

# BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Enikia Ford Morthel, Superintendent  
**DATE:** November 30, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** 5118 Administrative Regulations: Three Zone Middle School Enrollment

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On June 15, 2022, after more than four years of consideration by staff and the Berkeley community, the Board unanimously voted to implement a new, three-zone assignment policy for middle school, beginning in the Fall of 2023.

On November 9, 2022, staff presented for Board discussion and information the manner in which we intend to assign students to Berkeley Unified School District middle schools. The Board does not approve administrative regulations, however, per Board Policy, the Board does have the opportunity to provide input before the Superintendent finalizes the regulations.

In 1968, Berkeley Unified voluntarily integrated all schools. Our commitment to this important and precious legacy continues to be a primary value in our community, and was one of the key drivers of staff's recommendation, and the Board's decision, to better integrate its middle schools with a three-zone assignment system.

The attached regulations define the attendance zones, as well as the sibling priority and Two-Way immersion policies. The attendance zones will result in middle schools that are integrated. To further strengthen the continuity of Sylvia Méndez's Two-Way-Immersion program and to maintain the language opportunities afforded to Sylvia Méndez's students, and as explained to the Board and community during the Board discussions in Spring 2022, students who attend Sylvia Méndez shall be enrolled at Longfellow Middle School for their middle school education irrespective of where they reside. This will have the effect of solidifying the Two-Way Immersion program in Berkeley as a K-8 English Learner program, which has long been a goal of the teachers and administrators in that program.

Note that with respect to siblings, after a long deliberation and consideration, District staff is proposing to grant a one year only (2023-24 school year) "legacy" enrollment priority. The one-year legacy enrollment process will allow students who are enrolled in fifth grade in the 2022-23 school year and have an eighth-grade sibling enrolled at King, Longfellow and Willard during the 2022-23 school year to be granted sibling

priority to attend the school their sibling just recently graduated from. The one-year grace period will be only for the 2023-24 school year and will sunset in June of 2024. This one-year grace period is to ensure that all families have plenty of notice about the change in middle school assignment policy.

With respect to transportation, the District does not currently provide transportation for middle school, even though some families live more than 1.5 miles away from their middle school. (For example, some families in the low North Berkeley hills are zoned for Willard, across town, and some families in the far West Berkeley flats are zoned for King, also across town). We do not expect that the absolute number of families assigned to a school farther than 1.5 miles from their home will increase with the advent of the new middle school assignment, but it is likely that some students will be required to attend a school that is farther away than the school they are currently zoned for. We can afford to add one middle school bus to our transportation system within our existing budget, and we will work with our Transportation Department to develop a schedule that will maximize the utility of that bus in an equitable fashion. We have also had preliminary conversations with AC Transit about how slight adjustments to the public bus schedule routes could assist our middle school families. Staff believes that we can effectuate the transportation policy reflected in the attached regulations within our existing transportation budget and with possible assistance from AC Transit. However, we must finalize the maps before we can continue to engage in this planning.

**POLICY/CODE:** Administrative Regulation

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Receive for Information the Middle School Student Assignment Administrative Regulations.

#### **REFERENCES**

- Regular Board Meetings: [June 15, 2022](#), [November 9, 2022](#)
- [Timeline to Implementation](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

# **BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

### **AR 5118 Students**

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT PLAN**

The goal of the middle student assignment plan is to integrate the middle schools racially and socio-economically.

#### **Attendance Zones**

The District will be divided into three middle school attendance zones. The map with the three zones is in Appendix A. The District will periodically review the zone boundaries to assess whether any population changes continue to provide student diversity and appropriate school capacity. The three zones are: Longfellow Middle School, King Middle School and Willard Middle School. Students residing in any of the three zones will be assigned to their respective middle schools. Students may request to attend a different zone and will be considered after in-zone residents are assigned.

#### **Siblings**

The District is committed to maintaining school sibling priority. Students who are siblings of students currently attending Longfellow, Martin Luther King and Willard shall be given priority to be enrolled in the same middle school so that siblings can attend middle school together.

In addition, students who are enrolled in fifth grade in the 2022-23 school year and have an eighth-grade sibling enrolled at King, Longfellow and Willard during the 2022-23 school year will be granted sibling priority if requested. This one-year grace period will only be in effect for the 2023-24 school year. Following the 2023-24 school year, there shall be no legacy sibling policy.

#### **Two-Way-Immersion**

Students who attend Sylvia Méndez shall be enrolled at Longfellow Middle School for their middle school education irrespective of where they reside.

#### **Transportation**

Transportation will be provided for students who live 1.5 miles from Longfellow Middle School. The district will provide one express bus that picks up students at designated locations. The nature of the express bus will limit the ride time duration.

## REFERENCES

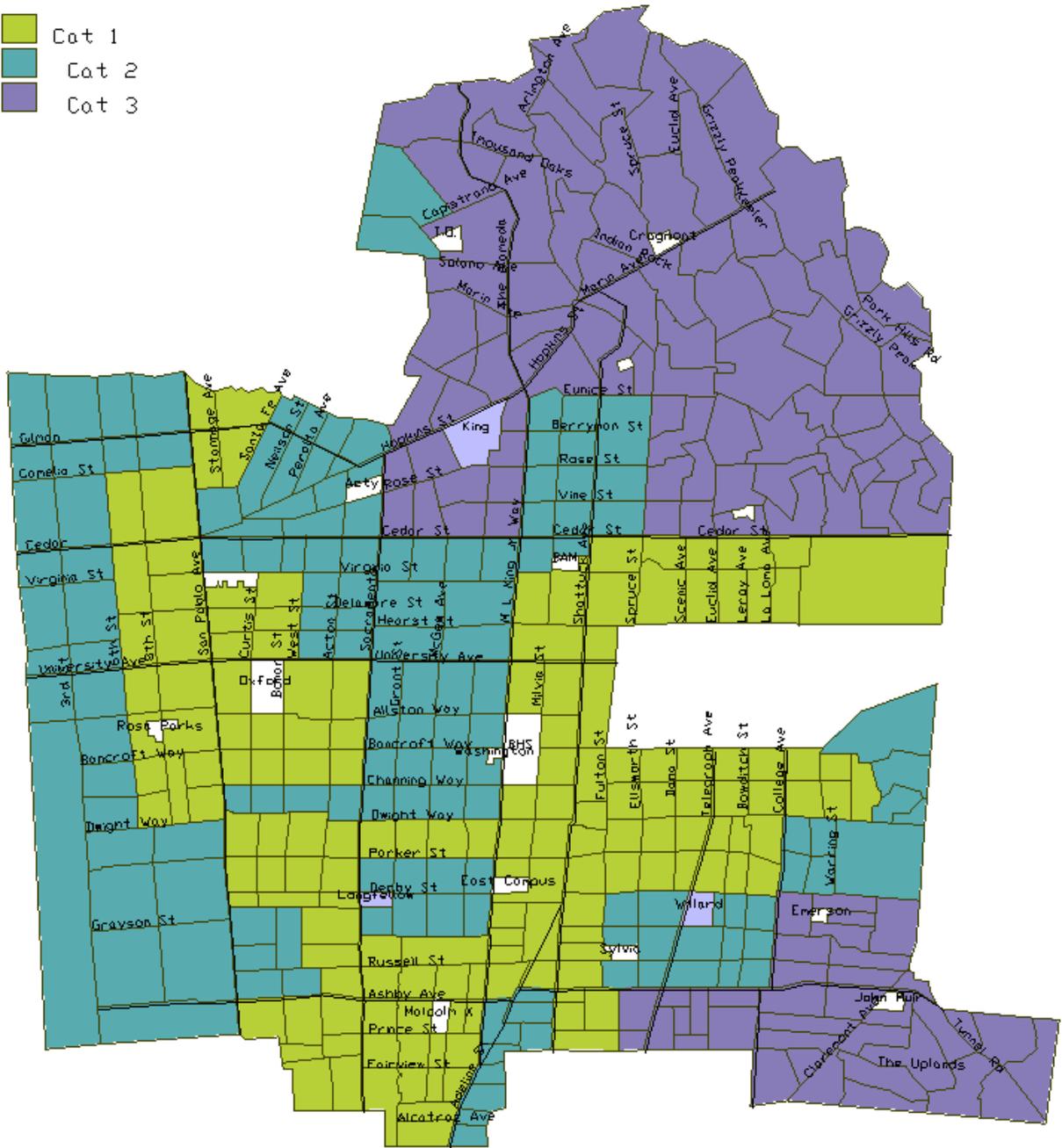
- Regular Board Meetings: [June 15, 2022](#), [November 9, 2022](#)
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## Appendix

1. District-Wide Map That Reflects the Three Diversity Categories Throughout the District
2. Three Zone BUSD Middle School Map With Existing Middle School Boundary Indicated With White Line

# Diversity Draft 220924

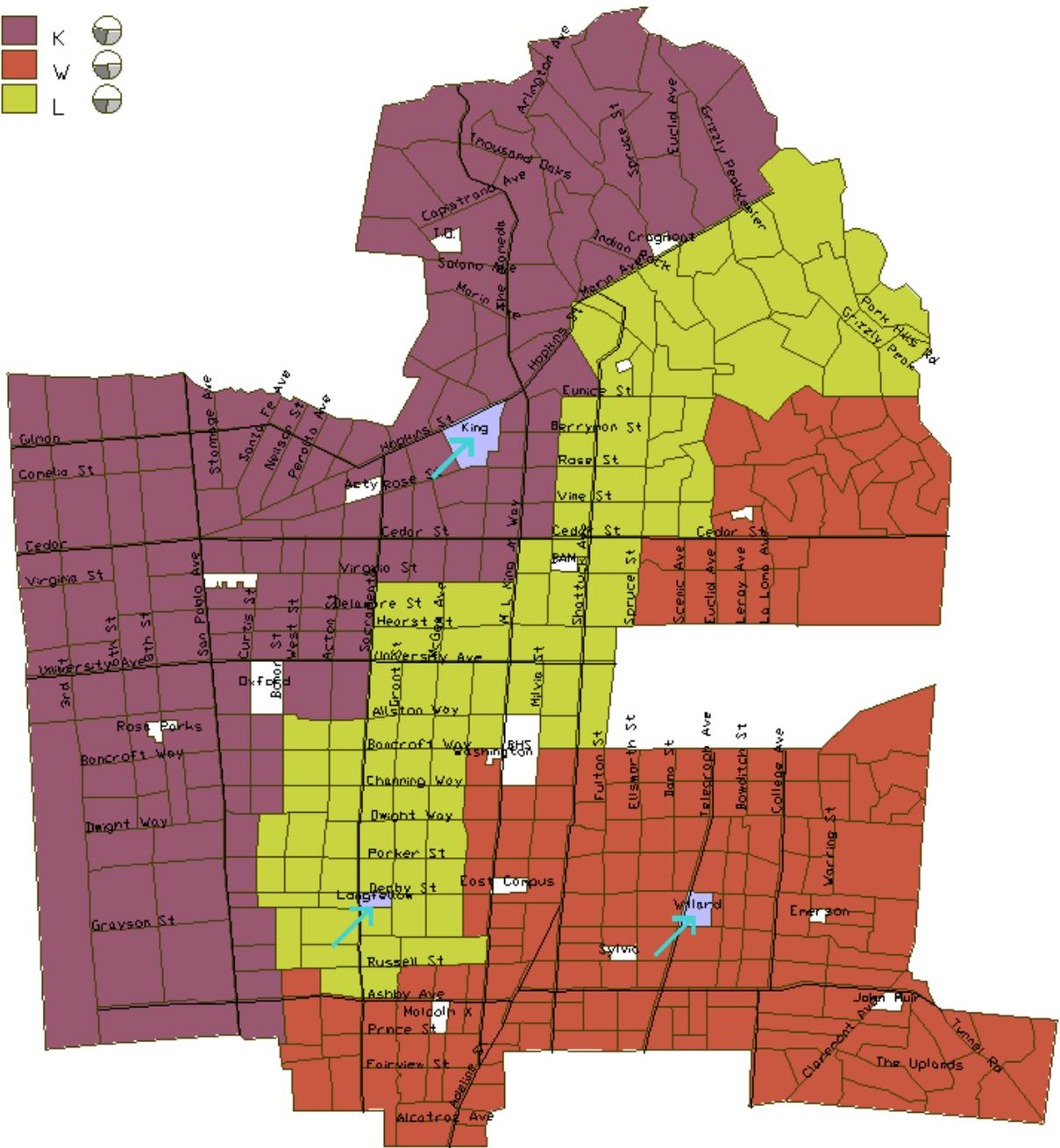
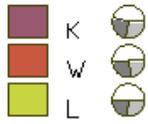
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Grade 0 to 5  
An assignment model  
of BUSD Students

# KWL Zones 220927 DRAFT



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Grade 3 to 5  
 An assignment 'model'  
 of BUSD Students