

# Attendance Zone Review DRAFT

Operations Policy 5013

## **Policy Statement**

# 1. Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to outline the process and criteria for conducting regular attendance zone reviews within the Red Clay Consolidated School District (RCCSD) in Delaware. The attendance zone review aims to ensure equitable distribution of students, efficient utilization of school facilities, and appropriate student assignments.

# 2. Scope

This policy applies to all schools within the Red Clay Consolidated School District, including elementary, middle, and high schools.

#### 3. Definitions

- a. Attendance Zone: A geographically defined area within the district that determines school assignments for students residing in that area.
- b. Attendance Zone Review: A systematic evaluation of the existing attendance zones to assess their effectiveness and make adjustments as necessary.
- c. School Capacity: The maximum number of students that a school can reasonably accommodate without negatively impacting the quality of education.
- d. *Demographic Considerations:* Factors such as student population density, socioeconomic status, racial and ethnic diversity, and other relevant demographic characteristics.

### 4. Attendance Zone Review Process

- a. *Frequency:* The attendance zone review will be conducted as determined by the Red Clay Board of Education and Superintendent.
- b. Formation of Review Committee: The Superintendent shall establish an Attendance Zone Review Committee, consisting of district administrators, school principals, teachers, parents, and community representatives. The committee shall be responsible for overseeing the attendance zone review process.
- c. *Data Collection:* The committee shall gather relevant data, including but not limited to student enrollment, demographic

information, school capacities, projected population growth, transportation logistics, and community feedback.

- d. *Analysis and Evaluation:* The committee will analyze the collected data and evaluate the current attendance zones based on established criteria (see Section 5). This analysis should identify any disparities, overcrowding, underutilization, or other concerns.
- e. *Community Engagement:* The committee shall actively seek input from parents, guardians, students, and community members through public meetings, surveys, and other appropriate means to ensure their perspectives are considered during the attendance zone review process.
- f. *Proposal Development:* Based on the analysis and community input, the committee shall develop proposals for potential adjustments to the attendance zones. These proposals should aim to address identified issues and improve equity, efficiency, and educational opportunities.
- g. *Stakeholder Review:* The proposed attendance zone adjustments shall be shared with stakeholders, including affected schools, parents, and the wider community, for their review and feedback.
- h. *Decision-Making:* The Superintendent, in consultation with the School Board, shall make the final decision regarding attendance zone adjustments. The decision should consider the recommendations of the Attendance Zone Review Committee and be based on the best interests of the students and the district as a whole.
- i. *Implementation:* Once the attendance zone adjustments are approved, the district administration shall implement the changes, including communicating the new assignments to affected families, updating school boundary maps, and making necessary adjustments to transportation routes.

# 5. Criteria for Attendance Zone Adjustments

During the attendance zone review process, the committee and decision-makers should consider the following criteria:

- a. *Enrollment Capacity:* Ensure that schools are operating within their intended capacities and avoid excessive overcrowding or underutilization.
- b. *Geographic Proximity:* Strive to assign students to schools that are reasonably close to their residences to minimize travel time and promote community connections.

Responsibility References	The Superintendent shall be responsible for compliance.  The Delaware Code relating to Neighborhood Schools.  Board Policy 1001, Philosophy  Board Policy 9001, School-Community Relations	
	e. <i>Stability:</i> Minimize disruptions to students' educational experiences by avoiding frequent or unnecessary changes to attendance zones.  f. <i>Feasibility:</i> Consider the logistical and operational feasibility of implementing proposed attendance zone adjustments, including the impact on school resources, staffing, and programs.	
	concentration of students from disadvantaged backgrounds or specific demographic groups in a single school or attendance zone.  d. <i>Transportation Efficiency:</i> Optimize transportation routes and minimize transportation costs by considering the proximity of students' homes to schools and existing transportation infrastructure.	