Pender County Schools

Student Assignment Planning
Review Potential Solutions
Thursday November 5, 2026

School CAMP | School & Community-Aligned Master Planning

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
ITRE
Institute for Transportation Research and Education

Agenda

- Project overview & goals
- Priorities & values
- Draft school boundary scenarios
- Advisory Committee questions & feedback
- Next steps

Pender County Vision and Mission

Vision

Empowering each student to discover and pursue their path to success.

Mission

Pender County Schools provides learning experiences that equip every student to achieve their potential and enrich their community.

Planning for schools & community conversations should always reflect these commitments.

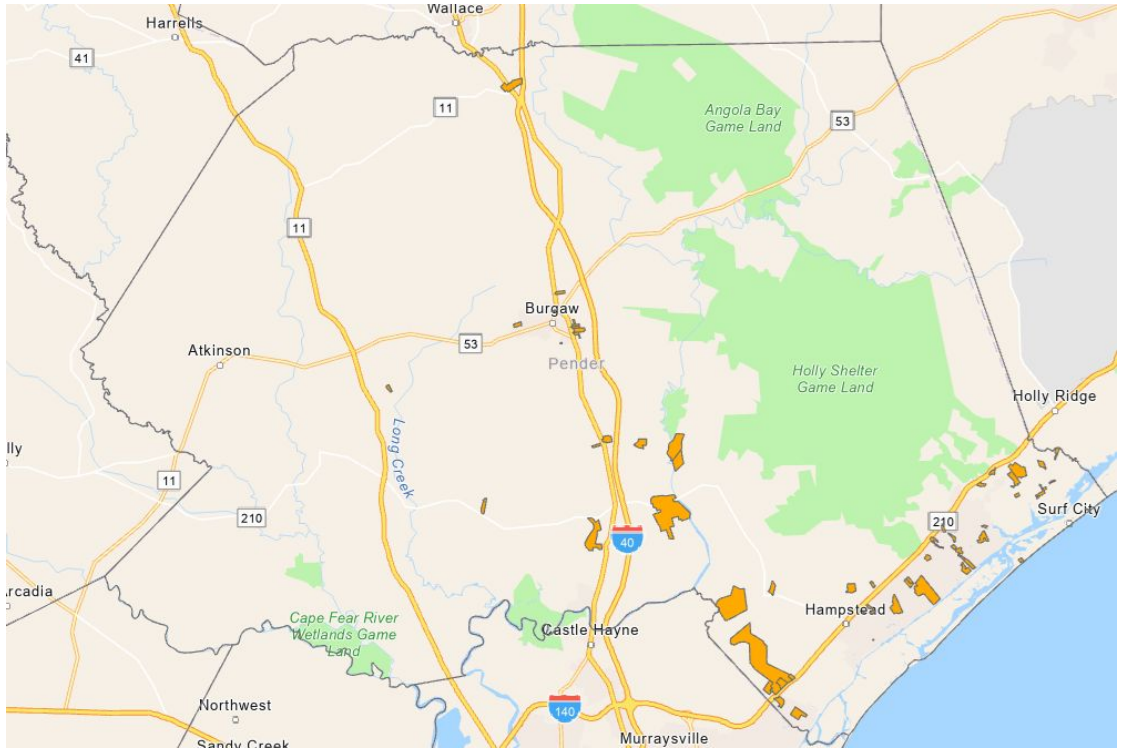
Keeping the focus on what's best for kids

- Safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environments
- Access to high-quality instruction and student supports
- Reasonable class sizes
- A strong sense of belonging and continuity

PCS Project Timeline

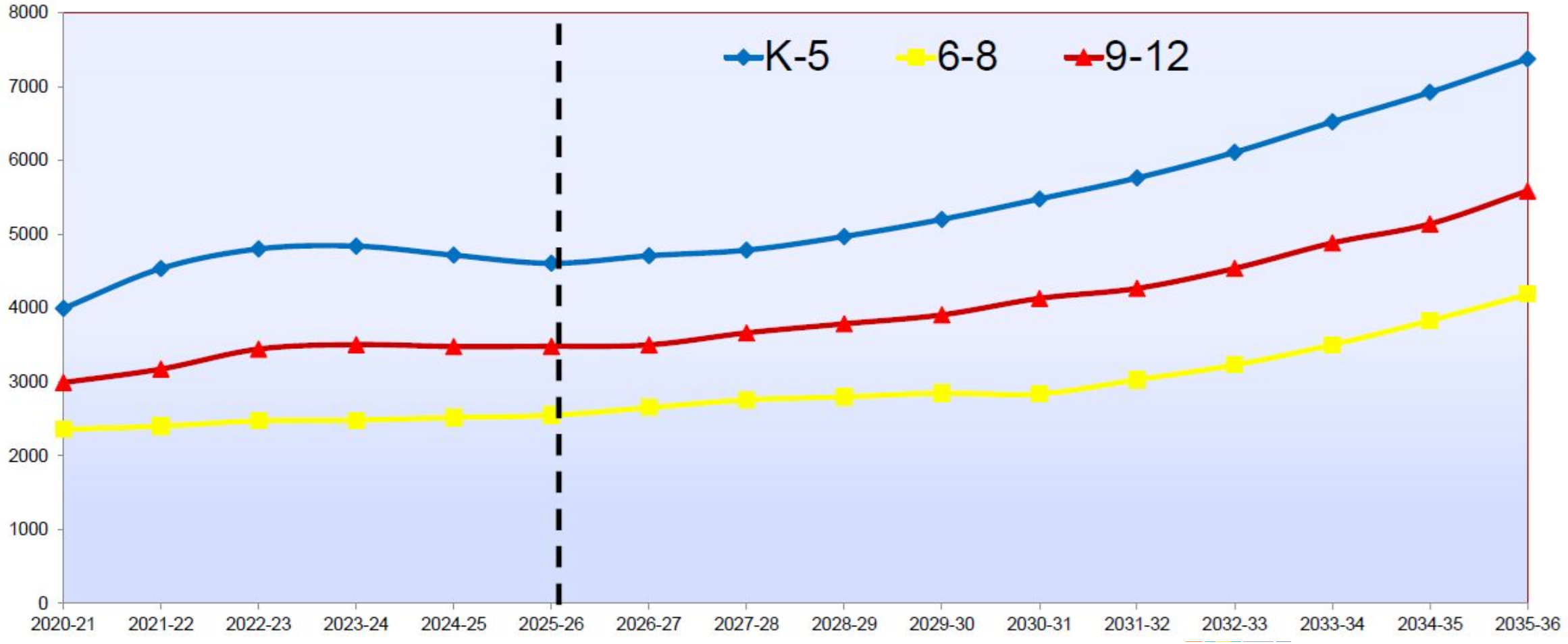
10-Year Enrollment	***Complete***
Out of Capacity Table	***Complete***
PCS Priorities & Values	***Complete***
Boundary Scenarios Drafts	***Complete***
PCS Scenario Review	November/December 2026
Final Scenario Selection	January 2027
Implementation	SY27-28

Membership Forecast: Development Inventory



- Steady growth across Pender County
- Approximately **63** residential developments currently pending
- Over **12,700** additional dwelling units
- **Expect continued growth**

Membership Forecast



	Grades	Capacities	PreK	M-1 ADM	Forecasted Month-2 Average Daily Membership									
	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36
Elementary														
C.F. Pope Elementary	PK-5	683	49	**462**	471	486	495	512	536	568	588	614	631	653
Cape Fear Elementary	PK-5	676	39	**540**	509	507	505	510	520	538	537	553	560	574
North Topsail Elementary	K-5	511		**537**	554	562	602	651	681	713	738	764	801	835
Malpass Corner Elementary	K-5	667	48	**478**	488	489	493	511	516	517	515	513	515	517
Penderlea Elementary	K-8	565		**485**	473	471	461	479	486	501	516	556	588	606
Rocky Point Elementary	PK-5	484	35	**390**	393	393	407	434	469	541	646	753	868	999
Topsail Annandale Elementary	K-4	506		**572**	574	597	614	666	682	720	798	861	911	1004
South Topsail Elementary	PK-5	512	44	**613**	663	700	743	771	813	876	942	1044	1143	1237
Surf City Elementary	PK-5	750	41	**838**	869	890	918	972	1020	1046	1077	1110	1140	1171
SubTotal		5354	256	**4915**	4993	5095	5237	5505	5723	6021	6356	6767	7157	7597
Middle														
Burgaw Middle	6-8	322		**232**	237	224	225	227	230	216	230	253	281	295
Cape Fear Middle	6-8	691		**417**	464	477	480	472	494	519	560	628	731	845
Topsail Middle	5-8	745		**845**	884	870	921	967	1023	1136	1173	1280	1444	1644
West Pender Middle	6-8	307		**201**	218	239	242	237	227	227	244	257	260	262
Surf City Middle	6-8	750		**782**	808	880	905	884	863	918	1019	1086	1122	1163
SubTotal		2815		**2477**	2611	2690	2774	2787	2836	3015	3227	3503	3838	4209
High														
Heide Trask High	9-12	815		**713**	687	709	703	749	780	842	919	1020	1120	1249
Pender High	9-12	795		**609**	596	612	663	655	672	676	669	680	676	715
Topsail High	9-12	1400		**1949**	1990	2104	2198	2270	2435	2510	2703	2928	3096	3359
SubTotal		3010		**3271**	3274	3425	3564	3674	3887	4028	4290	4628	4891	5323
Special/Alternative														
Pender Early College High	9-13	250		**194**	206	218	202	212	223	217	225	232	227	243
Pender Innovative Learning Acade	1-12	175		**35**	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
System Total (excluding Spec/Alt)		**11179**	**256**	**10663**	**10878**	**11210**	**11575**	**11966**	**12446**	**13064**	**13873**	**14898**	**15887**	**17129**
System Total (including Spec/Alt)		**11604**	**256**	**10892**	**11119**	**11463**	**11811**	**12214**	**12704**	**13316**	**14134**	**15165**	**16149**	**17407**

Utilization Legend

< 90%	90% - 100%	100% - 110%	> 110%

November 12, 2025

Forecast generated by OREd

PCS Community Engagement Timeline

Stakeholder Group	Activity	Timeline
Board of Education	Kickoff Presentation (in person)	***Completed***
Board of Education	Priorities Assessment (digital)	***Completed***
Public Information Officer	*Become part of SchoolCAMP x PCS planning team; develop regular cadence of public communication and information access*	***Completed***
Advisory Committee	Invitation & group formation	***Completed***
Advisory Committee	First meeting (review challenges to address / community engagement plan)	***Completed***
School Leadership	First meeting to provide shared understanding of the challenges to address / plan moving forward with primary and secondary principals	***Completed***
Broader Community	Priorities Assessment (digital)	***Completed***
Broader Community	First public information session about approach / challenges to address	***Completed***

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PCS Community Engagement Timeline

Stakeholder Group	Activity	Timeline
Board of Education	Update on community engagement information	***Completed***
Advisory Committee	Second meeting (review potential solutions)	November 5, 2026
School Leadership	Second meeting (review potential solutions)	November 13, 2026
Broader Community	Second meeting (review potential solutions)	November 17, 2026
Board of Education	Initial solutions review	December 1, 2026
Board of Education	Final solutions presentation	January 5, 2027
Final report	Community engagement process / outcomes included as part of final report	January 2027

Priorities & Values

Community Engagement

- Priorities & Values
  - Advisory committee meeting (57 participants)
  - Principals meeting (19 participants)
  - Community meeting (about 50 participants in person, 343 online)
  - Community assessment (1,224 participants)
  - Board assessment

PCS Shared Challenges

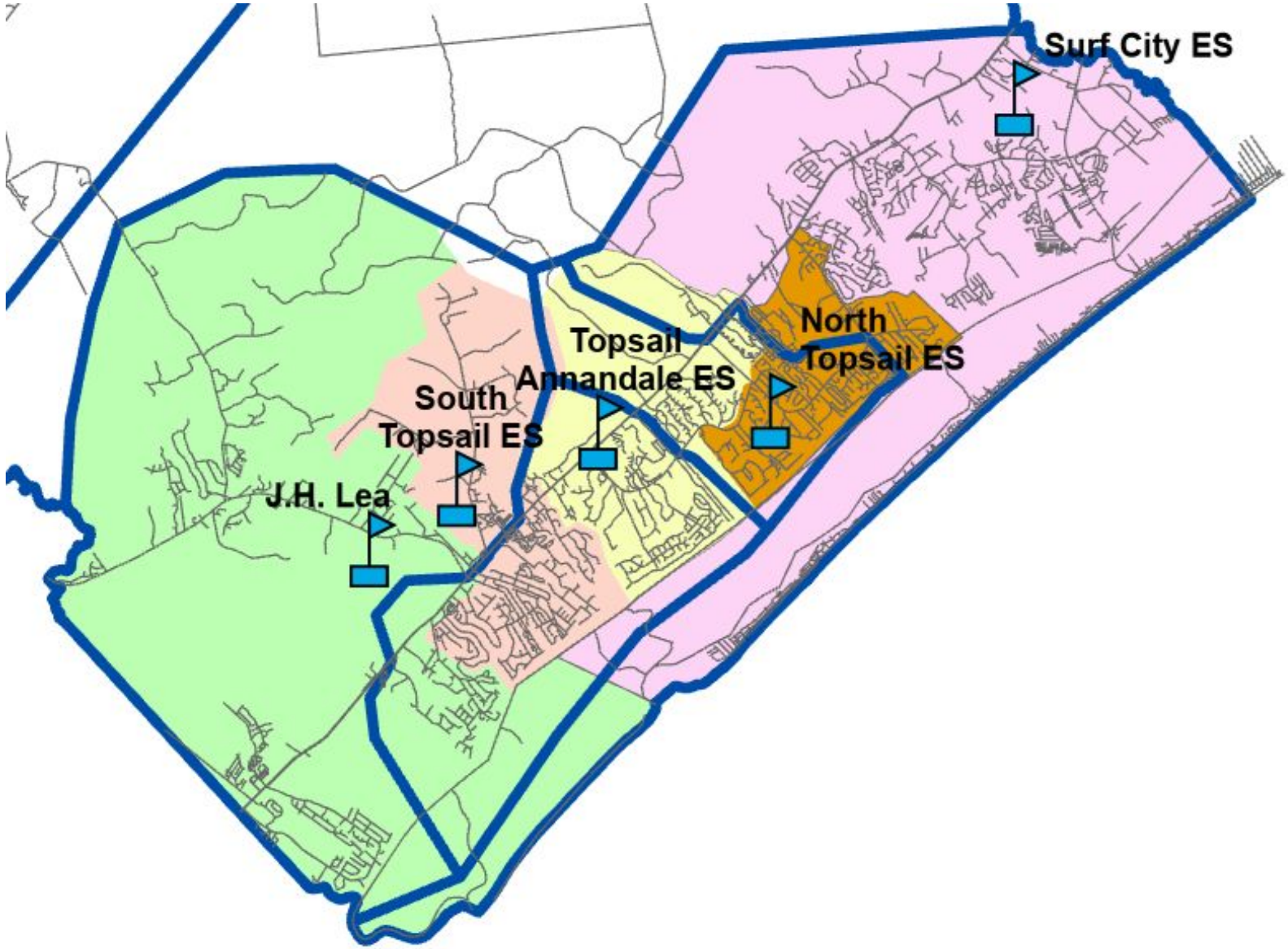
- **Overcrowded school buildings (Shared)**
- **School buildings meeting safety codes (Shared)**
- **Retaining highly effective employees (Shared)**
- Cost of maintaining aging buildings (Board)
- Unequal access to specialty programs (Board)
- Student populations have shifted, but boundaries have not (Community)

PCS Shared Priorities & Values

- **Educational excellence (Shared)**
- **Student-centered focus (Shared)**
- **Long-term planning (Shared)**
- Fiscal responsibility (Board)
- Collaboration between schools and county leadership (Board)
- High quality school meal service (Board)
- School safety (Community)
- Well-balanced student populations (Community)

Draft Boundary Scenarios

Elementary Scenario 1 - DRAFT



Legend

Current Elementary Boundaries

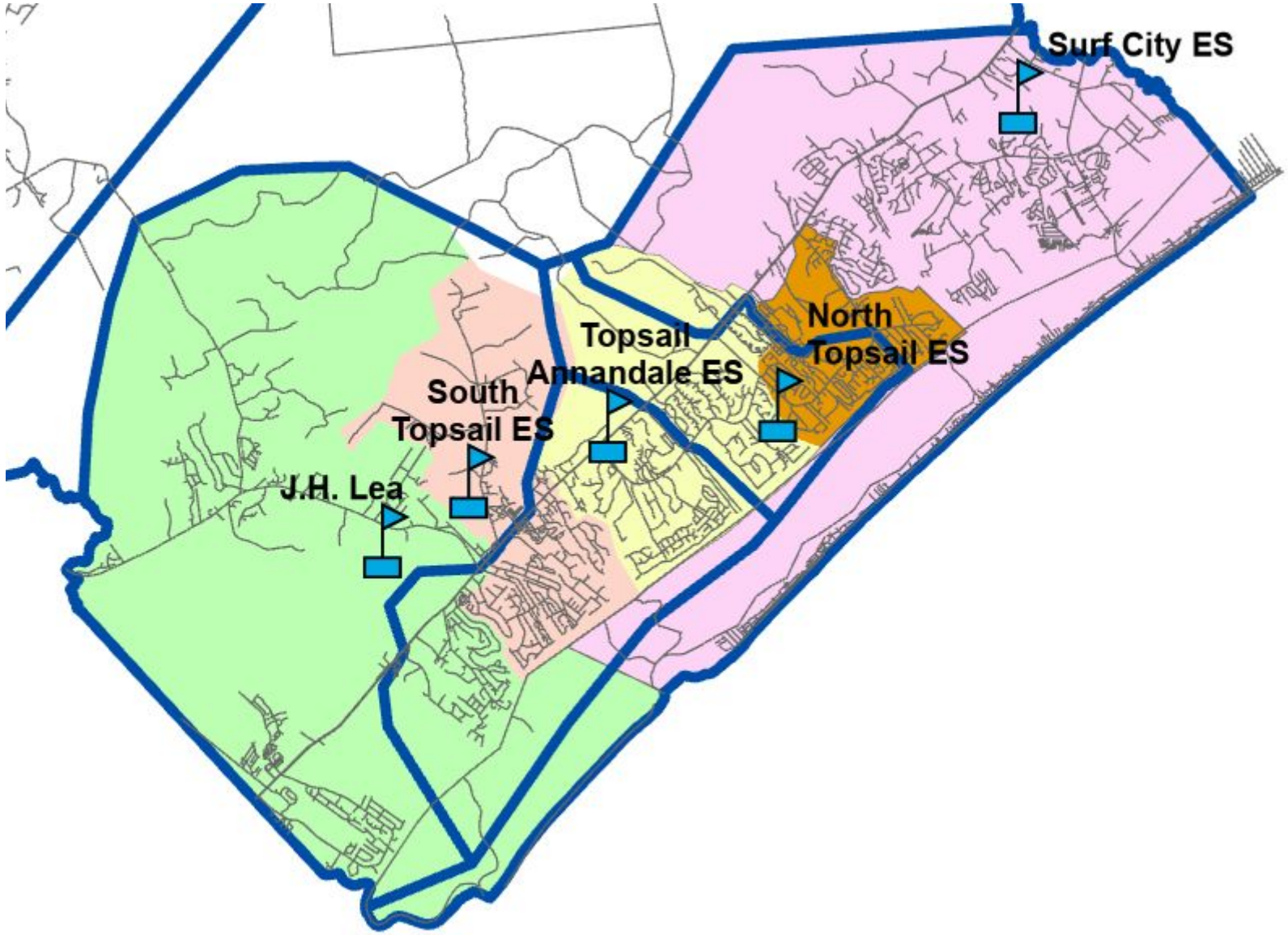
Proposed Elementary Scenario 1

- J.H. Lea ES
- North Topsail ES
- Surf City ES
- South Topsail ES
- Topsail Annandale ES

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Elementary Scenario 2 - DRAFT



Legend

- Current Elementary Boundaries

Proposed Elementary Scenario 2

- J.H. Lea ES
- North Topsail ES
- Surf City ES
- South Topsail ES
- Topsail Annandale ES

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Elementary Summary Tables

Elementary Scenario 1

Name	*Building Capacity*	*Students*	*Utilization*
North Topsail	511	516	101.0%
Topsail Annandale	506	380	75.1%
South Topsail	512	509	99.4%
Surf City	750	657	87.6%
J.H. Lea	800	546	68.3%

Elementary Scenario 2

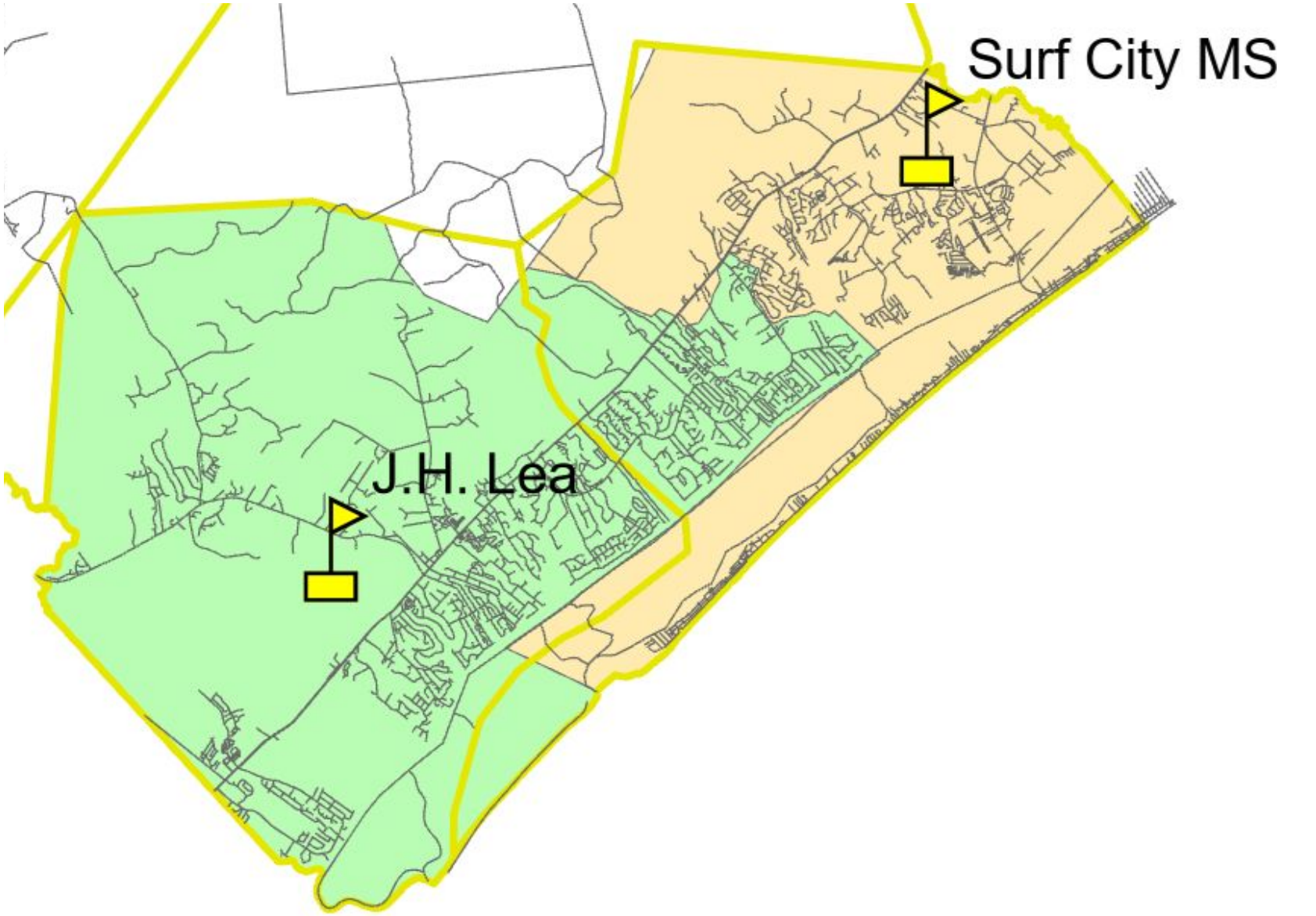
Name	*Building Capacity*	*Students*	*Utilization*
North Topsail	511	448	87.7%
Topsail Annandale	506	448	88.5%
South Topsail	512	458	89.5%
Surf City	750	657	87.6%
J.H. Lea	800	597	74.6%

$$\text{Utilization} = \frac{\text{Students}}{\text{Building Capacity}}$$

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Middle School Scenario 1 - DRAFT



Legend

Current Middle School Boundaries

Proposed Middle Scenario 1

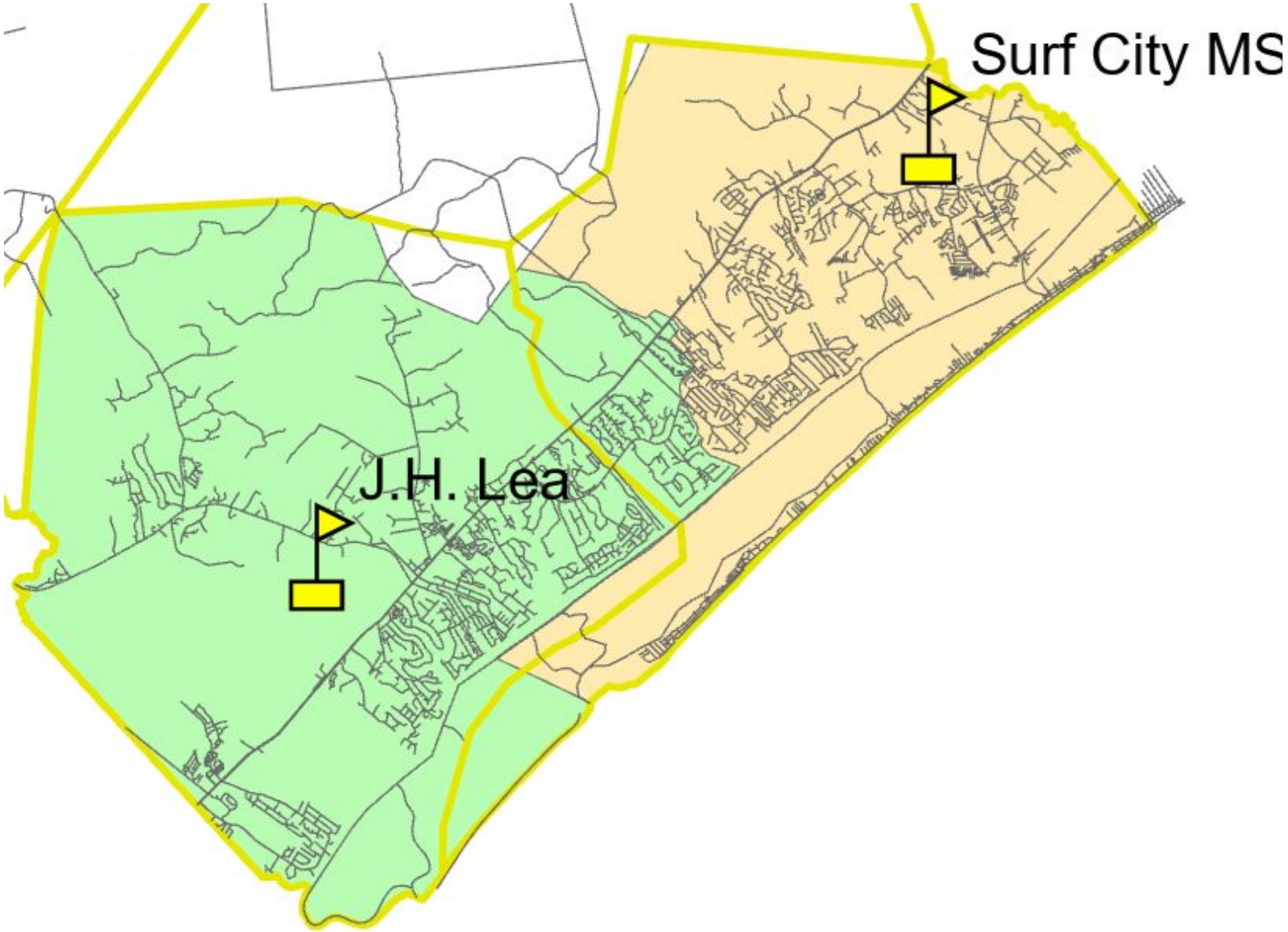
J.H. Lea

Surf City

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Middle School Scenario 2 - DRAFT



Legend

Current Middle School Boundaries

Proposed Middle Scenario 2

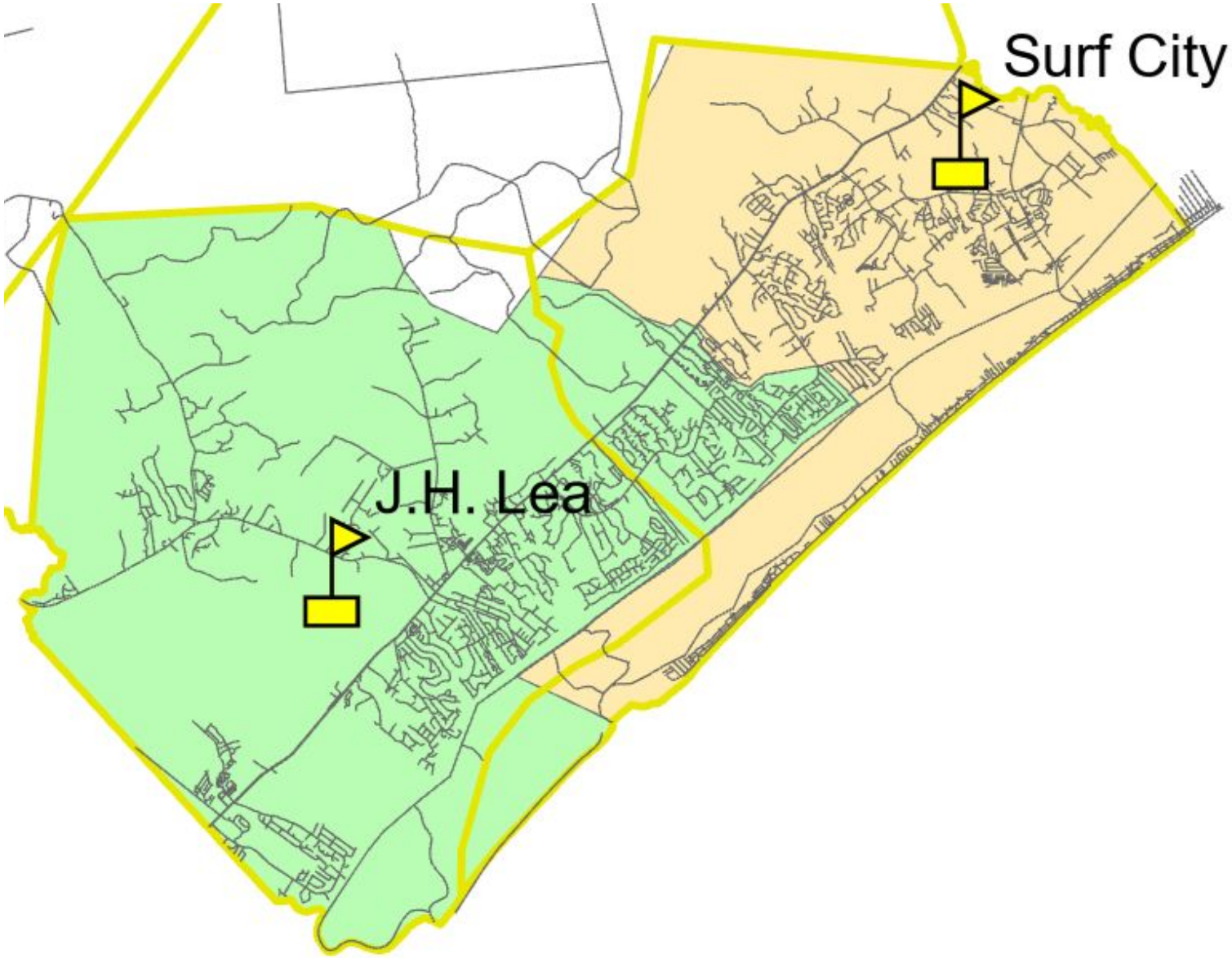
J.H. Lea

Surf City

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Middle School Scenario 3 - DRAFT



Legend

Current Middle School Boundaries

Proposed Middle Scenario 3

J.H. Lea

Surf City

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Middle School Summary Tables

Middle School Scenario 1

Name	*Building Capacity*	*Students*	*Utilization*
Surf City MS	750	388	51.7%
J.H. Lea (6-8)	1513	1127	74.5%

$$\text{Utilization} = \frac{\text{Students}}{\text{Building Capacity}}$$

Middle School Scenario 2

Name	*Building Capacity*	*Students*	*Utilization*
Surf City MS	750	660	88.0%
J.H. Lea (6-8)	1513	855	56.5%

Middle School Scenario 3

Name	*Building Capacity*	*Students*	*Utilization*
Surf City MS	750	465	62.0%
J.H. Lea (6-8)	1513	1050	69.4%

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Scenario Benefits Matrix

Name	Balances Utilization	Clean Feeder Patterns	Students Reassigned
Elementary Scenario 1	Yes	Yes, with MS Scenario 1	1,200
Elementary Scenario 2	Yes	Yes, with MS Scenario 1 or 2	1,267
Name	**Balances Utilization**	**Clean Feeder Patterns**	**Students Reassigned**
Middle Scenario 1	Well	Yes, with Elementary Scenario 1 or 2	1,125*
Middle Scenario 2	Well	Yes, with Elementary Scenario 2	850*
Middle Scenario 3	Best	No, (Splits North Topsail ES)	775*

**Student count includes middle school students reassigned from Topsail MS to J.H. Lea*

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Advisory Committee Discussion

Questions / Feedback

1. What immediate questions do you have about the draft scenarios?
2. What questions do you have for the project / administrative team as we shift into draft solutions review?
3. How should draft scenarios be shared with the PCS community and broader public?
    i. *Review Google Form questions*
4. Is there anything else you'd like to share / want to know?

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Incorporate advisory committee feedback into the process
- Share draft scenarios with the community
- Gather draft scenario feedback
- Bring draft scenarios & feedback to the board
- Revise draft scenarios
- Present final draft scenarios for board vote

Upcoming Dates *(subject to change)*

Stakeholder Group	Activity	Location	Timeline
Broader Community	Community Priorities Assessment	*Digital*	Sept 7 - 18, 2026
Broader Community	Open Community Engagement Session	Topsail HS	Sept 29, 2026 6 pm
Board of Education	Community Engagement Update	Dr. Katherine Herring Resource Center	Oct 6, 2026 6 pm
	SchoolCAMP applies priorities from board, school leaders, advisory committee, broader community to first draft of school assignment planning		Oct 2026
Advisory Committee	Second meeting (review potential solutions)	Topsail HS	Nov 5, 2026 5 pm
School Leadership	Second meeting (review potential solutions)	Virtual	Nov 13, 2026
Broader Community	Second meeting (review potential solutions)	Topsail HS	Nov 17, 2026 6 pm
Board of Education	Review potential solutions	Dr. Katherine Herring Resource Center	Dec 1, 2026 6 pm
	SchoolCAMP adjusts solutions based on board, school leaders, advisory committee, broader community feedback.		Dec 2026
Board of Education	Final solutions presentation	Dr. Katherine Herring Resource Center	Jan 5, 2027 6 pm



Redistricting - Pender County Schools

https://www.pender.k12.nc.us/page/redistricting

SchoolCAMP

Contact Information

School Planning, Capacities, Utilization	**Mathew Palmer** **Kristen Brookshire** **Donna Bell**	wmpalme2@ncsu.edu khbrooks@ncsu.edu dmbell4@ncsu.edu
Student Enrollment Projections	**Thomas Dudley** **Brian Godfrey**	tedudley@ncsu.edu bsgodfre@ncsu.edu
Transportation Information Management System (TIMS)	**Kevin Hart**	kevin_hart@ncsu.edu
Systems Planning, Community Engagement, Surveys & Research, Policy	**Linden Thayer, PhD** **Parker Darden**	lmthaye2@ncsu.edu pmdarde2@ncsu.edu
Elected Official Engagement and Academic Programming	**Sonja Parks, EdD** **Matt Sears**	slparks2@ncsu.edu mmsears@ncsu.edu
ITRE School Planning and Transportation: https://itre.ncsu.edu/focus/school-planning/		
SchoolCAMP: https://itre.ncsu.edu/schoolcamp/		