



MEMORANDUM

To: DCSD Board of Education
From: Shannon Bingham, Western Demographics (WDI), SCBA Consultant
Re: School Capacity and Boundary Analysis (SCBA) Boundary Scenarios for 2022-23 School Year – Areas 7B, 14B, and 65
Date: February 22, 2022

Introduction - The Douglas County School District (DCSD) Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) and staff have addressed school boundary challenges in the district as part of the School Capacity and Boundary Analysis (SCBA) process. On Dec 14, 2021, the Board authorized the LRPC and staff to conduct virtual outreach regarding three (3) scenarios proposed for the 2022-23 school year. This memo is to inform the Board regarding the District's outreach and findings. The LRPC, Western Demographics, Inc. (WDI), and staff conducted reviews of the urgent scenarios, affected schools, and completed remote community outreach with principals, staff, and the community to seek feedback on the school attendance boundary changes needed in August 2022. The three (3) boundary scenarios evaluated for the 2022-2023 school year are:

- Scenario 7B: Sage Canyon (SGCE) and Flagstone Elementaries (FSE) to Rock Ridge Elementary (RRE).
- Scenario 14B: Northridge Elementary (NRE) to Sand Creek Elementary(SCE) (Mapping Change and No Students Impacted for Non-Residential Area).
- Scenario 65: Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) to Northridge Elementary (NRE) (Mapping Change and No Students Impacted).

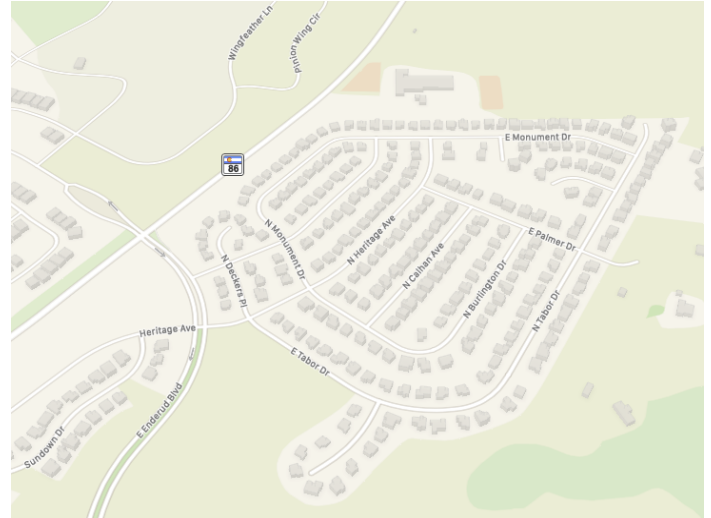
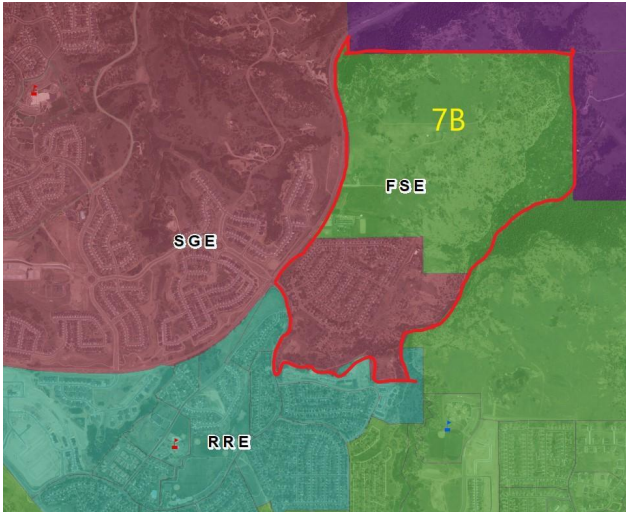
Scenario 7B affects approximately thirty-two (32) elementary students. The proposed change affects an established neighborhood with students currently enrolled in SGCE, FSE, and RRE. This change included a stakeholder process that had four (4) virtual meetings. These meetings included one (1) meeting for School Principals and the Executive Director of Schools for the Castle Rock Region, one (1) meeting for all three schools' staff, and two (2) meetings with the community. The meetings were facilitated by WDI and included fifty-six (56) participants over all four (4) meetings. Survey results indicated very little opposition to the proposed change and those results are in Appendix I: WDI 7B Survey Results that is included in this board packet as a separate attachment.

Scenarios 14B and 65 are map changes that do not have an impact on residents or students. Principals and the Executive Director of Schools for the Mountain Vista feeder were consulted and did not express any concerns. All three (3) of these proposed changes are essentially unopposed.

LRPC and staff recommended that the district move forward with these three (3) boundary changes effective for the 2022-23 school year.

Scenario 7B SGCE/FSE to RRE- The LRPC and staff have proposed boundary changes in order to balance enrollment and address transportation challenges among SGE, FSE, and RRE. Scenario 7B has been on the urgent scenarios list since being briefed to the Board in April and May of 2020. This change has also been requested by the SGCE and RRE Principals. One subdivision and several adjacent properties have been proposed for eventual re-assignment from SCGE and FSE to RRE. The Villages at Castle Rock, Founders Village Filing #9 is the largest subdivision affected as shown in the associated map and is currently assigned to SGCE. The homes affected by this proposal are more proximate to RRE and are mostly in the walking zone. The area north of this subdivision is currently assigned to FSE and is on Hidden Mesa, thus isolated by Mitchell Creek Canyon from the rest of the FSE attendance area. The proposed change moves the area to RRE and creates continuity with the RRE attendance feeder. No secondary feeder (Mesa Middle School or Douglas County High School) is affected by this change.

Community Feedback - In the outreach to the community two (2) concerns were identified that would constitute a theme. The first was the traffic on Enderud, which is discussed further (see Traffic Issues). The other concern Parents/Guardians (2 families) expressed was with the level of certainty that their children would be able to attend SGCE under the Legacy Enrollment process beyond the 2022-23 school year. The concern was that their children, while given priority enrollment through the open enrollment process, would still find themselves in a situation where there would not be enough room for their children to remain if seats are not available. Staff advised the community that they would personally walk these families through the process as has been the precedent in prior boundary changes in order to ease their concerns and to work through issues to help identify and achieve an outcome that is in the best interest of their family.

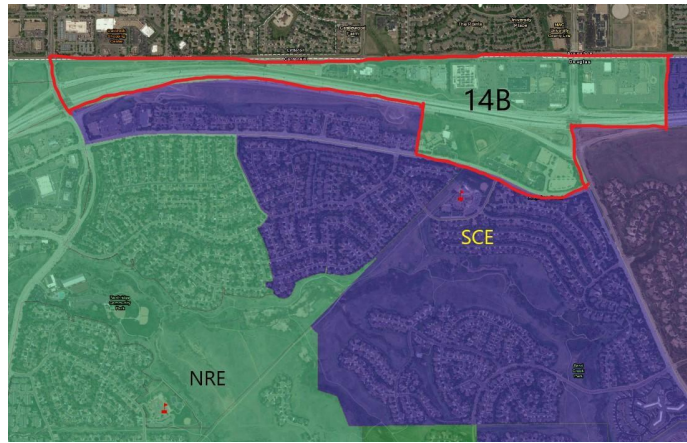


Traffic Issues - Traffic volume on Hwy. 86 has increased at Hwy 86 / Enderud Blvd. The Enderud / High Point and Hwy. 86 traffic volume is currently estimated at 9,000 trips per day. Parent vehicles and buses currently pass through this intersection and the proposed change would eliminate the need for crossing Hwy. 86. Under the proposed change, students would either continue to ride with parents in vehicles to school or would walk along uninterrupted sidewalks, crossing the Enderud & Heritage intersection, which has a traffic volume of 3,000 trips per day. This intersection has a pedestrian-activated signal and a marked crosswalk. During the outreach process, staff contacted the City of Castle Rock Traffic and collected data regarding these intersections. There are no plans to install speed bumps because of the classification of the road. There are other pedestrian crossings along Enderud as it arcs westerly. Town staff indicated that speed enforcement and signage improvements are an option to ensure the safety of this intersection. The Town stated that it is willing to assist in both programming of beacons, installation of school crossing signs, and increased patrols if this change is implemented.

Transportation Issues – The number of students on the bus for this area is minimal. On average there is one (1) rider in the morning and five (5) in the afternoon. Driving distances for area 7B are shorter to RRE than SGCE/FSE. This change would not eliminate a route, however it would optimize transportation routes in Castle Rock.

Budget Issues – The Legacy Open Enrollment process allows impacted families to receive priority open enrollment through the intent to remain process. The budget implication of this change is minimal and poses no financial challenge to either FSE or SGCE.

Scenario 14B NRE to SCE– 14B is an extension of the NRE attendance area that extends easterly along the top of the SCE attendance area. This area is between County Line Road and C-470. The area is an oddity in the mapping of the attendance areas in the Highlands Ranch area. The area is commercial, with no residential units or students and will not have residential development in the future. The proposed change would clip this area and assign it to SCE in order to obtain logical school boundaries. The Principal and Executive Director of Schools were asked about any potential impact. The leaders were supportive of changing this area to SCE as a routine clean-up of the map. There is no transportation or budget impact to this change. The LRPC was informed and recommended this change to the Board of Education at the Feb 2, 2022 meeting effective for the 2022-23 school year.



Scenario 65 BFA to NRE – Charter schools have attendance areas. Charter attendance areas are limited to the charter school's property. Scenario 65 is a small portion of the Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) attendance area that requires a minor mapping adjustment and assignment to Northridge Elementary (NRE). Over time, scenario 65, which was originally a portion of BFA's property, was sold and then developed as apartment buildings. The BFA attendance area was not adjusted in the District's mapping. The LRPC and staff contacted BFA regarding this attendance area and BFA leadership supported the proposed map change. Students in the apartment buildings already attend and are treated as if they are in the NRE / Mountain Vista feeder. This map change has no material effect on students and families, and has support from the Northridge Elementary Principal and the Executive Director of Schools. There is no effect on transportation and budget for this scenario. The LRPC recommended this change to the Board of Education on Feb 2, 2022, effective for the 2022-23 school year.



Conclusion – The LRPC and staff recommend the adoption of these changes affecting areas 7B, 14B, and 65 effective for the 2022-23 school year.