

Subject: Updates on the Redistricting Exemption Process
Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 1:22:41 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Emily Bahhar
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Attachments: december 4 community message.docx

Good afternoon Principals,

Thank you for your time and insights yesterday regarding the redistricting exemption process. The attached message will be sent to all families today notifying them they may view their child(ren)'s school for next year and, if eligible, begin the exemption process.

Each school should send a front office or student services representative to a training tomorrow morning at ARL on accessing the lists of students who may be exempt, and understanding how to reach out to those families, as needed. Contact Caroline Walker for more information on this. On December 5 and 9, families of students who qualify for an exemption but have not yet made their choice in Synergy will be sent a reminder via email and text, and directing them to their child's current school for support. Beginning Monday, December 9, schools will begin making phone calls to eligible families who have not made their exemption selection.

It is important to note that not all parents/guardians have completed Family File and may need additional support before they can make their exemption selection. Schools should cross check students eligible for an exemption with their Family File. If their parents/guardians have not completed Family File for this school year, schools should contact that family as soon as possible.

There was discussion during and after yesterday's meeting around additional language supports and/or translated messaging. In speaking with a number of principals, it was collaboratively decided that schools should proactively reach out to families needing language supports, rather than sending systemwide translated messages. Liaisons can begin this process. If you need additional liaison support, please contact Caroline Walker via email or at x7136. Additionally, if you need support for sending additional messages, please contact Brian Bassett at 410-313-1505.

It is important that your families complete the exemption process as soon as possible. Once the exemption process is completed, principals will be able to access a clean contact list of sending students in Synergy.

Thank you again for your collaboration and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or require additional support. You can find details about the December exemption process and more on attendance area adjustments on our [Canvas page](#).

Take care,

Emily

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On November 21, 2019, the Board of Education [finalized a decision](#) to move more than 5,000 students to new schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, the Board voted to exempt several student groups from the redistricting decision, allowing them the option of attending the new school or remaining at their current school.

The exemptions apply to the following groups of students:

- Current 4th grade students
- Current 7th grade students
- Current 10th grade students
- Current 11th grade students
- 30/60 credit JumpStart students
- Students with an IEP, as of 11/21/2019
- Students with a 504, as of 11/21/2019
- Students with at least one custodial parent on active military duty

The Board also identified several of these student groups as eligible for bus transportation if choosing to remain at their current school. Parents of students who are eligible for an exemption **must make their decision by December 13** by following the instructions below.

View your child(ren)'s school assignment for next year and, if applicable, begin the exemption process, via HCPSS Connect. Be sure to **do this for each child** as options may be different based on the exemption status.

- Log in to [HCPSS Connect](#)
- Select the Redistricting 2020 tab in the left menu
- Select Redistricting 2020

If your child is eligible for an exemption, you will see the option to choose the school they will attend next school year and a transportation option if applicable. Remaining at their current school is optional, so it is important that you decide which school you would like your child to attend for the 2020-2021 school year. **Eligible students of parents/guardians who do not complete the exemption process will be moved to the redistricted school next year.** This decision must be made by December 13, 2019.

If you believe your child qualifies for an exemption and do not see that option in HCPSS Connect, please contact your child's current school immediately.

Please contact your child's school with any additional questions or visit the [HCPSS website](#) for more information.