

OAKDALE HIGH SCHOOL REDISTRICTING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated 11-25-09

This FAQ has been reorganized by category for easier access to answers.
It also includes 4 new questions, indicated in green.

Quick Glossary

Assigned — refers to the school the student is designated to attend according to the redistricting plan

Current — refers to the school to which the student was assigned before the redistricting went into effect

Double busing — a situation in which a neighborhood is served by buses transporting students to two schools at the same level; typically occurs at the high school level and for a limited time

Feeder pattern — a high school and those elementary and middle schools whose students will ultimately attend (feed into) that high school

Out-of-district transfer — enrollment at a school outside the attendance area to which a student is assigned

GENERAL

1. [When will the redistricting be implemented?](#)
The new attendance areas and feeder patterns will go into effect August 2010 and be phased in to full implementation over the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years.
2. [How do I find out which school my child will attend in 2010-11?](#)
You will find attendance boundary maps online at www.fcps.org/ohsredistricting and at the schools affected by the redistricting. If you have questions, contact your child's school directly or, for a limited time, email ohsredistricting@fcps.org.
3. [If my child is being assigned to a new school, do I have to contact the new school to register my child?](#)
No, you will not have to register your child at the new school. Your current school will transfer all records at the end of the 2009-2010 school year to your new school.

OUT OF DISTRICT

4. [What if I want my child to attend a school to which he or she is not assigned?](#)
You must apply for an out-of-district transfer and meet criteria to be approved. See below.
5. [How can I ask to keep my child in their current school?](#)
You must apply for an out-of-district transfer and meet criteria to be approved. See below.
6. [If my children are assigned to two different high schools, can I choose one school for both to attend? Will bus transportation be provided for both?](#)
You must apply for an out-of-district transfer in accordance with [Reg. 400-15](#) (see #7 below). If your request meets criteria and is granted, bus transportation will be provided only if your neighborhood is served by double busing and only for the phase-in period (2010-11 and 2011-12). Otherwise, parents must provide transportation to and from school.

7. [How do I request an out-of-district transfer?](#)

Applications, which are available at all schools, must be submitted to the FCPS Office of Student Services anytime before the February 1, 2010 deadline for the 2010-11 school year. Applications received after February 1 will be wait-listed. Student Services will begin processing applications on December 1, 2009 and notify families of decisions by mail; this takes several weeks.

Student Services will evaluate out-of-district transfer requests for any school that is under 100% of state-rated capacity, in accordance with [Reg. 400-15](#). The exception is Oakdale HS, which will be closed to out-of-district transfers for the 2010-11 school year; see [Reg. 400-78](#).

Out-of-district students must reapply for a transfer when they move to the next level of schooling (i.e., from elementary to middle school, or middle to high school) or when the reason for the transfer changes. For more information about out-of-district transfers, see [Reg. 400-15](#).

ELEMENTARY

8. [Will 5th graders be allowed to stay at their current schools to finish their elementary school education?](#)

5th graders have a choice to complete their elementary school careers at their current school with parents providing transportation, or move to their newly assigned school with FCPS providing bus transportation. If they choose to remain at their current school, siblings may also remain for one year, with parent transportation.

9. [On the redistricting maps, what is the meaning of the blue stripes over the Ijamsville/Mussetter road neighborhoods?](#)

Elementary students in this area are slated to be redistricted to Oakdale ES. However, the Oakdale ES addition needed to accommodate more students is not scheduled for completion until August 2011. For that reason, students living in these neighborhoods will remain at Centerville ES in 2010-11, and then move to Oakdale ES the following school year. Note: This delay does *not* affect middle and high school students living in this area; they will move to Oakdale MS and Oakdale HS in August 2010.

SECONDARY

10. [Will all freshmen and sophomores being redistricted in the fall of 2010 have to attend the new school as assigned or can they apply to stay at their current school?](#)

All freshman and sophomore students being redistricted should attend their new school as assigned. This allows us to properly build the new student population at Oakdale HS while making necessary adjustments at other high schools.

11. [What is the significance of the red stripes over the Lynn Burke/Ed McClain/Bartholows Road vicinity?](#)

Rising juniors and seniors who live in that region will continue to be assigned to Urbana HS for 2010-11 and 2011-12. To attend another high school, they must request an out-of-district transfer and meet the requirements outlined in the regulation. A student from this redistricted area who requests and is granted an out-of-district transfer to *Linganore* HS will have the benefit of bus transportation in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, since FCPS will be busing freshmen and sophomores from that area to *Linganore* anyway. If the out-of-district request is for any high school *other than* *Linganore*, the student would have to provide transportation.

12. [Will 8th graders be allowed to stay at their current schools to finish their middle school education?](#)

8th graders have a choice to complete their middle school careers at their current school with parents providing transportation, or move to their newly assigned school with FCPS providing bus transportation. If they choose to remain at their current school, siblings may also remain for one year, with parent transportation.

13. [I heard that enrollment at the high schools in the redistricting area will be reduced. How will this affect the classes offered at the schools and the athletic classification?](#)

Beyond the courses required for graduation (English, Algebra, etc.), availability of course offerings is driven by student choice, certificated teacher availability and facility/resource capacity. This is true at all Frederick County high schools. As a school's enrollment decreases, fewer students may choose a particular course. As a result, the school may offer it less frequently, such as in alternate years. All high schools will offer Advanced Placement courses, although enrollment decreases could affect the number

of options. Staff will work closely with students to maximize their academic opportunities. As always, a student whose assigned school doesn't offer a desired program can apply for an out-of-district transfer to attend a different county high school. Another option is to take an equivalent course at Frederick Community College for dual credit.

Enrollment fluctuations also affect a school's athletic conference classification, for instance a school where the enrollment declines from 1,600 students to 1,300 students will play against similar sized schools.

OAKDALE HS

14. Will Oakdale HS open with all four grades?

No. Although, it will have a capacity to serve 1,600 students, Oakdale HS will open with only 9th and 10th grades. This will allow the juniors and seniors to complete their high school education at their current schools. Bus service will be provided for both freshmen and sophomores assigned to the new Oakdale HS and for juniors and seniors remaining at their current school. The phased opening, which has worked successfully in the past, will result in "double busing" in some neighborhoods for a period of two school years.

15. Since Oakdale HS is opening with 9th and 10th grades only, will it offer varsity-level sport teams, a band program and other extracurricular activities?

We have successfully opened Urbana HS and Tuscarora HS with both JV and varsity athletic teams, allowing the school community and coaches to make decisions in the best interest of their students. That will hold true for Oakdale HS, too. However, there are sports where the physical differences (e.g., football) are too great, and a JV team is more appropriate for fair play and student safety. Please know that FCPS regulations do not allow out-of-district transfers for athletic purposes.

Oakdale HS will offer extracurricular opportunities such as yearbook, band, theater, etc. Participation will be driven by student choice. For example, the Oakdale HS band may start with a membership of 20 or 100, which in turn would determine the competition class.

SPECIAL NEEDS

16. What accommodations will be made for children with special needs?

The new attendance area boundaries apply to all students. However, your child's IEP team will carefully manage the transition process and be responsible for ensuring his or her individual educational program needs are met in an appropriate setting. Because change can be difficult for a special needs student, the team will also work on socialization and adaptability skills. In those unique cases where the home school cannot meet the student's needs, a regional placement may be necessary, and transportation is provided. Work closely with your child's current case manager, who is responsible for scheduling transition meetings to prepare for the next school or grade level. In addition, you can always contact principals directly with your concerns.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

17. When will bus assignments be made?

The Transportation Department will announce bus assignment decisions in mid-August 2010. This information will include bus stop locations and times. Ride times and distances will be designed to be in compliance with [Policy 441](#).

SIBLINGS ATTENDING DIFFERENT SCHOOLS

18. Can younger siblings of students in grades 5 and 8 as of August 2010 remain with their sibling at that school rather than attend a new school per the redistricting?

Yes, siblings may remain for one year as long as parents provide transportation to and from school. An out-of-district request must be submitted and granted. When the older sibling leaves the school, the younger sibling must attend the assigned school.

If you have additional questions, please contact your child's current school.