

TO: School Committee

FROM: Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
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DATE: November 17, 2022

RE: Enrollment, Student Assignment, and Feeder Pattern Update

Enrollment, Student Assignment, and Feeder Pattern Update

This update provides information on the adjusted timeline, added opportunities for in person meetings with families, the evaluation criteria, the proposed map for the Cabot Split option, and the potential impact to transportation services for both options under consideration.

Updated Timeline

Based upon the information shared and the feedback received, the timeline for decision-making has been adjusted. Below is the new timeline:

Additional Family & Community Meetings*:

- November 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm at Cabot Elementary School
- November 21, 2022 at 8:15 am at Lincoln-Eliot Elementary School

**Please note - all families and community members are welcome to attend the meetings at Cabot and Lincoln-Eliot.*

School Committee Meetings

- November 17, 2022 - School Committee Meeting - Update
- December 5, 2022 - School Committee Meeting - Recommendation
- December 19, 2022 - School Committee Meeting - Vote

Please note that due to the revised timeline, the Enrollment Analysis and Class Size Report will be moved to the January 23, 2023 School Committee meeting to allow the approved feeder pattern option to be incorporated into the enrollment projections.

Evaluation Criteria

Below is the list of proposed criteria that will be used to evaluate the two options. The criteria have been informed by feedback that has been received from the community.

Prerequisites for all options:

- Achieves target enrollment at Bigelow MS (500-530 students) and Day MS (810-945 students)
- Supports students' academic needs

1. Enrollment Impact

- a. Improves proportionate representation of racial and socioeconomic demographics in both middle schools
- b. Balances number of feeder elementary schools at each middle school
- c. Maintains North and South high school feeder balance
- d. Allows for improved team numbers in grade 6 next year

2. Educational and Extracurricular Impact

- a. Supports students' social-emotional needs
- b. Supports student access to extracurricular programs at both schools
- c. Allows for target team sizes at each middle school
- d. Supports special education district-wide programs within Bigelow and Day
- e. Allows continued English Language Learning programs within Bigelow and Day

3. Student and Family Impact

- a. Potential for peer relationship impact on students
- b. Total # of families/students impacted in both elementary schools by this change
- c. Potential for change of schedule or routines for families
- d. Minimizes transportation fee impact on families

4. Impact on Routes to School

- a. Maximizes opportunities for walking, biking, rolling to school for students
- b. Maintains reasonable distance and length of bus routes

5. Financial Impact

- a. Minimizes district transportation costs during transition
- b. Minimizes district transportation costs once transition complete
- c. Teacher costs during implementation
- d. Other costs

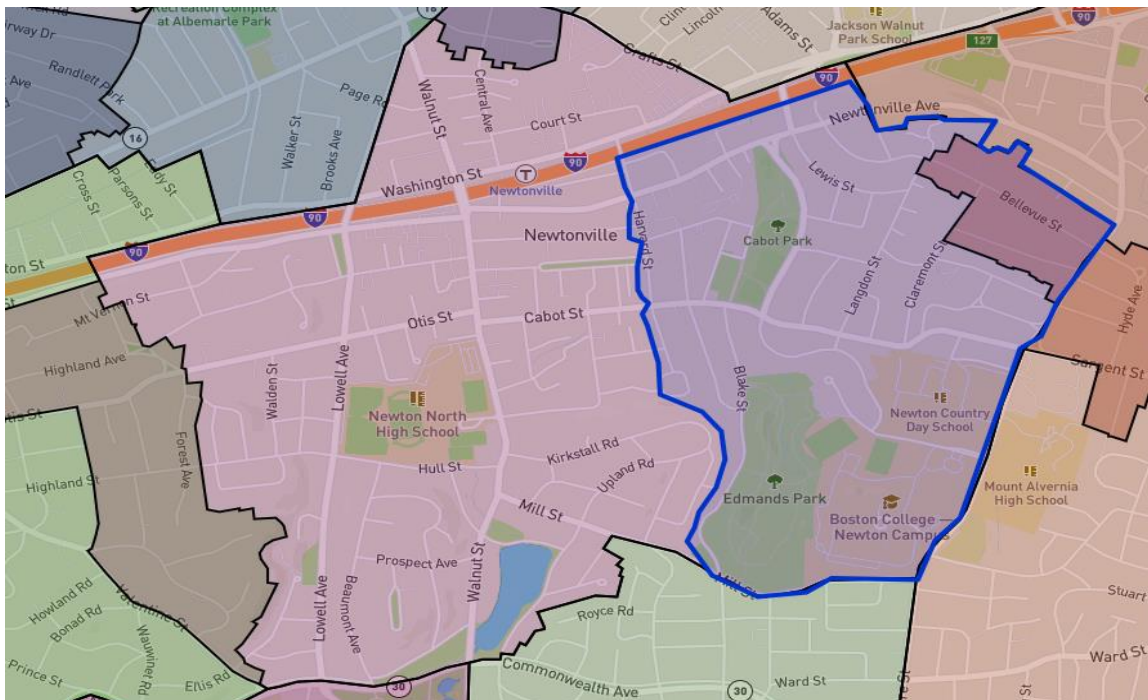
Cabot Split Map

Please see the proposed Cabot Split map below. The determination of the border line for the Cabot split map was considered through seven lenses, which are listed below. These lenses helped guide the creation of the map, while also considering physical landmarks and safety concerns with particular streets.

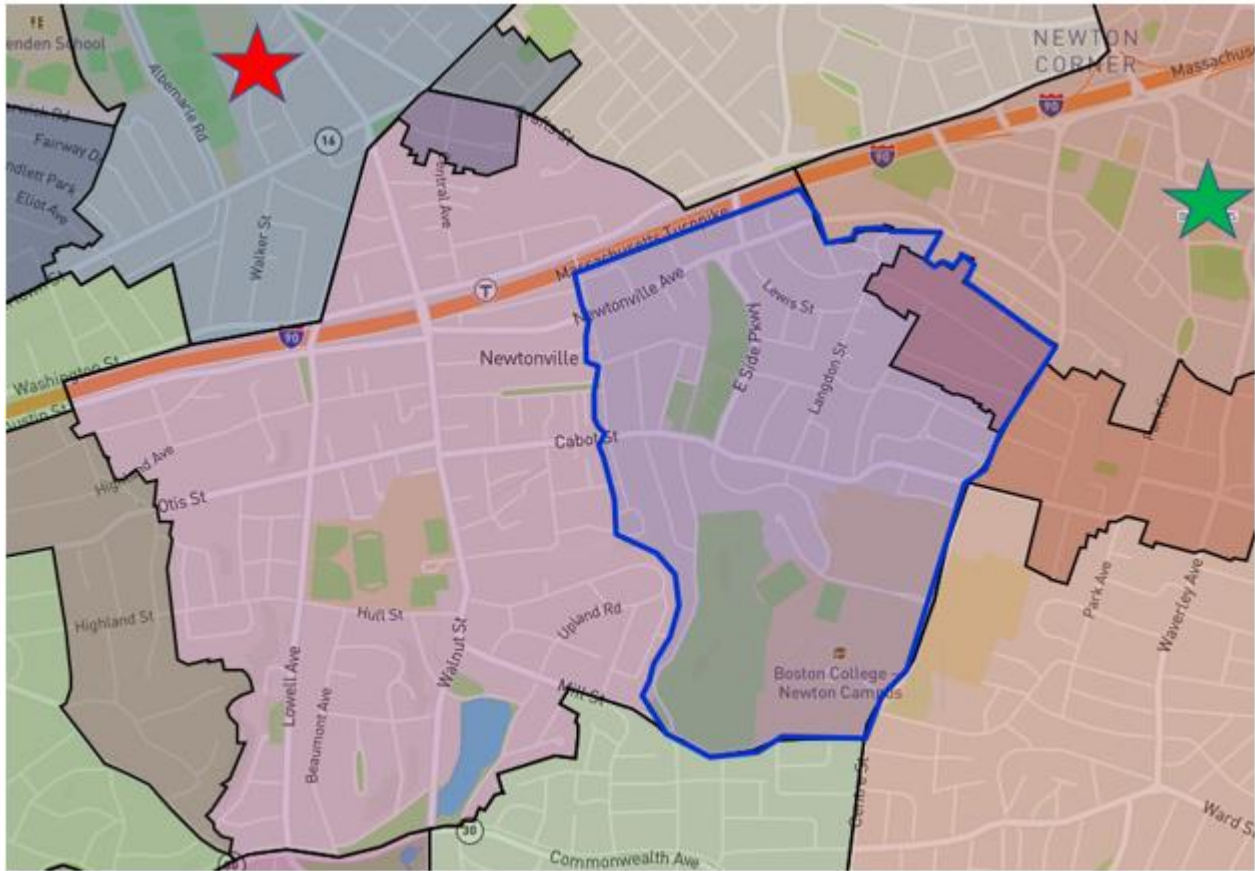
- Results in projected enrollment at both Bigelow and Day in the desired ranges
- Splits the Cabot district similar to prior levels (approximately 50/50)
- Results in similar distances to middle schools for students in either section of the split
- Preserves ability to walk, roll, or bike to school for the largest number of students possible (as measured by the smallest number of students who would attend Bigelow but live physically closer to Day)
- Results in the lowest average distance to Bigelow for students going to Bigelow
- Results in the lowest number of students who would require a bus to Bigelow
- Sends students living on the same street/neighborhood to the same middle school to the greatest extent possible

With the proposed split map, all students attending Cabot who do not live in the Cabot zone would attend Bigelow. This includes faculty/staff students, students participating in the METCO program, and out-of-assigned district students attending Cabot. This would split the overall Cabot district 46% to Bigelow, and 54% to Day (although this distribution would vary year to year based on the addresses of the current 5th grade class, as occurred in the prior Cabot split). This distribution is similar to the previous split which was generally 48% to Bigelow and 52% to Day.

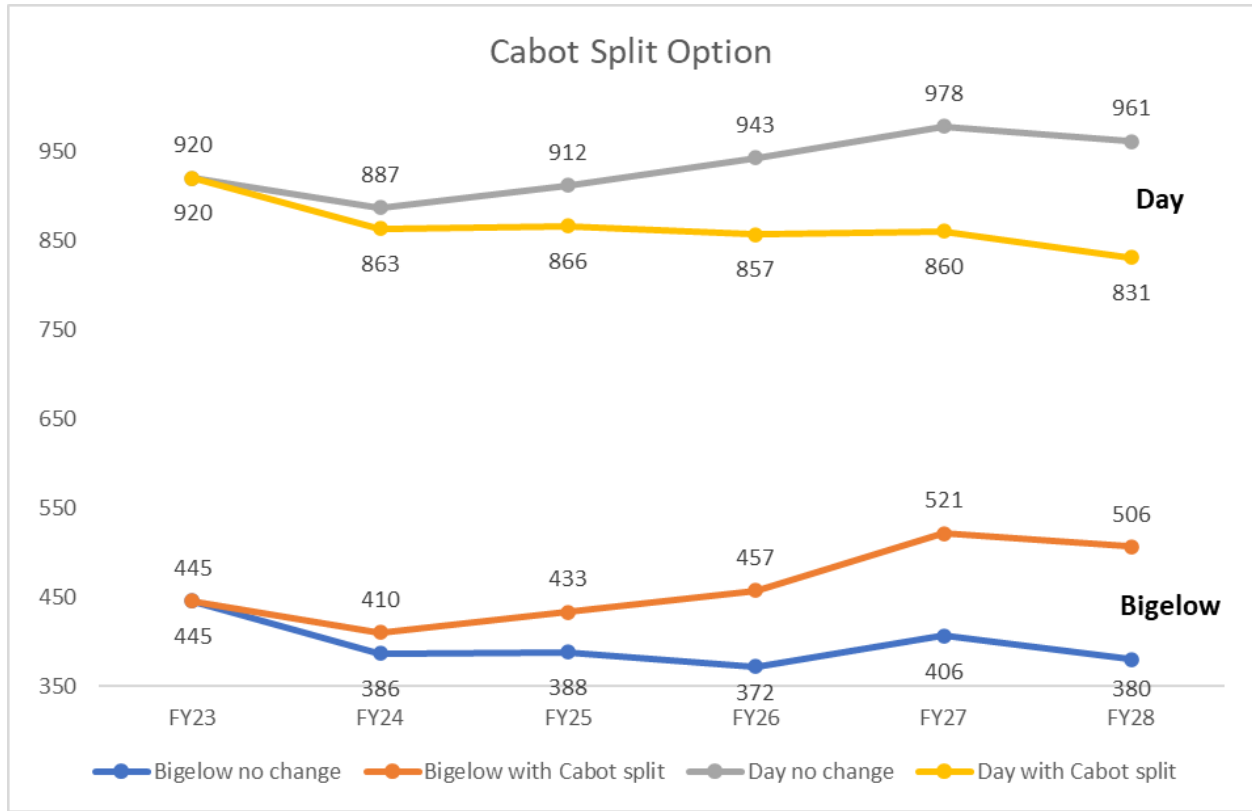
The proposed split is included below and is a modified version of the previous Cabot split. It has been modified to include all of Harvard Street and Harvard Circle, and then cut over to include all of Blake Street. It does not include the Kirkstall section south that was included in the previous Cabot split map. Students residing within the blue outlined shape would feed to Bigelow.



The next map displays the Cabot district with the proposed split map and the locations of Bigelow Middle School (green star) and Day Middle School (red star) to provide a visualization of the locations of each middle school in relation to the Cabot district.



The projected enrollment at Bigelow and Day with the proposed split is displayed below.



This proposed split achieves the first two bullets (results in projected enrollment at both Bigelow and Day in the desired ranges; splits the Cabot district similar to prior levels).

In addition to the enrollment factors considered, distance to each middle school was considered in multiple ways. In this proposed split, the average distance to Bigelow for students living in the Bigelow section of the split is 1.23 miles and the average distance to Day for students in the Bigelow section of the split is 1.37 miles. Therefore, on average, students living in the Bigelow section of the split live closer to Bigelow. For students going to Day in this split, the average distance to Day is 1.06 miles and the average distance to Bigelow is 1.69 miles. Therefore, on average, students living in the Day section of the split live closer to Day. The range of distances to both middle schools was also considered. For students living in the Bigelow section of the split, the range of distances to Bigelow is 0.72 miles - 1.68 miles. For students living in the Day section of the split, the range of distances to Day is 0.40 - 1.68 miles (however, this includes students living in the section of Cabot above the Pike, who are close to Day). If that section of Cabot above the Pike is removed, the range of distances to Day for students living in the Day section of the split is 0.70 miles - 1.68 miles, which is essentially the same range for students living in the Bigelow section of the split.

Preserving the ability to walk, roll, or bike to school has been an important factor in community feedback. For students living in the Bigelow section of the split (who would have a change to the current feeder pattern), 47% (68 students) live closer to Day than to Bigelow. However, of that group of students, 38% (26 students) have a distance difference between Day and Bigelow of 0.18 miles or less (meaning that going to Bigelow

adds less than 0.19 miles to their commute to school). The remaining 42 students would have between 0.26 miles and 0.38 miles added to their commute to school.

The proposed split map results in no students living 1.7 miles or more from Bigelow, which means that there is no need to add a bus stop to Bigelow. However, it’s important to note that anyone can utilize a bus regardless of their distance to school – they just may have to utilize an existing bus stop that is further away from the school than their residence.

Finally, the proposed split map keeps students living on the same street at the same middle school – specifically, students living on Harvard Street. In the prior split, students living on Harvard Street were split between Bigelow and Day based on their side of the street.

Transportation Impact

Swap Option Transportation Summary:

	<u>Current (FY23)</u>	<u>Year 1 Swap (FY24)</u>	<u>Year 2 Swap (FY25)</u>	<u>Year 3 Swap (FY26)</u>	<u>Transition Complete (FY27)</u>
Cabot	1 Bus to Day	2 buses (1 to Bigelow, 1 to Day)	2-3 buses (2 to Bigelow and 1 to Day)	2-3 buses (2 to Bigelow and 1 to Day)	2 buses
Lincoln-Eliot	1 Bus to Bigelow	2 buses (1 to Bigelow, 1 to Day)	2 buses (1 to Bigelow, 1 to Day)	2 buses (1 to Bigelow, 1 to Day)	1 bus
Total # Buses	2 Buses	4 Buses	4-5 Buses	4-5 Buses	3 Buses
Total Cost	\$226,800	\$468,000	\$482,400 - \$603,000	\$500,400 - \$625,500	\$388,800

*Once transition is complete (FY27), buses will no longer be provided for siblings following a sibling out of the new feeder pattern.

Cost of one (1) In-City bus per year:

- FY23 \$113,400
- FY24 \$117,000
- FY25 \$120,600
- FY26 \$125,100
- FY27 \$129,600

Cabot Split Option Transportation Summary:

- The Cabot Split option would not require any additional buses. This is because:
 - There are no changes to Lincoln-Eliot
 - Cabot students now feeding to Bigelow would be considered walkers

	<u>Current (FY23)</u>	<u>Year 1 Split (FY24)</u>	<u>Year 2 Split (FY25)</u>	<u>Year 3 Split (FY26)</u>	<u>Transition Complete (FY27)</u>
Cabot*	1 Bus to Day	1 Bus to Day	1 Bus to Day	1 Bus to Day	1 Bus to Day
Lincoln-Eliot	1 Bus to Bigelow	1 Bus to Bigelow	1 Bus to Bigelow	1 Bus to Bigelow	1 Bus to Bigelow
Total # Buses	2 Buses	2 Buses	2 Buses	2 Buses	2 Buses
Total Cost	\$226,800	\$234,000	\$241,200	\$250,200	\$259,200

*Assumes no buses are required for the Cabot portion going to Bigelow; however a small number of students from Cabot could utilize an existing bus to Bigelow if desired (current stop at Bullough Park and Berkshire Road)

Information and Feedback

All information about the feeder pattern options, as well as answers to Frequently Asked Questions and a one-page summary document translated into several languages, can be found on the [Feeder Pattern Option webpage](#).

Questions and comments can be sent to:

- Email district staff at: npsfeeder@newton.k12.ma.us.
- Email the School Committee at: schoolcommittee@newton.k12.ma.us.