

## 2023-2024 Elementary Reliefs Schools FAQ

In the Fall of 2023, CMS will open three brand-new 45-classroom elementary schools to relieve overcrowding at the following elementary schools. The construction of these new schools was made possible by the 2017 Bond. The new schools will open as K-4 (or PreK-4) in 2023-24 and become K-5 (or PreK-5) in 2024-25. This means that if you have a 5<sup>th</sup> grader in the 2023-24 school year, they do not have to change schools for their final year.

1. [Hidden Valley, JW Grier, Newell, and Reedy Creek](#). The new school will be at 7515 The Plaza next to Northridge Middle School.
2. [Windsor Park, Idlewild, Winterfield, Albemarle Rd](#). The new school will be at 5932 Farm Pond Lane off Albemarle Rd.
3. [Elon Park, Hawk Ridge, and Ballantyne](#). The new school will be at 11000 Beau Riley Rd, across the street from Ardrey Kell High School.

### **Q: What will the new school boundaries be?**

A: You can find maps and a description of the new school boundaries on the [CMS Planning website](#). These documents also show how much relief your school is receiving and any potential changes in feeder patterns.

### **Q: How were these boundaries decided?**

A: The Board priorities are minimizing home-to-school distance, keeping feeder patterns together, creating socioeconomically diverse schools, and maximizing utilization of our buildings and facilities. Scenarios were presented to the community for input between February and July 2022. Over 11,000 people were reached through CMS emails, social media, websites, and video recordings. Over 1,200 people provided feedback via surveys, meetings, events, an online mapping tool, emails, and phone calls. Based on all the feedback received, a final recommendation was made to the Board of Education on August 9, 2022. The Board voted to accept the recommended changes on August 23, 2022. Past meeting materials can be found on the [CMS Planning website](#).

### **Q: Why do we need new schools and new attendance boundaries?**

A: When the number of students and staff exceeds the space in the building, we consider that overcrowding. We measure school capacity based on factors such as the number of students, staff and classrooms, and the size of shared spaces such as the cafeteria. In many cases, mobile classrooms have been utilized to increase space, but we want to minimize the use of mobiles. Since neighborhood school attendance is determined by where someone lives, these boundaries need to be redrawn when a new school opens. The opportunity to open new schools and relieve current schools means creating more space and attention for the students, creating an overall better educational environment and experience. It also decreases traffic congestion.

### **Q: Does this affect all students?**

A: Only students living in the areas that have been reassigned will be affected. All other students keep their current school assignments.

### **Q: Will I still receive transportation?**

A: Yes, your child will still receive transportation to their newly assigned school.

**Q: What if I have a child in 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2023-24 school year but another child in grade 3?**

A: You have two options: your 5<sup>th</sup> grader will stay at their current school and your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader will go to the newly assigned school, or you can put in a transfer request for your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader to keep your children together at their current school. Information about transfers can be found [here](#).

**Q: What if I am reassigned to a different school but I want to stay at my current school?**

A: You may [request a transfer](#) to stay at your current school and those decisions are made based on capacity. CMS also offers a wide variety of [Magnet schools](#) ([cmschoice.org](http://cmschoice.org)) that are based on a lottery instead of neighborhood attendance zones.

We understand that changing schools can be very difficult because you have a connection with your current school. We hope you give the new school a chance. Your child will likely be attending the newly assigned school with their neighborhood friends so they will make the transition together. We will do our best to make the shift easier and encourage you to visit your new school and meet the principal and teachers.

**Q: What will the hours and bell schedules for the new schools be?**

A: The transportation department determines the bell schedule with approval from the superintendent. This is typically completed prior to the School Choice application period for the upcoming school year.

**Q: Who will be the principal and teachers for the new schools?**

A: These decisions have not been made yet and will be determined in the spring. Some teachers may come from the affected schools but there is a limit established in Board regulation [P-ASG/R](#).

**Q: What will be the curriculum and programming at the new schools?**

A: These decisions have not been made yet and are typically determined based on demand and other programs in the area. You are welcome to contact the Planning Department with ideas: [planning@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:planning@cms.k12.nc.us).

**Q: What are the names of the new schools?**

A: Decisions on naming schools are made according to [Communications Policies and Guidelines \(cms.k12.nc.us\)](#).

**Q: Will the new schools offer Pre-K?**

A: We aim to offer Pre-K but those decisions are made based on school capacity and announced in the Spring.

**Q: How are you accounting for the new development and growth in the area?**

A: We track new residential developments and estimate the number of new students that would bring to each school. Student enrollment estimates are made with these new developments in mind.

If you have additional questions or ideas, you can contact the Planning department at [planning@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:planning@cms.k12.nc.us).