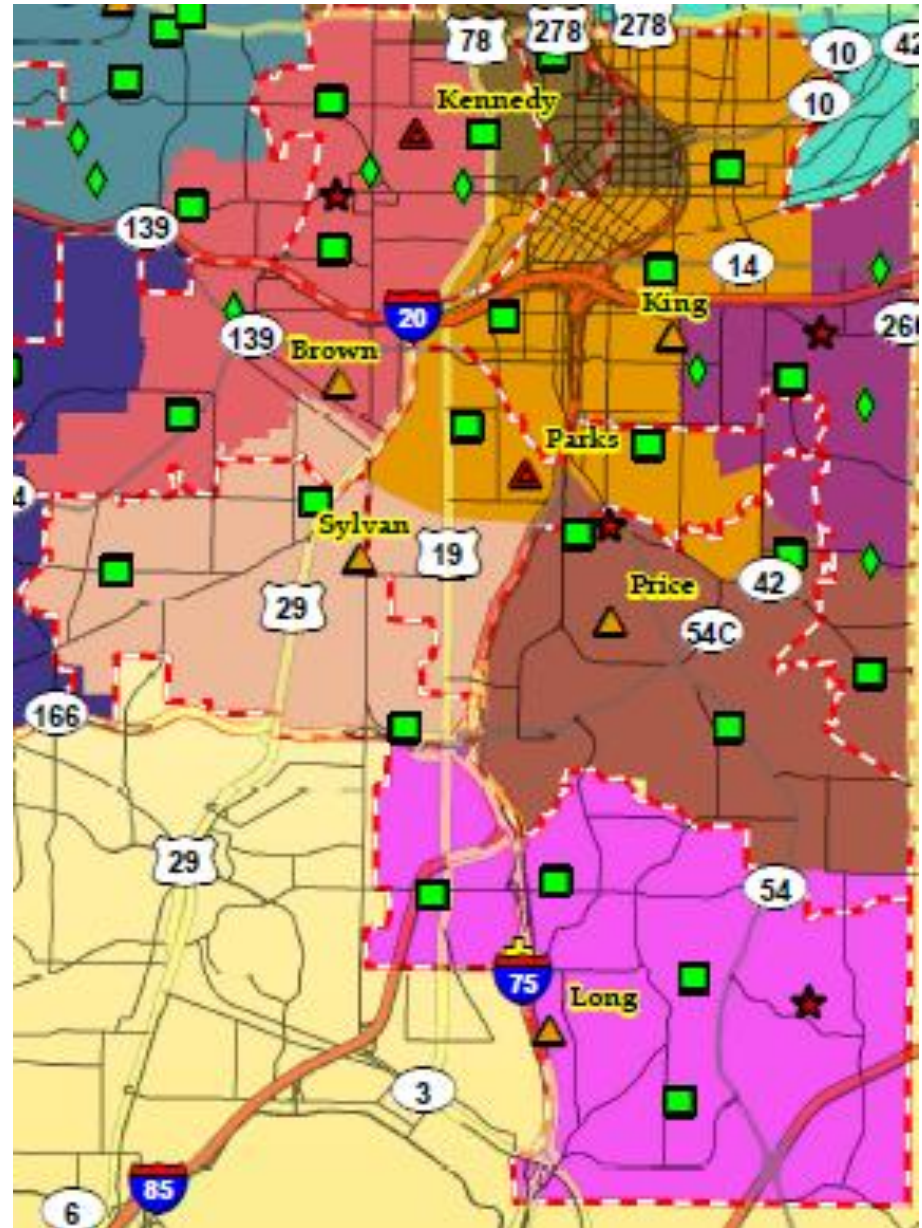
Elementary Attendance Zones – Option B

Options Maps



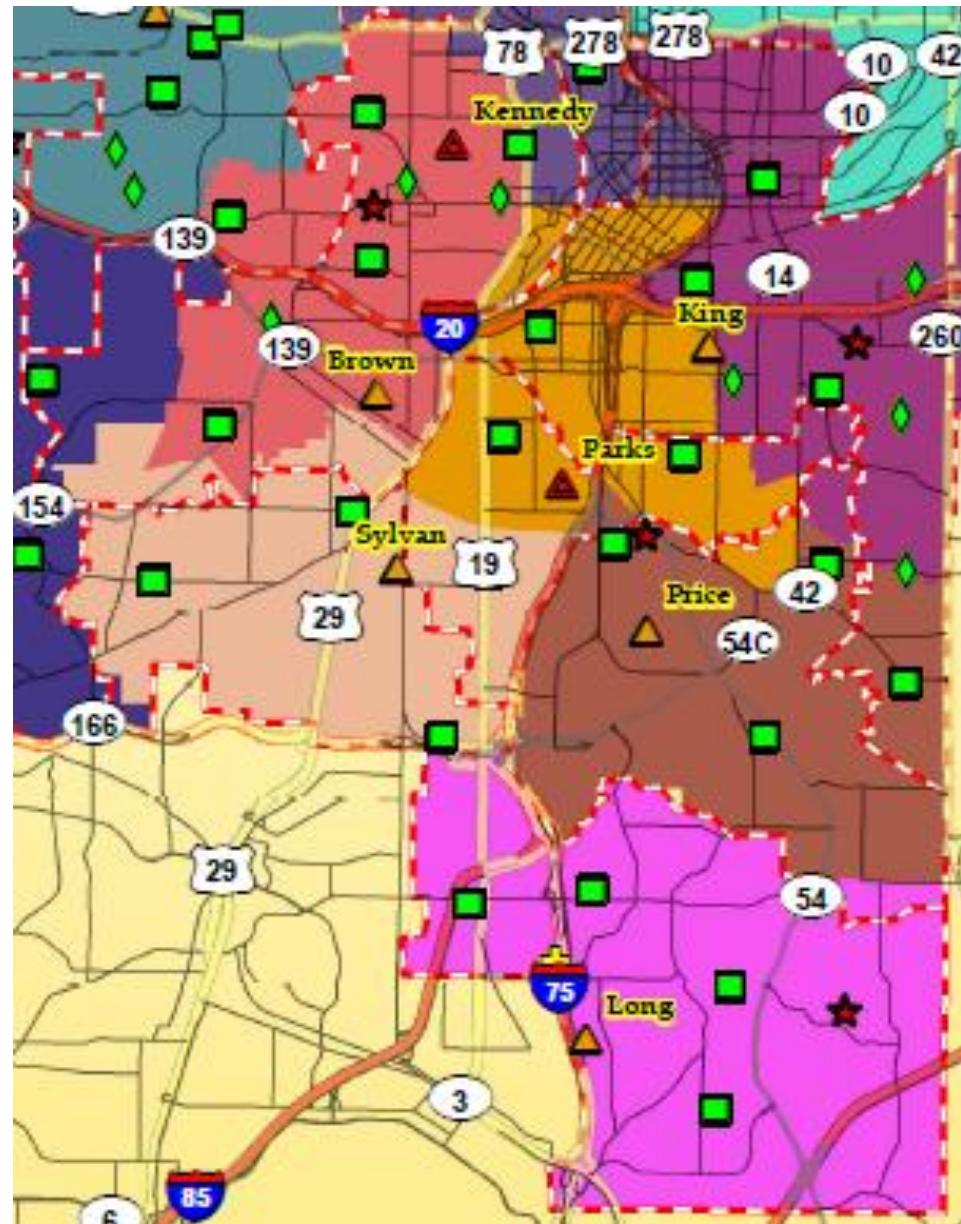
Middle School Feeder Zones – Option A

Options Maps



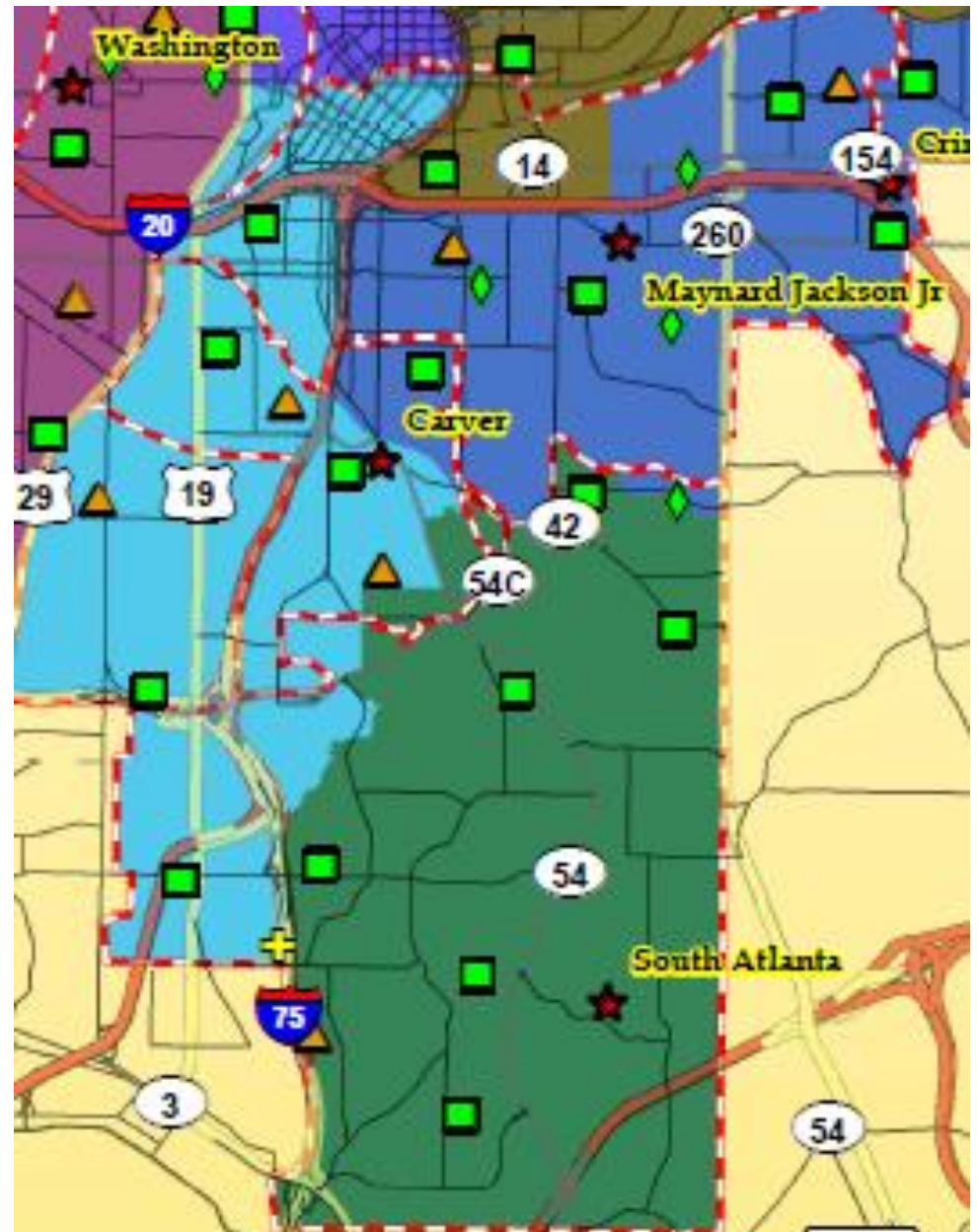
Middle School Feeder Zones – Option B

Options Maps



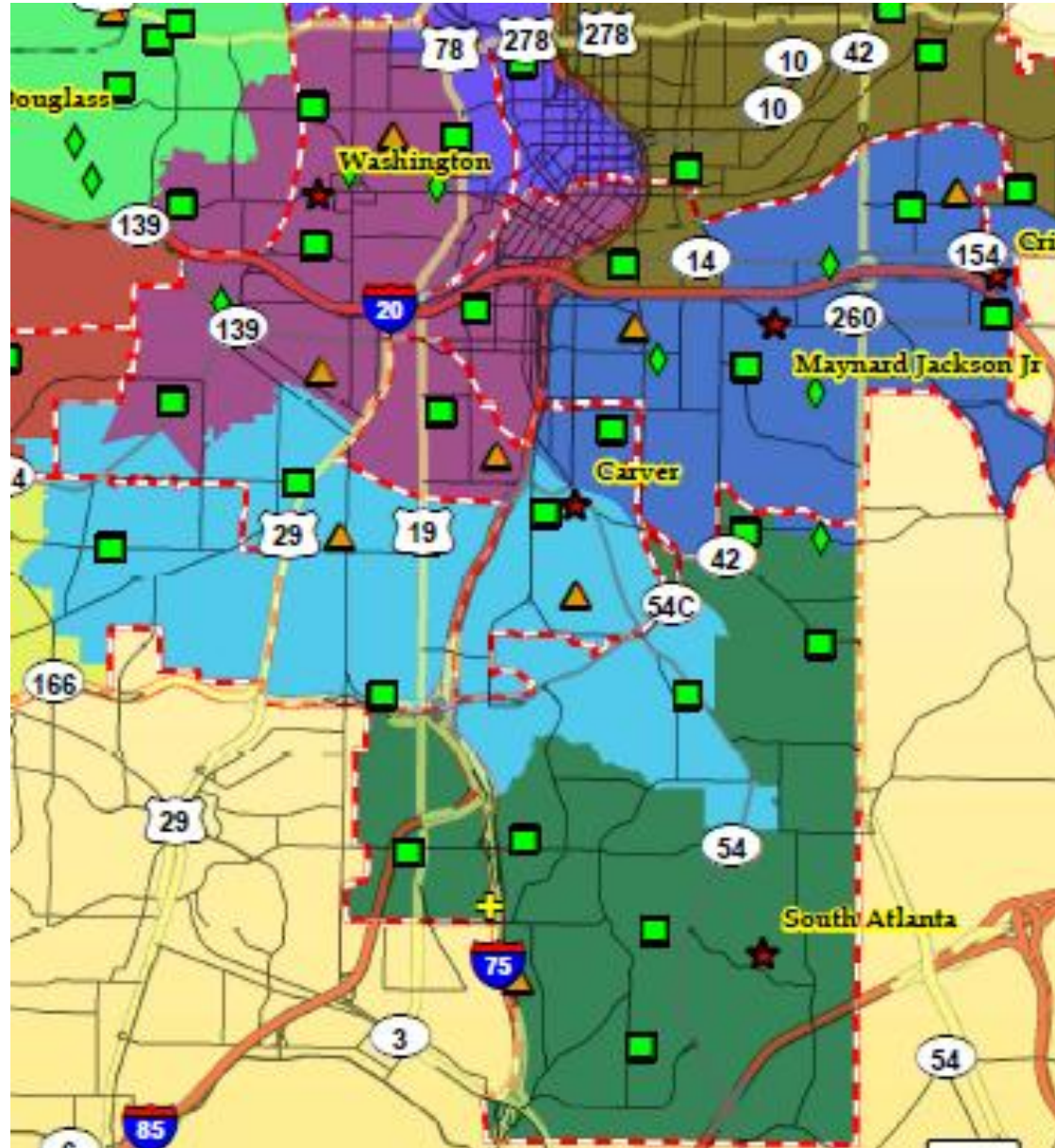
High School Feeder Zones – Option A

Options Maps



High School Feeder Zones – Option B

Options Maps



Study Process Moving Forward

- A copy of this presentation will be posted on the APS web site early next week
- Submit your feedback and comments
 - Fill out and turn in the form tonight
 - Return to your school for collection or mail it to the address on the form by the Feb. 24 deadline
 - Fill out the on line version
 - A Spanish language translation of the comment forms will be available at local schools
- Your comments will help Superintendent Davis to evaluate these Options and formulate his recommendations to the School Board

Tonight's Ground Rules

- Please identify yourself and the schools you are addressing
- We are here to record your comments and try to answer questions – NOT engage in a debate or defend our findings
 - You will be limited 2 minutes, PLEASE
- Try to ask questions or make comments that are of interest to the general audience - not your individual circumstance
 - We will be happy to answer specific questions at the maps after the formal meeting
- PLEASE don't repeat statements that have been made previously – comment forms are for that purpose
- Give people from all parts of the SRT a chance to speak.

Ground Rules (Continued)

- Understand that we are unable to answer questions concerning school policy matters that are outside the scope of this study
- We will probably be unable to provide immediate answers to detailed questions without being able to access the data
 - Answers to some of these questions we can't answer tonight may be posted to the APS web site
- The moderator will enforce these ground rules

Thank you for participating!

To correspond with the consultant team about this study via e-mail, please send your comments to:

apsdemographicstudy@blagroup.com