

**Please read regarding impacts of incorporating updating housing data in scenario testing for SY 2018-19 redistricting:**

It has come to the attention of the Office of School Planning that polygon-level enrollment projections used in scenario testing during the current scenario testing cycle did not include the most up-to-date information on projected housing. This is important because the housing projection (obtained each fall from Howard County Dept. of Planning and Zoning) is used to derive polygon-level enrollment projections from the school-level projections produced annually by OSP. Once this was discovered, OSP analyzed the data provided by DPZ and the numbers shown in the scenario testing tool, confirming that the software failed to update its housing unit information using the new data from DPZ. Since housing development projections are updated from year to year based on DPZ's development tracking process, the calculation to produce polygon-level projections yielded incorrect results for most polygons.

Once OSP verified the data obtained from DPZ, the scenario testing system was re-compiled, ensuring the correct housing projection was incorporated. Here's what was observed:

- The overall school-level projections presented in the Feasibility Study used the correct data.
- 55% of the 700 planning polygons had no change after using the updated housing projection
- 84% of our 700 planning polygons had differences +/- 5 or less projected students
- 9% (65 out of 700 polygons) had a difference greater than +/- 10
- The sum of each school's polygon projections in the scenario testing system matched the school-level enrollment projections from the Feasibility Study. The setup program has a mechanism to ensure this is the case by making small adjustments to some polygon projections as needed.
- None of the demographic (FARMs, testing, ESOL, Race) calculations were impacted

OSP evaluated the potential impact of these revised polygon projections on the redistricting plan recommended in the Feasibility Study. None of the revised projections are significant enough to warrant changes to this recommendation. Within the five year planning window, five schools that appeared within target utilization (90% - 110%) would be over target with the revised projections. A review of the proposal focused on these schools yielded no recommended adjustments to the proposed redistricting plan. OSP staff will be providing this same information to the Attendance Area Committee regarding their proposal, and will facilitate a discussion on revisions to their plan, if so desired. Our analysis indicates the revised data has less of an impact on the AAC proposal than the Feasibility Study plan, in terms of schools staying within target utilization through five years.

While neither plan is significantly impacted by incorporating the revised data, staff is preparing to transition away from our outdated software for scenario testing in the coming weeks. We have also started discussions with a School Planning and Demographics consultant regarding a review of our redistricting process and the data used to inform recommendations.