



**East Meck/Myers Park
High School
Student Assignment Options**

Updated 10/27/09

Staff Recommendation to Board of Education

Planning Services Department

Introduction:

At the August 11, 2009 Board of Education meeting, in conjunction with a motion for the approval of the new Mint Hill High School boundary, the Board voted to

“...direct our staff to expand consideration of the boundaries for East Mecklenburg High School by looking at Myers Park High School boundaries and the feeder schools for both high schools in an effort to increase the number of students at East Mecklenburg and decrease the number at Myers Park, and that a recommendation come back to the Board for approval in time for the enrollment process for the 2010-2011 school year.”

The following were two distinct discussion options presented to the community (an earlier option previously presented is omitted based on Board feedback at September 22 meeting) to address the Board’s directive. In summary, they include: 1) modification of Myers Park IB program sending part or all of the feeder area to East Meck, or East Meck and Harding; 2) add a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) magnet to East Meck with a south county feed, eliminating the south county feed to Harding Math and Science magnet program.

Building Level Data for East Meck:

As part of the data table presented with the staff recommendation for the new Mint Hill High School and associated boundary changes, the projected enrollment for East Meck for the 2010-11 school year was 1,428. This projection is based on a grade 9-12 (20th day 2008-09) configuration without adjusting for rising seniors who may opt to remain for their senior year (as adopted by Board). Students affected reside in the Piney Grove and Crown Point (West) elementary zone feeders that would be assigned to Butler. Based on the 20th day 2009-10 data (official count day), there are currently 99 12th-graders in the area who would go to Butler High School. Based on updated 20th day 2009 data for the adopted boundary 2010-11, East Meck has 1,500 students. Transportation will be provided for rising seniors for 2010-11 impacted by boundary changes that chose to remain at their current school. If all seniors remain at East Meck (with transportation), along with a growth projection of 22 students, 1,621 total students are projected for 2010-11 at East Meck.

Staff Recommendation:

After three public engagement meetings held October 1, October 6 and October 22 at East Meck, Myers Park, and Harding high schools, and having received numerous emails and phone calls, the staff recommendation is:

Effective for the 2010-11 school year, start a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program at East Meck HS as well as McClintock Middle School and Rama Road Elementary. Staff is not recommending this as a magnet program. All of Rama Road and McClintock feed to East Meck, and would serve as a feeder for the STEM program as well. This initiative is driven by the need for students to develop mastery of science and math skills for 21st century learning. This program will require offering high-level math and science classes at East Meck. Though this program may not provide additional students from outside the attendance area for 2010-11, as the program grows, it's likely that area students currently choosing other school options will return to East Meck.

A new magnet (Math and Science) or realignment of the International Baccalaureate program from Myers Park is *not* proposed at this time. The Math and Science magnet program at Morehead Elementary will be expanding to a K-8 starting in the 2010-11 school year. It is recommended to delay the additional Math and Science high school magnet until the demand can be determined from the Morehead K-8 feed. An additional Math and Science high school magnet may be needed at a later date. Also recommended is delaying changes to the Myers Park IB program until full IB review at all program locations.