



Middle School Enrollment Policy Review 2021-2022: Current Policy Alternatives Being Considered

September 2021

The slides in this deck were created to give members of the BUSD community more details about the middle school enrollment policy review process and the current policy alternatives being considered.

Please share your questions and comments by participating in one of the many community engagement activities that will occur between now and Spring 2022. Find out more at www.berkeleyschools.net.

This slide deck is informational and does not represent a decision by the district about middle school student assignment.

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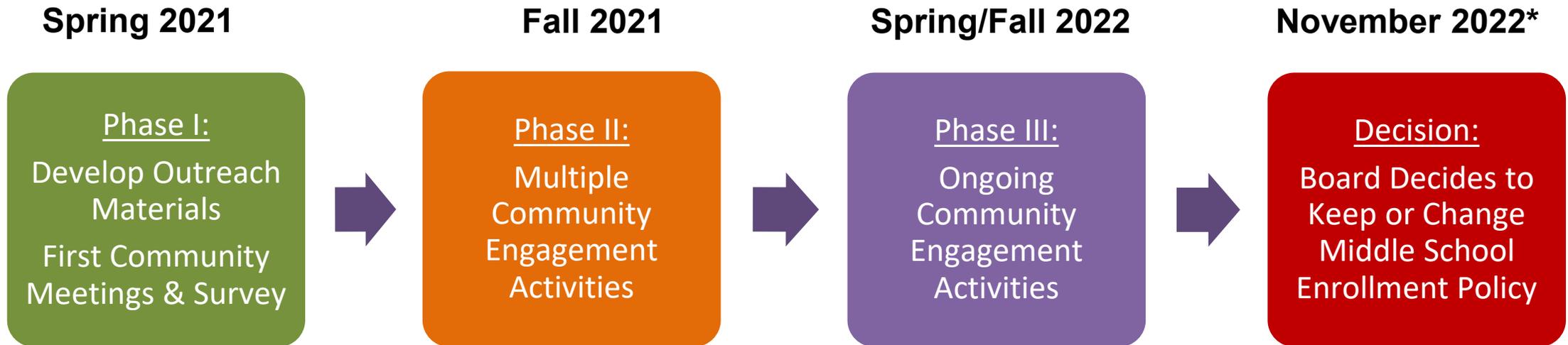
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Middle School Enrollment Policy Community Engagement Process: May 2021-November 2022



*In his newly expanded timeline, the Superintendent will bring a recommendation to the Board in time for a Board decision by November 2022, at the latest, in order to make enrollment changes in time for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Important History & Background

BUSD: A Commitment to Integrated Learning

- In 1968, BUSD became the first major public school system to voluntarily integrate its schools
- The commitment to diverse, integrated school communities is a core district value

BUSD believes that diversity in our school communities...

- enriches the educational experiences of students
- advances educational and occupational aspirations
- enhances critical thinking skills; facilitates the equitable distribution of resources
- reduces, prevents or eliminates the effects of racial and social isolation
- encourages positive relationships across racial and economic lines by breaking the cycle of racial hostility to foster a community of tolerance and appreciation of students from varied and diverse backgrounds; and
- promotes participation in a pluralistic society.

The BUSD Community confirmed again in June 2021 that having diverse, integrated school communities is a key value.

**Responses were gathered through the June 2021
Middle School Enrollment Policy Survey**

June 2021 Survey: Important Factors When Choosing a Middle School

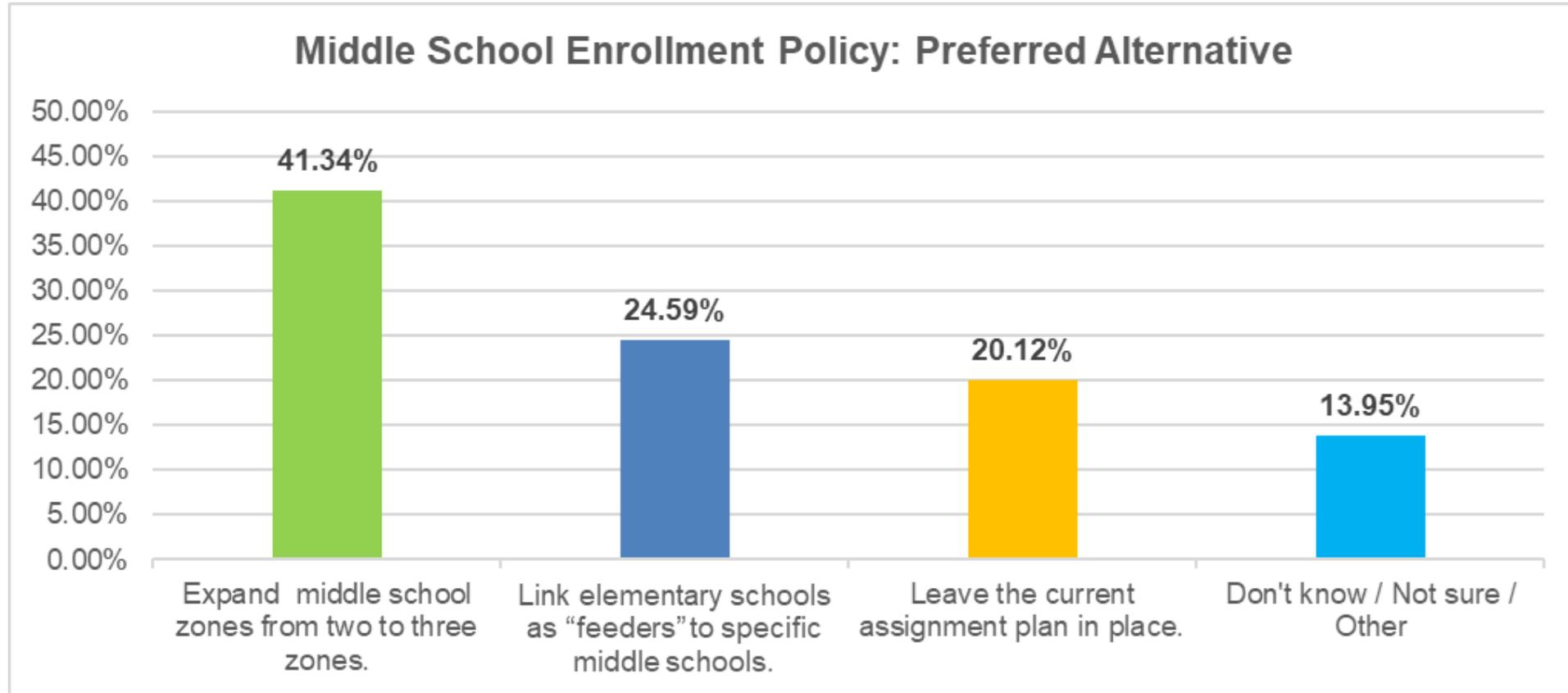
Top Program Factors (Ranked)

1. Strong core academic programs
2. Music and arts programs
3. Clubs and other enrichment programs
4. Availability of a second-language program
5. High-quality afterschool program

Top Non-Program Factors (Ranked)

1. Distance from home
2. If a sibling attends/attended the same school
3. Diversity of the school community
4. If a child's friends will be attending
5. School buildings and grounds

June 2021 Survey: Preferred Enrollment Policy Alternative



Note: The 1,928 survey respondents were only allowed to choose one option.

Our Current Enrollment Process

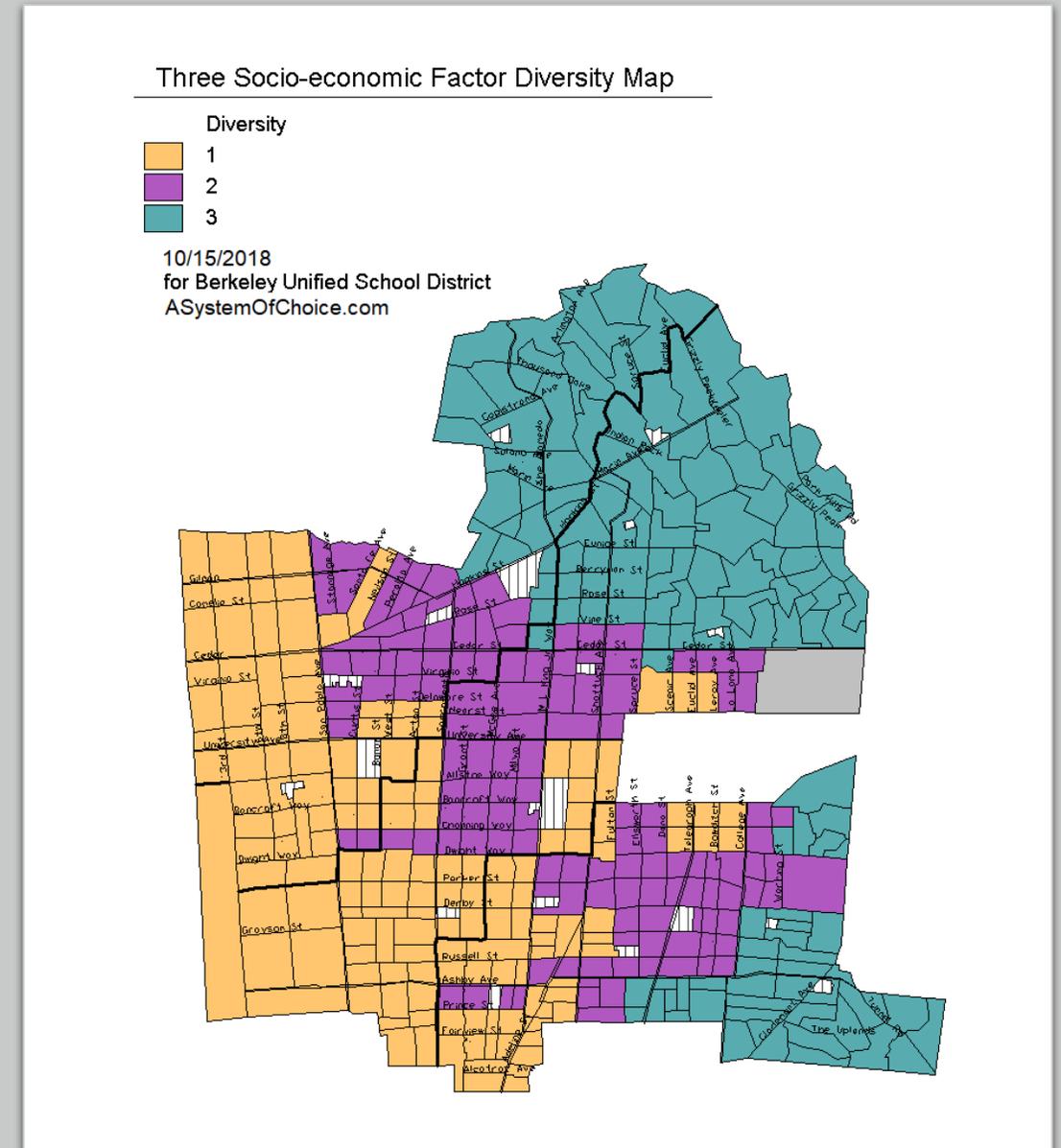


When considering school integration, BUSD focuses on three key socio-economic factors:

- Parent education
- Parent income
- Race/Ethnicity

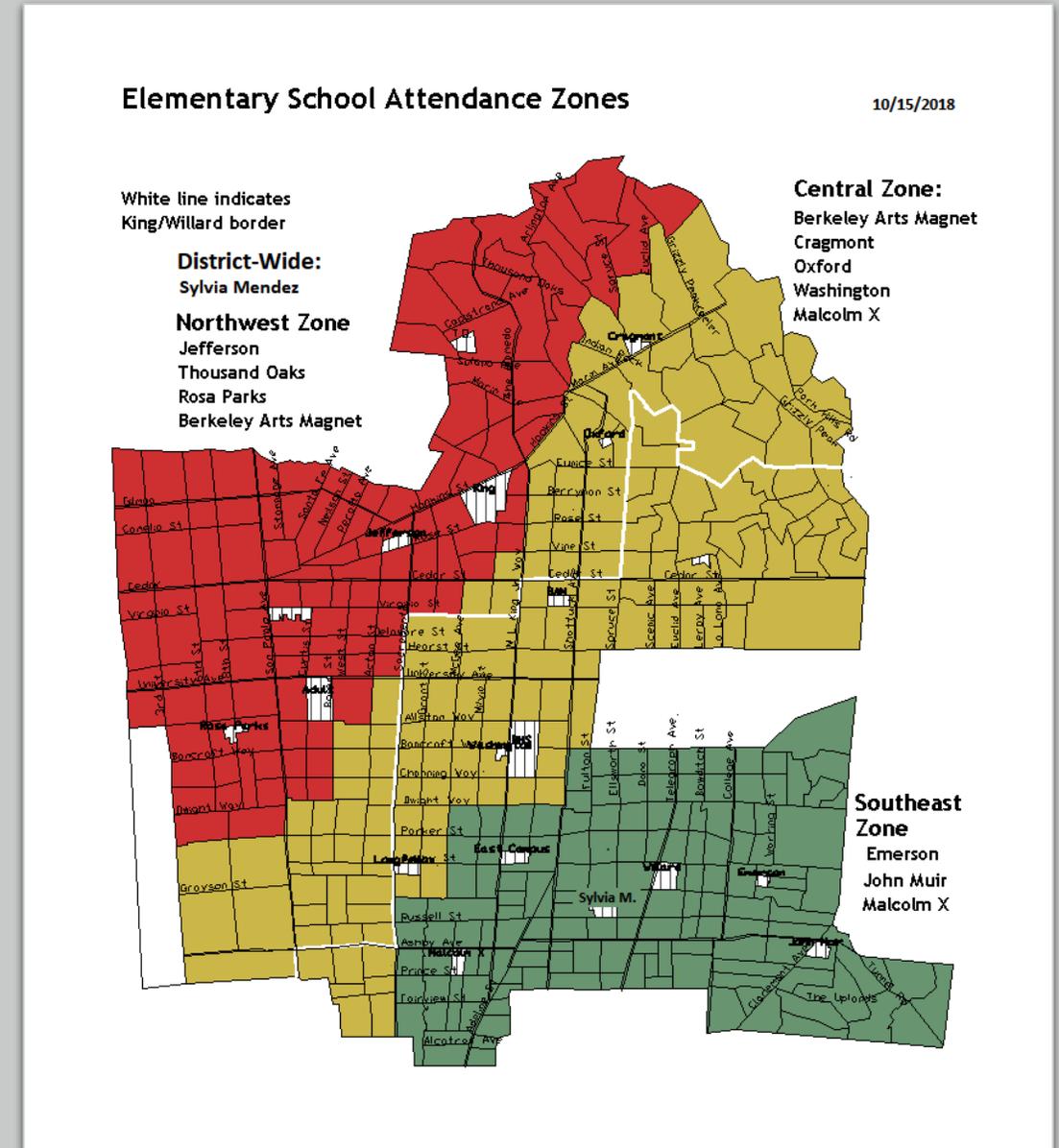
Enrollment & The Composite Diversity Map

- BUSD created a map, called the Composite Diversity Map, which is based on current Census data and reflects these three socio-economic factors (parent education, parent income, race/ethnicity).
- The map is updated when new Census data becomes available.
- The map is used as a tool to create elementary school enrollment “zones” with the goal of ensuring all elementary schools are diverse and integrated.



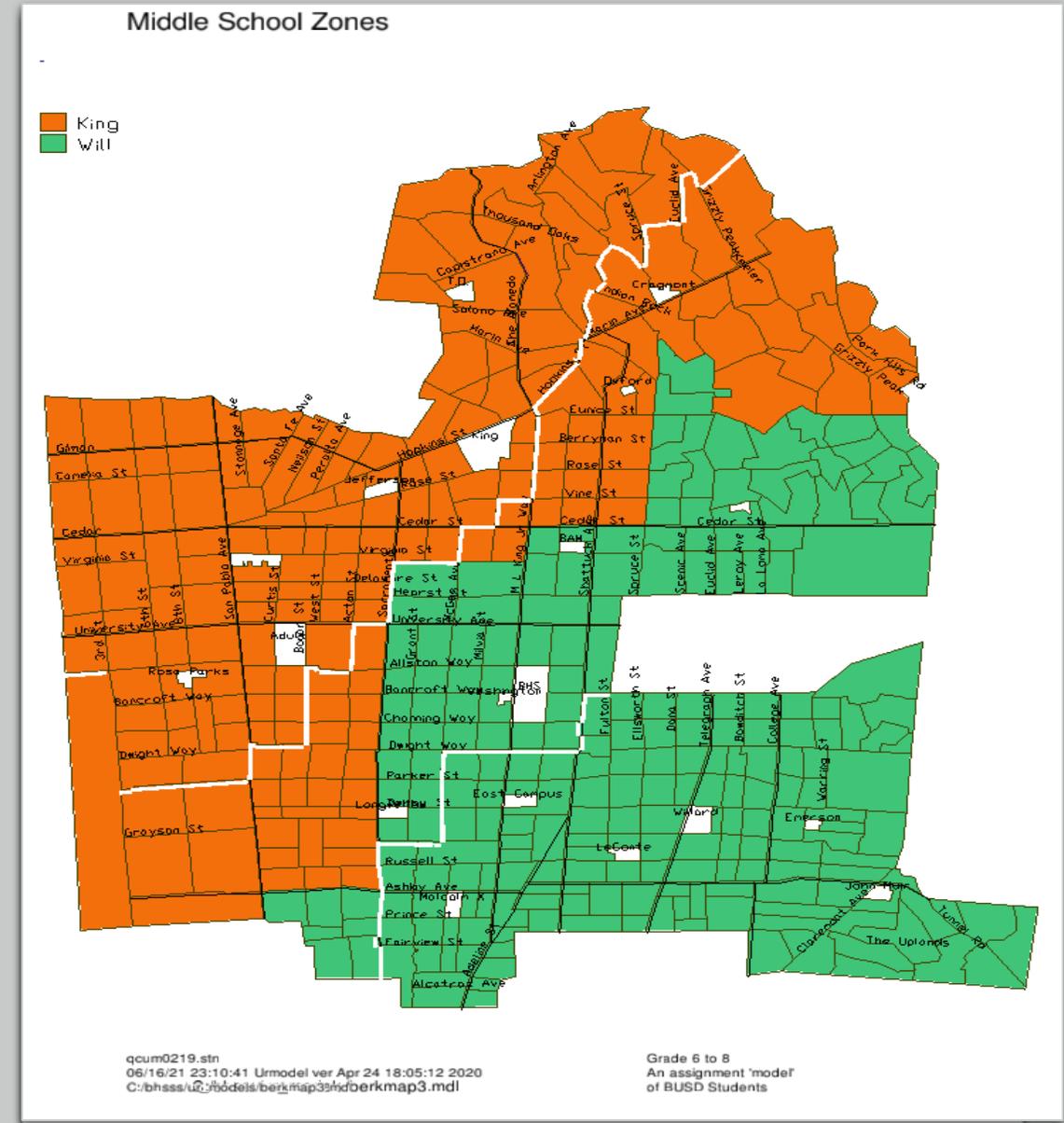
Elementary School Enrollment

- The map on the right shows the three elementary school enrollment zones BUSD.
- Each elementary school's student population reflects the diversity of the student population attending District elementary schools within that zone.
- Berkeley's fully integrated elementary schools are a source of community pride.



Current Middle School Enrollment Map

- BUSD's three middle schools are King, Longfellow and Willard.
- In 1994, there were only two middle schools: King and Willard. The two enrollment zones created for these schools are based on geographical factors and still exist.
- In 1995, Longfellow became BUSD's third middle school but was not assigned an enrollment zone. It was designed as a magnet "choice" school.
 - Families must choose to attend or may be assigned in later rounds of the enrollment process.



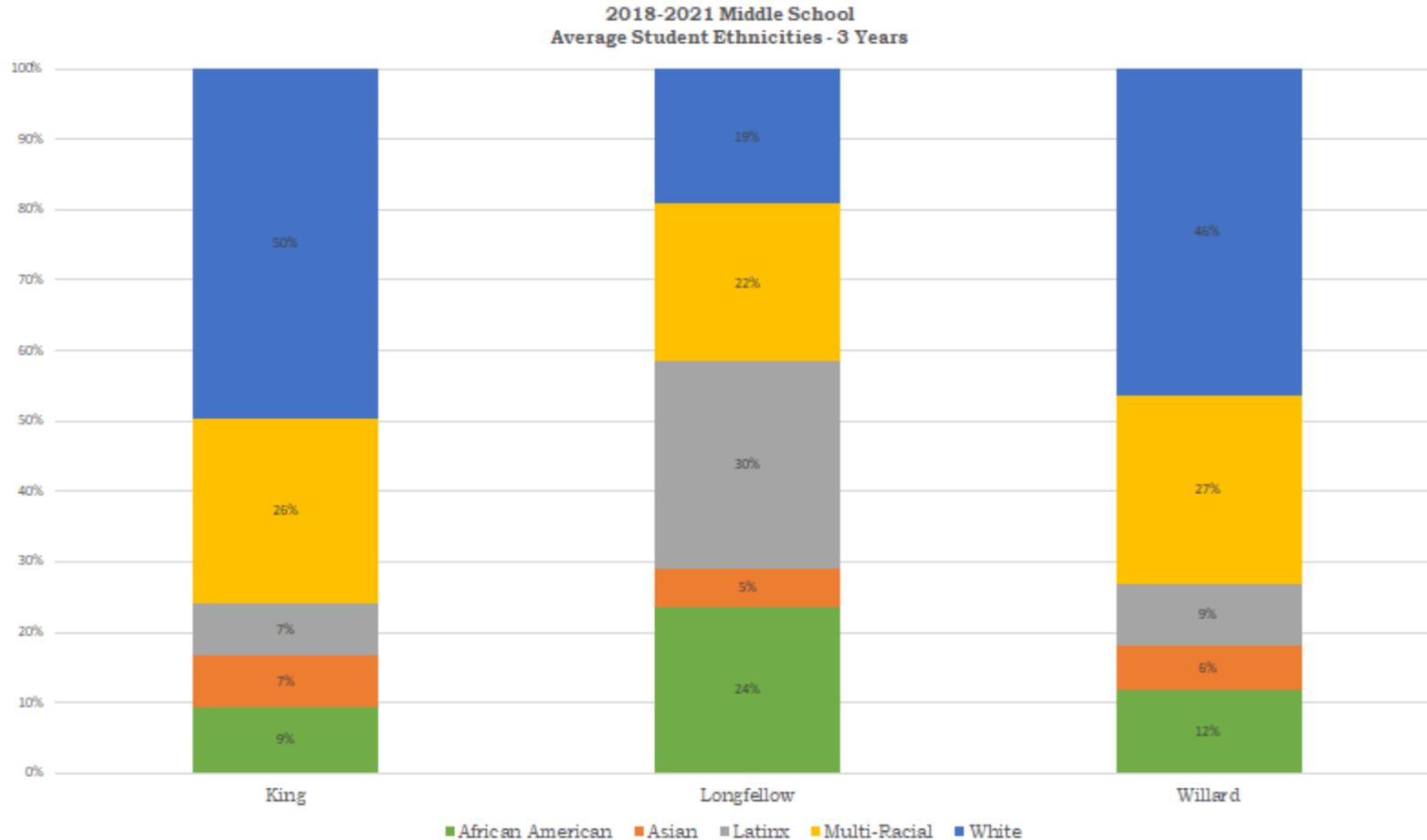
**The Middle School Enrollment
Policy has not been reviewed
since 1994.**

Demographics and enrollment trends have changed since then.

Right now:

- **BUSD middle schools are segregated.**
- None of the middle schools reflect the racial and socio-economic diversity BUSD seeks to achieve in its schools.
- **All three BUSD middle schools are impacted by this segregation.**
- The trend is expected to continue if current enrollment practices do not change.

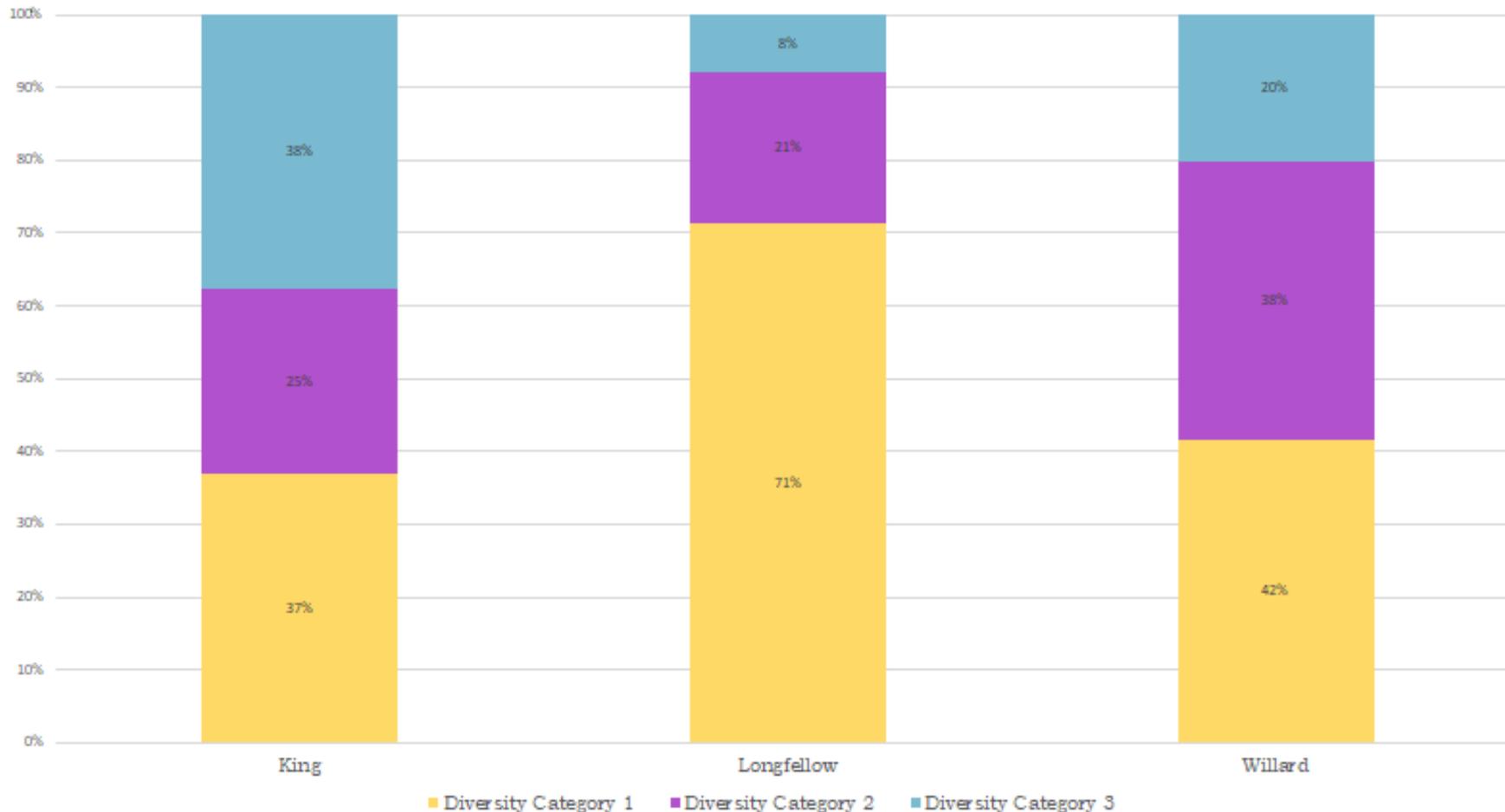
Middle School Populations by Race/Ethnicity



The ethnic composition of each of the middle schools does not reflect the diversity of Berkeley. For example, in King, the White student population is 50%. It is 19% for Longfellow and 48% for Willard.

Middle School Populations by Diversity Categories

2018-2021 Middle School
Average Student Diversity Categories - 3 Years



The middle schools are not diverse. The population from Longfellow is predominantly students from the Longfellow area (West Berkeley) and the population does not reflect the diversity of the district. For example, Diversity Category 1 represents 37% of King, 71% of Longfellow, and 42% for Willard.

A Crossroads...

- In 2019, the Board recognized the magnitude of the issue and the need to re-examine the Middle School Enrollment Policy. The Board directed the Superintendent to review the middle school enrollment policy, with community and staff input.
- The review considers many factors including school diversity, future growth, distance from school, siblings, program quality, and community input.
- The review process has been extended. It is expected to be completed in Fall 2022 and any changes to the policy will take effect in the 2023-2024 school year.

Current Middle School Enrollment Policy Alternatives Being Considered

As of September 2021

Draft Assignment Options

- This section includes more detail about the current policy alternatives being considered by the district as part of its review process.
- The current sibling preference is expected to continue in all policy alternatives.
- Transportation is not currently provided to middle schoolers. At this stage, BUSD is exploring the transportation implications under each scenario.
- Enrollment is expected to continue to vary at each school from year to year with approximately 900 students at King, 650 at Willard, and 500 at Longfellow.
- The draft maps may change in the coming months as multiple factors continue to be reviewed, including community input.

Option #1

**Leave the current
assignment plan in place.**

About the Current Middle School Enrollment Policy

- Under the current middle school enrollment policy model, there are only two zones: one for King and one for Willard. Longfellow is considered a “choice” school. Families must choose to place their student in Longfellow or a student may be assigned there in later rounds of the enrollment process.
- One benefit of this model is that it is familiar to the community.
- One challenge of this model is that it leaves in place a segregated pattern of middle school attendance.
- The current enrollment map can be found on the next slide.

Option #2

Create three new middle school zones that integrate BUSD middle schools socio-economically and racially.

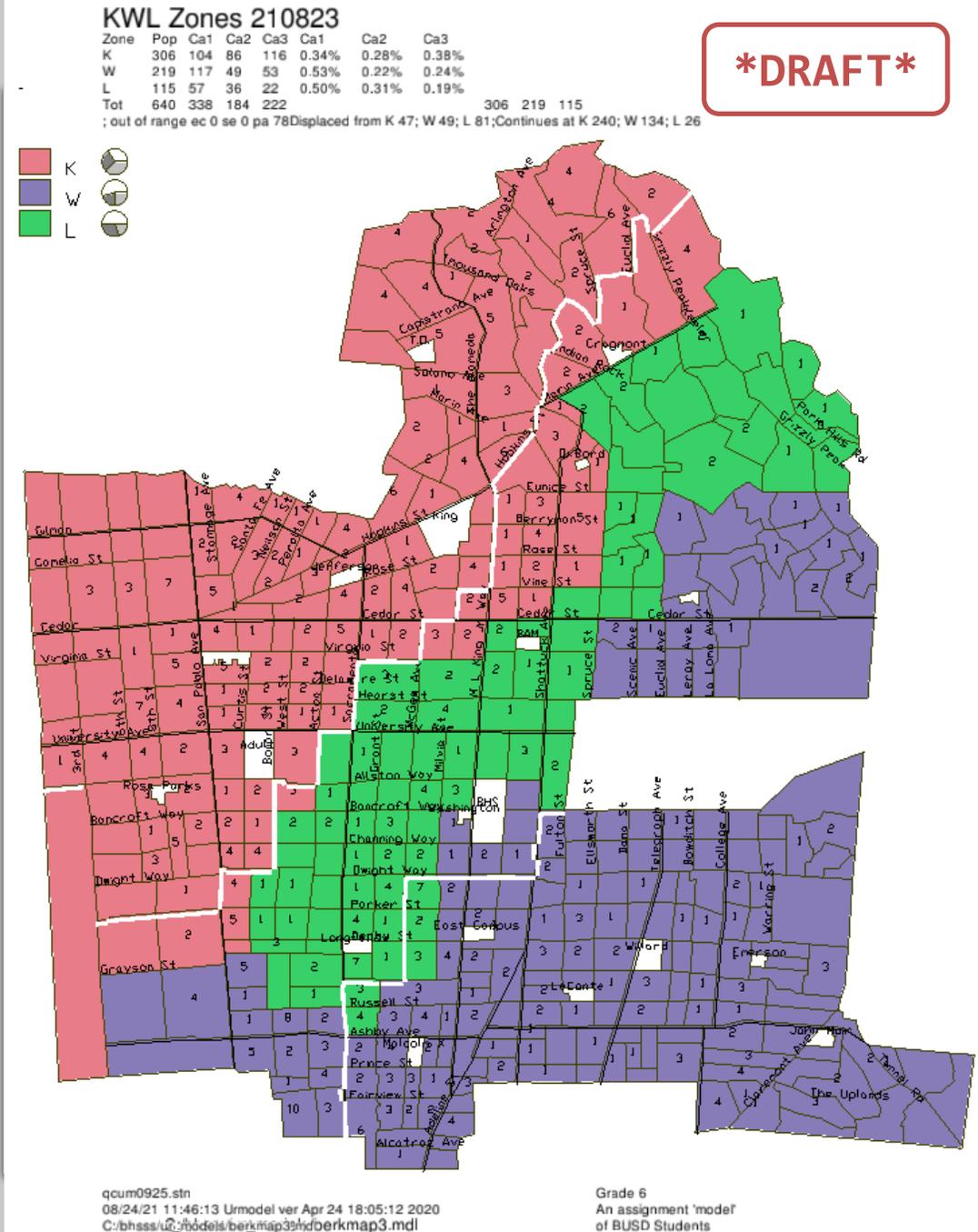
Introduction to the Three-Zone Middle School Enrollment Policy

- In the Three-Zone model, there is one enrollment zone for each middle school in order to create more diverse, integrated middle school communities. These zones are created using the composite diversity map. The size of current Willard and King zones are reduced slightly to allow for the creation of a third zone for Longfellow.
- One benefit of this model is it creates the most diverse school communities.
- One challenge of this model is that some of the students who would have normally attended King and Willard will attend Longfellow, and vice versa.
- A draft map to illustrate what a Three-Zone enrollment map would look like can be found on the next slide.

Three-Zone Middle School Enrollment Policy:

Draft Three-Zone Middle School Enrollment Map

- This map was created for the community engagement process and is not final.
- This draft three-zone map creates more integrated middle schools than at present.
- The attendance zones for King and Willard are reduced slightly to create a zone for Longfellow.
- Under this scenario, Longfellow will continue to serve Sylvia Mendez (TWI)
- As one option, an “Express Bus” could support transportation in the new Longfellow assignment zone.



Option #3

Create clusters of elementary “feeder schools” linked to a designated middle school.

Introduction to the “Feeder School” Middle School Enrollment Policy

- In the “Feeder School” model, several elementary schools would be linked to a specific middle school.
- One benefit of this model include elementary school cohorts staying together through middle school.
- One challenge of this model is how complex it is to implement, and how that affects factors such as distance from school.
- BUSD created three draft maps, one for each middle school, to illustrate what a “feeder school” enrollment map for middle schools might look like.

“Feeder School” Middle School Enrollment Policy:

Draft King Middle School Enrollment Map

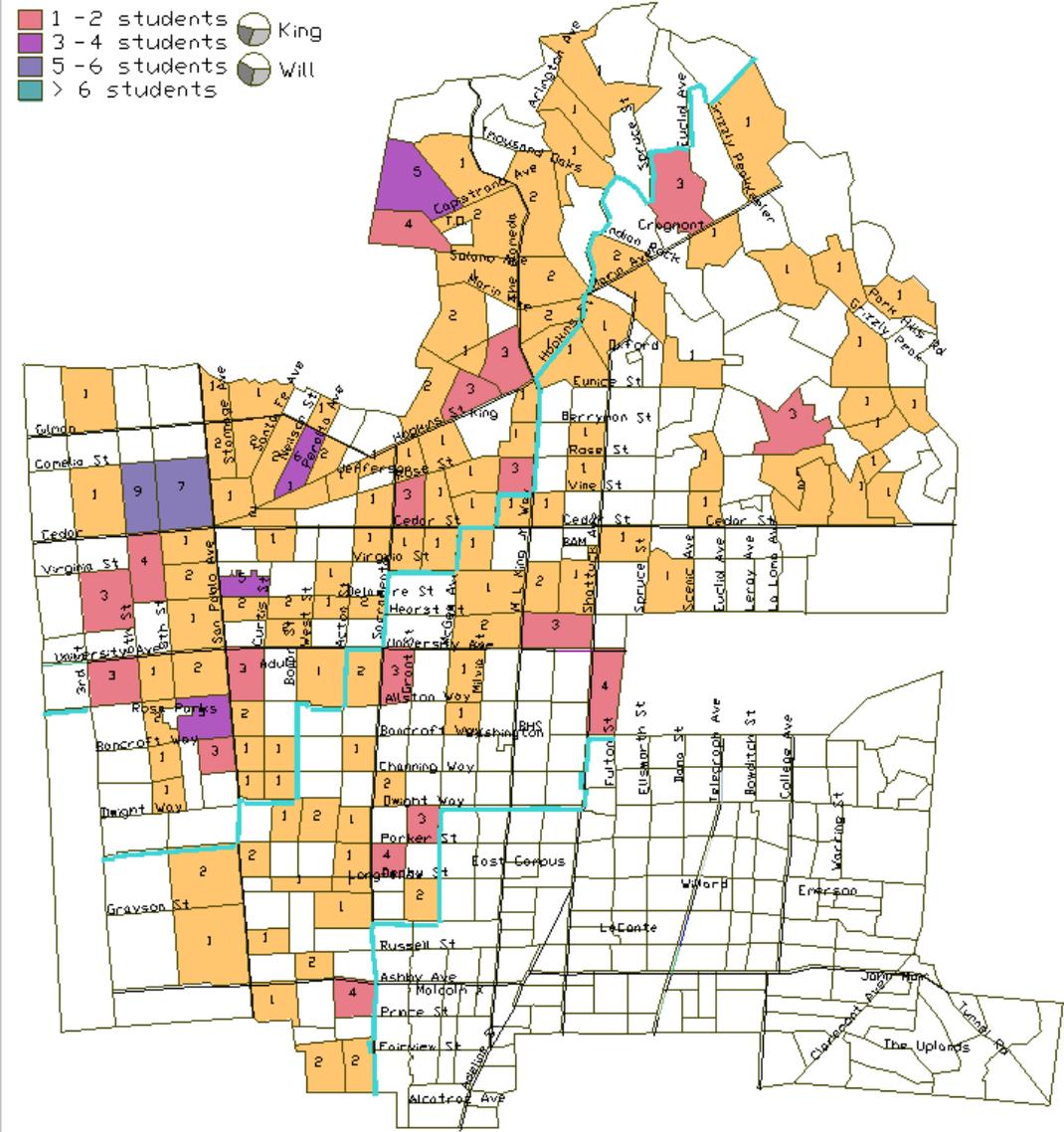
- This draft “feeder school” enrollment map creates more integrated schools than at present. It was created for the community engagement process and is not final.
- Elementary schools feeding into King Middle School would be:
 - Berkeley Arts Magnet at Whittier (BAM)
 - Cragmont Elementary
 - Ruth Acty Elementary
 - Thousand Oaks Elementary

Feeder Schools “King” - Crag, BAM, Jeff, TO

Zone	Pop	Ca1	Ca2	Ca3	Ca1	Ca2a	Ca3
K	185	84	45	56	0.45%	0.24%	0.30%
W	55	23	17	15	0.42%	0.31%	0.27%

Feeder school study Crag, BAM, Jeff, TO for King; out of range ec 0 se 0 pa 56
Total mapped: 240; race/eth: 71 24 90 (185) se: 84 45 56 (185)

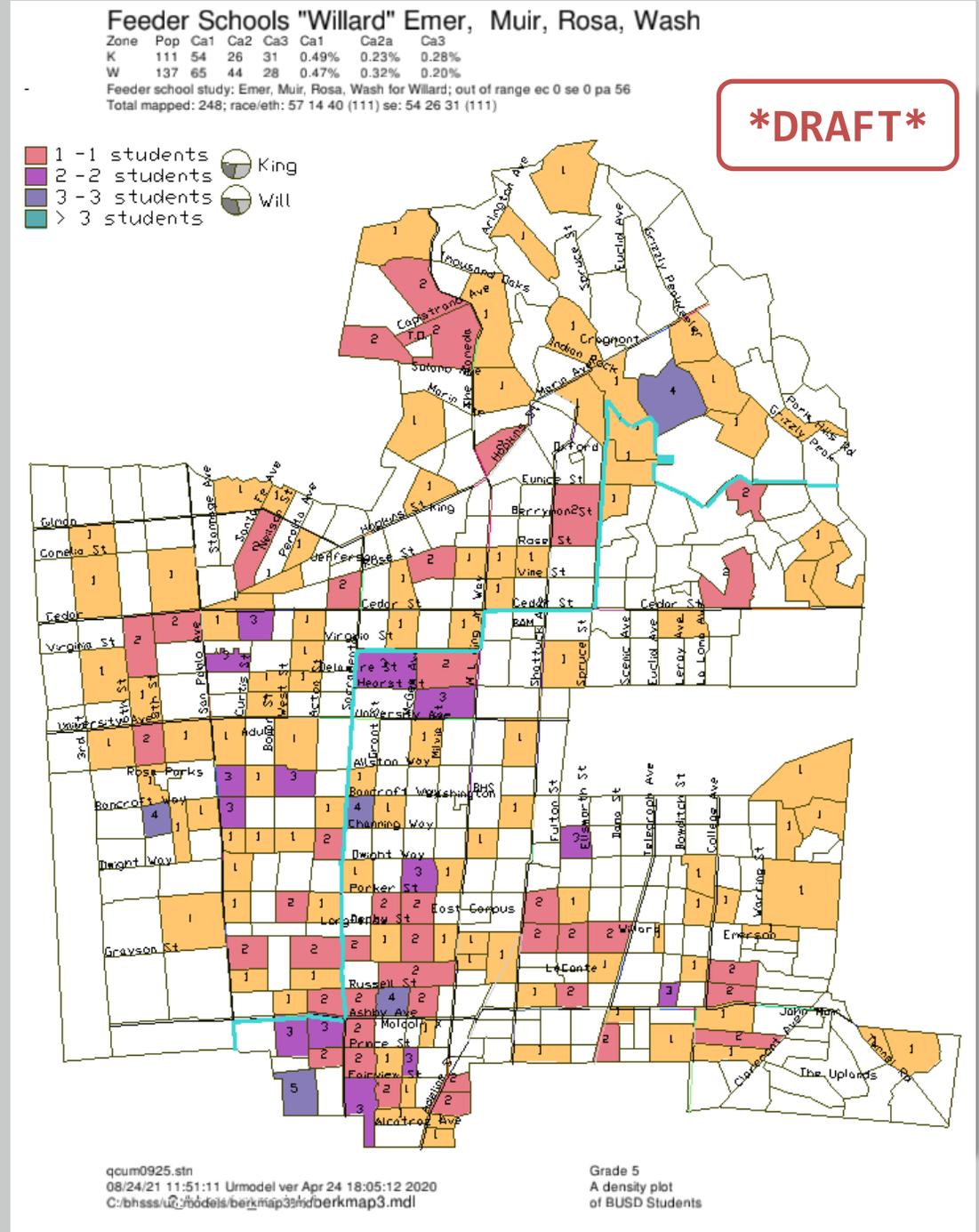
DRAFT



“Feeder School” Middle School Enrollment Policy:

Draft Willard Middle School Enrollment Map

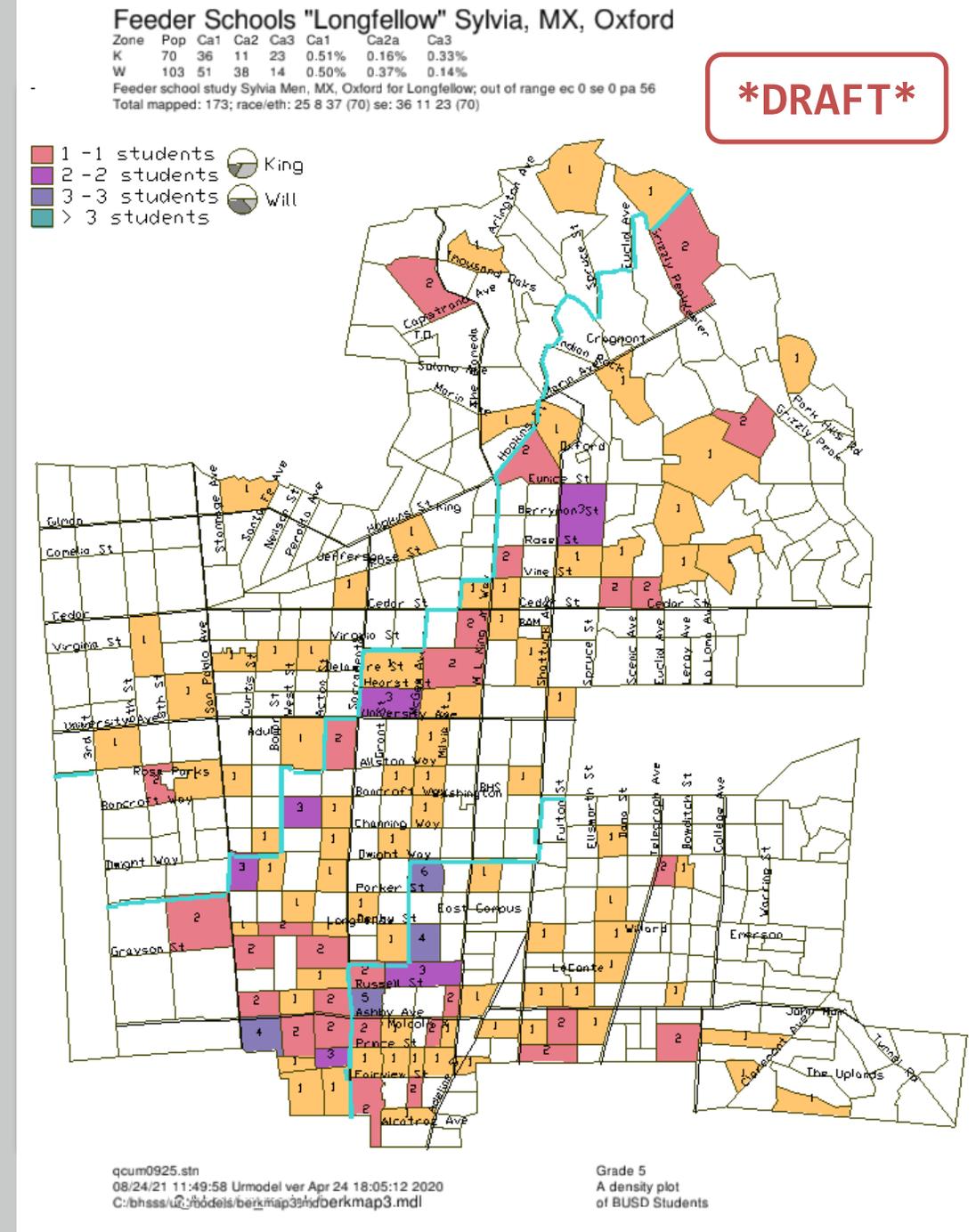
- This draft “feeder school” enrollment map creates more integrated schools than at present. It was created for the community engagement process and is not final.
- Elementary schools feeding into Willard Middle School would be:
 - Emerson Elementary
 - John Muir Elementary
 - Rosa Parks Elementary
 - Washington Elementary



“Feeder School” Middle School Enrollment Policy:

Draft Longfellow Middle School Enrollment Map

- This draft “feeder school” enrollment map creates more integrated schools than at present. It was created for the community engagement process and is not final.
- Elementary schools feeding into Longfellow Middle School would be:
 - Malcolm X Elementary
 - Oxford Elementary
 - Sylvia Mendez Elementary



Option #?

- **Newer, better ideas may come from the community engagement process.**
- **No decisions have been made or will be made until the community is heard.**

**Questions? Comments?
Add your voice to the community
engagement process!**

Find out more at www.berkeleyschools.net