



# Worcester School Boundary & Quadrant Alignment: Community Forum #1 South High School

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Dillinger Research and Applied Data

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# Dillinger

RESEARCH AND  
APPLIED DATA

**Who are we?** DillingerRAD is a non-profit group from Connecticut. We help schools and state education groups with hard problems. We use data to make sure our solutions are fair, lasting, and support the community.

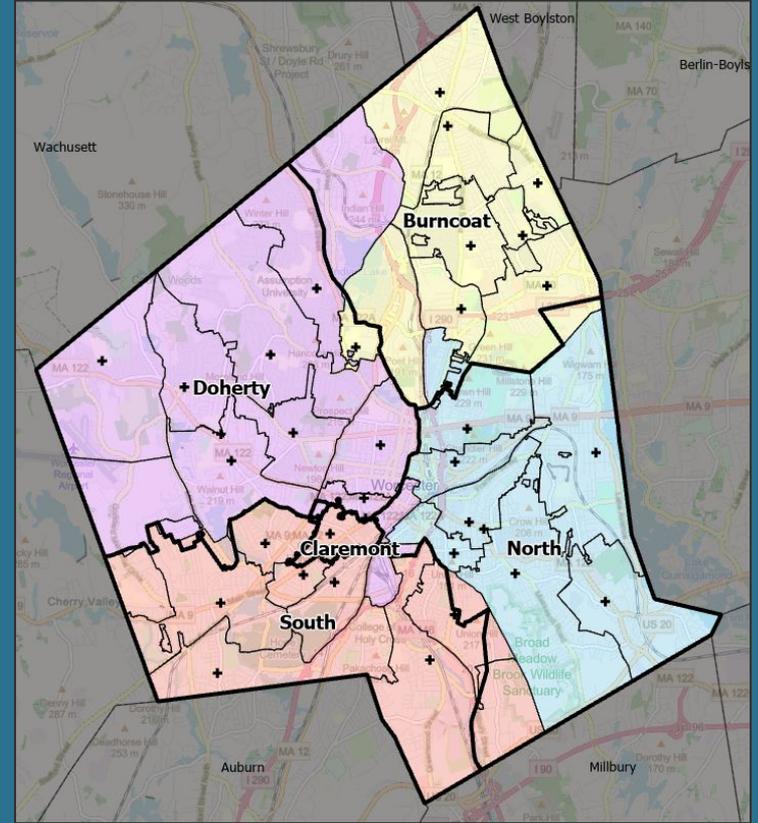
**Why are we here?** To help Worcester Public Schools realign attendance zones (borders), with a focus on elementary schools & feeder patterns.

# District Improvement Goal #3

## School Boundary & Quadrant Alignment

Complete and implement a realignment of school boundaries that ensures programming aligns with each building's capacity by June 2027\*

*\*two-year goal with 2025-26 benchmarks included.*



# Agenda

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Introductions

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Project Introduction & Timeline

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Hearing from you: Interactive Participant Activity -  
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Hearing from you: Community open input

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Next steps

# What is “realignment”?

## The concept:

Realignment is about changing school zones to achieve a specific purpose

## WPS’ Definition of Realignment:

Adjusting school boundaries and related systems to more efficiently assign students to schools and improve the experience for students and families.

*This could include a student’s walk to school, the school they are assigned to, and various feeder patterns.*

*When: Implement changes for the 2027-28 school year*

# Why is realignment right for WPS?

WPS' school boundaries and feeder patterns have grown in piecemeal ways that don't always make sense for Worcester. Taking a system-wide approach to realignment that meets current and future needs, will:

- ✓ Improve quality of educational experience for students and staff across the district
- ✓ Reduce overcrowding & illogical street assignments
- ✓ Address illogical elementary to middle & high school feeder patterns

# What else is important to know?

- ✓ No anticipation of school closures
- ✓ Elementary enrollment decline (~10% fewer students than 10 years ago)
- ✓ Potential for transportation enhancements
- ✓ Data - qualitative and quantitative - will drive scenarios
- ✓ Community feedback is critical

# Key Stakeholders and Roles

- **Superintendent:** Goal Setting & Providing Vision
- **Working Group:** Advise new boundaries scenario development and stakeholder engagement approach, drawing on local context, school & neighborhood dynamics, identify district pain points, etc.
- **Dillinger:** Data analysis, facilitate community and stakeholder input, scenario development, summary presentations and reporting
- **Community Stakeholders:** Inform priorities, provide scenario feedback
- **School Committee:** Approval of recommendations after community feedback

# Realignment typically occurs in three phases

## Phase 1: Designing New Boundaries

*Data collection & analysis, community and stakeholder engagement, School Committee presentations and voting*

*~1 year (Jan - Nov 2026)*

## Phase 3: Implementation

*Establish new bus routes, communication, etc.*

*Students begin at their newly-zoned schools:  
Expected for 2027-28 school year*

*~6 months (Dec 2026 - Jun 2027)*

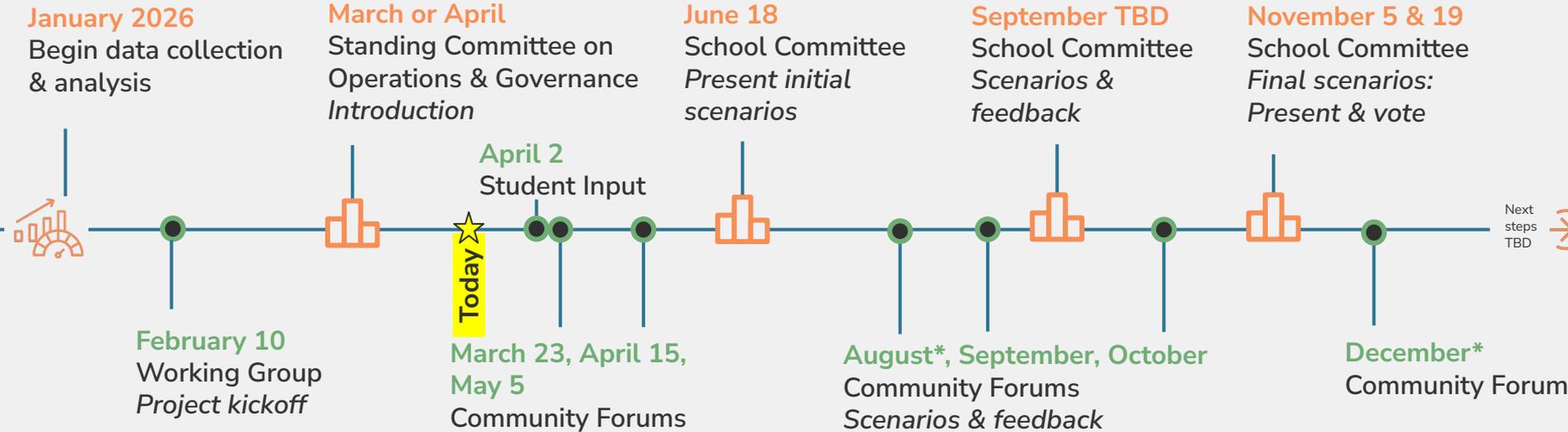


## Phase 2: Implementation Planning

*Create a transition plan for students and families built off Phase 1's final decision.*

*~Concurrent with Phase 1*

# Timeline for Phases 1 & 2: Redesigning boundaries for WPS schools

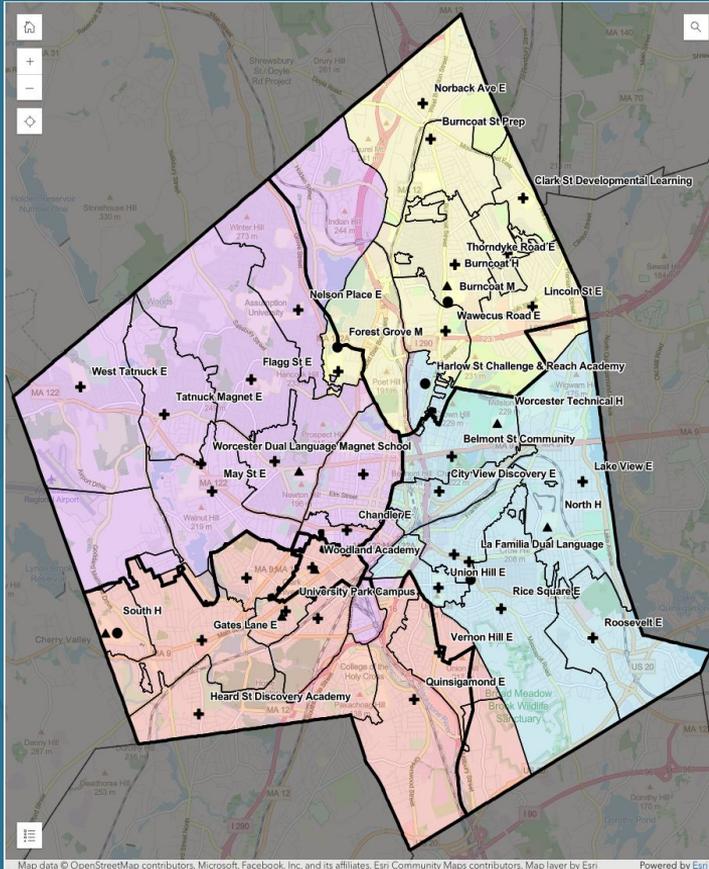


**Continue throughout project:**

- Qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, including:
  - Geographic Analysis
  - Capacity & Utilization Analysis
  - Demographic Trends
- Realignment Working Group meetings

\* August and December Community Forums are Tentative

# Hearing from you: An Interactive Map



**What it is:** A map of Worcester, broken out by school quadrants. Schools and current boundaries are marked on the map that you can draw and comment on visually.

# Parts of the map

## WPS District Boundary



## WPS Schools

### School Types

- + Elementary School
- ▲ High School
- Middle / High School
- Middle School

## Middle & High Quadrants



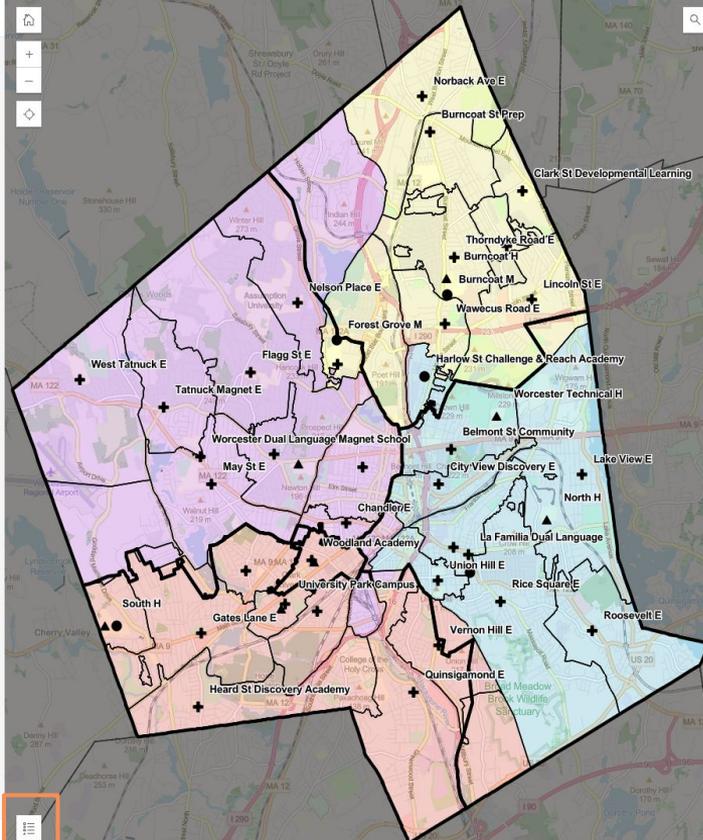
## Current Elementary Zones

### Assigned Quadrants

- Burncoat
- Doherty
- North
- South

## Worcester Community Input Mapping Tool

Area of Interest



Draw an area of interest



# Add your input to the map in 4 steps



bitly

Navigate to the map:  
[https://bit.ly/initial\\_baseline](https://bit.ly/initial_baseline)

Worcester Community Input Mapping Tool

Area of Interest

1. Zoom in/out or click the magnifying glass to locate an area you want to submit a comment about.

2. Click "Draw an area of interest" - You will draw a shape to identify the area. Double click to "close" the shape.

3. Type a description for the area you highlighted. Example: *This neighborhood should be part of the Burncoat quadrant because the drive is too far to the neighboring elementary school.*

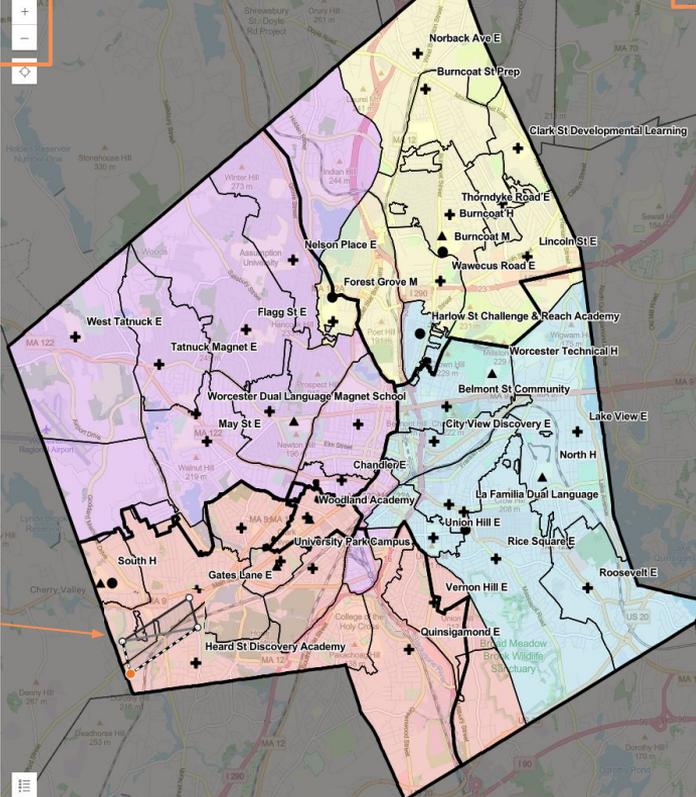
4. Click submit.

After submission, your map will reset.

Submit as many entries as you wish!

You will *not* be able to see your entry after you submit it; all submissions are aggregated on the back-end and will inform realignment.

Draw an area of interest



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri. Powered by Esri.

# Hearing from you: Open Input

What is something you are:

- Excited about?
- Wondering?

## Realignment Word Bank

Walk zones

Future growth

Overcrowding

Transportation

Quadrant  
boundaries

Demographics

Feeder patterns

We want to make sure we hear from a variety of stakeholders. Let us know if you are a...

- Parent/guardian of a student
- Future parent/ guardian
- WPS staff
- Community member without school-age children

If you're a guardian or staff member, let us know what school(s) you are affiliated with.

# Next Steps

- **Community Forums**
  - **April 15:** Community Forum #2
    - Tentative Topics: Demographic analysis & project update
  - **May 5:** Community Forum #3 (Virtual)
- **Ways to contact us and share your input:**
  - **Email**
    - [alignment@worcesterschools.net](mailto:alignment@worcesterschools.net)
  - **Website**
    - <http://worcesterschools.org/alignment>
  - **Interactive Map (Open until Sun. April 5 @ 11:59 PM)**
    - [https://bit.ly/initial\\_baseline](https://bit.ly/initial_baseline)
  - **Input Survey (Open until Sun. April 5 @ 11:59 PM)**
    - <https://forms.gle/47nhqR8JqRZnp2BA7>

# Questions?

# Appendix

# Alignment Considerations



## Current Utilization:

Beyond standard classrooms, identify unused or chronically underutilized spaces to potentially repurpose for instructional or student support needs.



## Flexibility:

Spaces should support varied instructional models, project-based learning, and allow for easy room reconfiguration.



## Planning:

Feedback from teachers, students, parents, and facilities staff on the functionality and comfort of the learning environments collected and utilized.



## Programmatic Needs & Alignment:

Analyze space allocation to prevent constraining programs or curriculum goals, and to provide adequate, appropriately designed space for student support services.

Source: Supt. Reports - Sept 2025 & Jan 2026

# Alignment Background

The current school boundaries do not align with the district's actual student distribution, which is causing several key issues:



**Overcrowding:** Schools such as Rice Square and Chandler Elementary.



**Capacity Concerns:** Sullivan and Forest Grove are at or exceeding physical capacity.



**Confusing Pathways:** Address illogical elementary to middle to high school feeder patterns.



**Quadrant Teams:** The district has a greater focus on quadrants and quadrant teams.

Source: Supt. Reports - Sept 2025 & Jan 2026

# District Improvement Goal #3

## School Boundary & Quadrant Alignment

*To **complete and implement a realignment of school boundaries** that reduces overcrowding in at least **90% of schools currently over capacity** and increases utilization of under-enrolled schools to at least **90% of building capacity**, based on a **comprehensive analysis of student enrollment trends, program placements, feeder patterns,, and citywide/magnet designations**, ensuring programming aligns with each building's capacity by June 2027\**

*\*two-year goal with 2025-26 benchmarks included.*

Source: Supt. Reports - Sept 2025 & Jan 2026

