



# Elementary School Assignment FAQs

On January 19, 2023, the Durham Public Schools Board of Education approved rules of access for elementary schools as the district implements a regional school assignment model and new school boundaries. The regional model and new school boundaries will increase equity and access to academic programs throughout Durham as well as increase PreK and Exceptional Children's special program classrooms. **These changes do not begin until the 2024-2025 school year.** It is important for all families to review the below information as their child may be impacted. For general questions, email [growingtogether@dpsnc.net](mailto:growingtogether@dpsnc.net).

## Which students are impacted by the student assignment implementation rules?

Growing Together boundary assignment, lottery assignment and program changes will take place in DPS elementary schools in the 2024-2025 school year. Students who will be grades 4 and 5 in the 2024-2025 school year will not be reassigned to another school. Students placed by approved transfer are not impacted as those assignments are aligned with **BOE Policy #4132**. Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) assigned to a general education classroom will follow the same implementation rules. Students with an IEP assigned to an Exceptional Children's special program (separate setting/self-contained) are assigned by the EC Department and are not impacted by the implementation rules.

## How do I know if my child is impacted?

Using the tool located here: <https://tinyurl.com/GT24-25>, you can find out your assigned school boundary for the 2024-2025 school year. Click the search icon and type in your address. If you reside in the new boundary for your current school, your child will continue at your current school. If your new boundary school is different, please see the questions below.

## My boundary assigned school is changing. What school will my child(ren) attend and what options do I have?

Students who are in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 currently (2022-2023 school year) will be able to complete their elementary school years at their current school. Students who will be in grades 4 and 5 in the 2024-2025 school year will be provided legacy status. This means your child will complete their elementary school years at their current school.

In 2024-2025, students in grades K-3 who do not reside in the new boundary for their current school but have a sibling attending in grades 4 or 5 with legacy status may apply to remain at the school through the school transfer process. If the school has capacity, younger siblings will be granted transfer status until the older sibling(s) leave the school. At the end of that 1- or 2-year period, younger siblings may attend their boundary school or enter the lottery for one of their regional options.

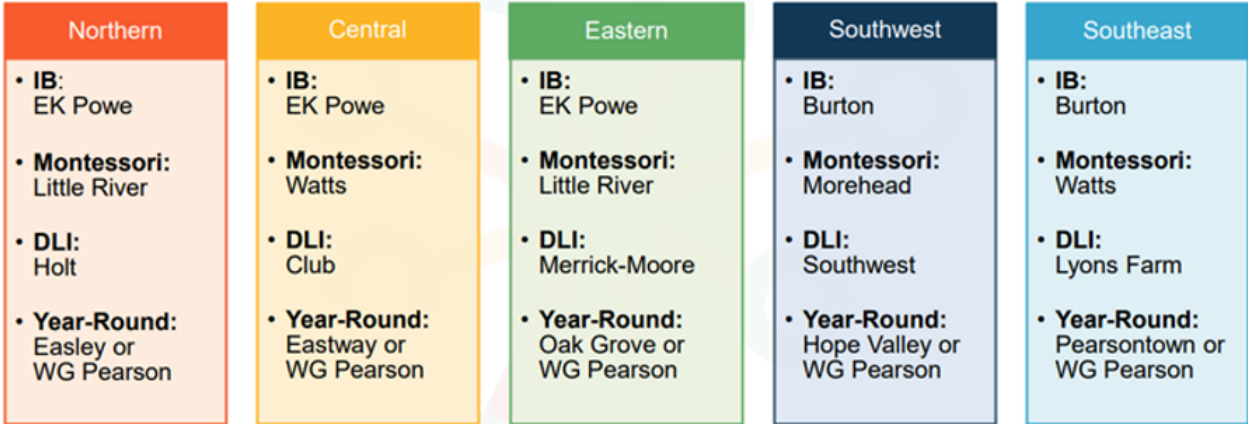
Families always have the opportunity to complete a hardship transfer request. Transfers are considered on an individual basis and based on documented extenuating circumstances affecting the family. More information can be found here: <https://www.dpsnc.net/transfers>.

## What is the difference between a boundary and region?

Boundary, sometimes called base, refers to the geographic area in which students are automatically assigned to a nearby school based on their home address. A region, which includes several boundaries, is a larger geographic area that defines student eligibility for application programs. **Residing in a region does not grant assignment to regional application programs, only residing in the boundary does.** Residing in a region grants access to application programs through the lottery.

## How does the new regional access model work for application schools?

Beginning the 2024-2025 school year, DPS will offer equitable access to application program options for elementary schools in five regions throughout the county. The number of application seats available will more than double, providing greater access for families who wish to apply. Application programs, often called magnet programs, may follow a different school calendar or provide an instructional program that may be a better fit for your child. Below are the options available in each region.



Northern	Central	Eastern	Southwest	Southeast
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IB:</b> EK Powe</li><li>• <b>Montessori:</b> Little River</li><li>• <b>DLI:</b> Holt</li><li>• <b>Year-Round:</b> Easley or WG Pearson</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IB:</b> EK Powe</li><li>• <b>Montessori:</b> Watts</li><li>• <b>DLI:</b> Club</li><li>• <b>Year-Round:</b> Eastway or WG Pearson</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IB:</b> EK Powe</li><li>• <b>Montessori:</b> Little River</li><li>• <b>DLI:</b> Merrick-Moore</li><li>• <b>Year-Round:</b> Oak Grove or WG Pearson</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IB:</b> Burton</li><li>• <b>Montessori:</b> Morehead</li><li>• <b>DLI:</b> Southwest</li><li>• <b>Year-Round:</b> Hope Valley or WG Pearson</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IB:</b> Burton</li><li>• <b>Montessori:</b> Watts</li><li>• <b>DLI:</b> Lyons Farm</li><li>• <b>Year-Round:</b> Pearsontown or WG Pearson</li></ul>

Families will be able to apply to the application school options serving their region in the 2024 lottery.

## How do I learn more about specialized programs?

You can learn more here: <https://www.dpsnc.net/Page/6575> (English) or here: <https://www.dpsnc.net/Page/6576> (Spanish).

## My new boundary school has a specialized program (IB, Montessori, or Year-Round) that I do not want for my child. What options do I have?

You may request to opt-out of the specialized program school. Through the opt-out process, the Office of Student Assignment will provide you with traditional instructional options for your child within your region based on proximity to your home and capacity of the school.