Our Schools – Future Ready

Phase 2: Priorities, Perspectives, and Preferences

February 2026

Presentation Outline

01 Project Review

02 Why Now: Data Driven Decisions

03 Boundary Scenarios

04 Next Steps

01 Project Foundation

Three Planning Pillars



Invest in Programs and Opportunities

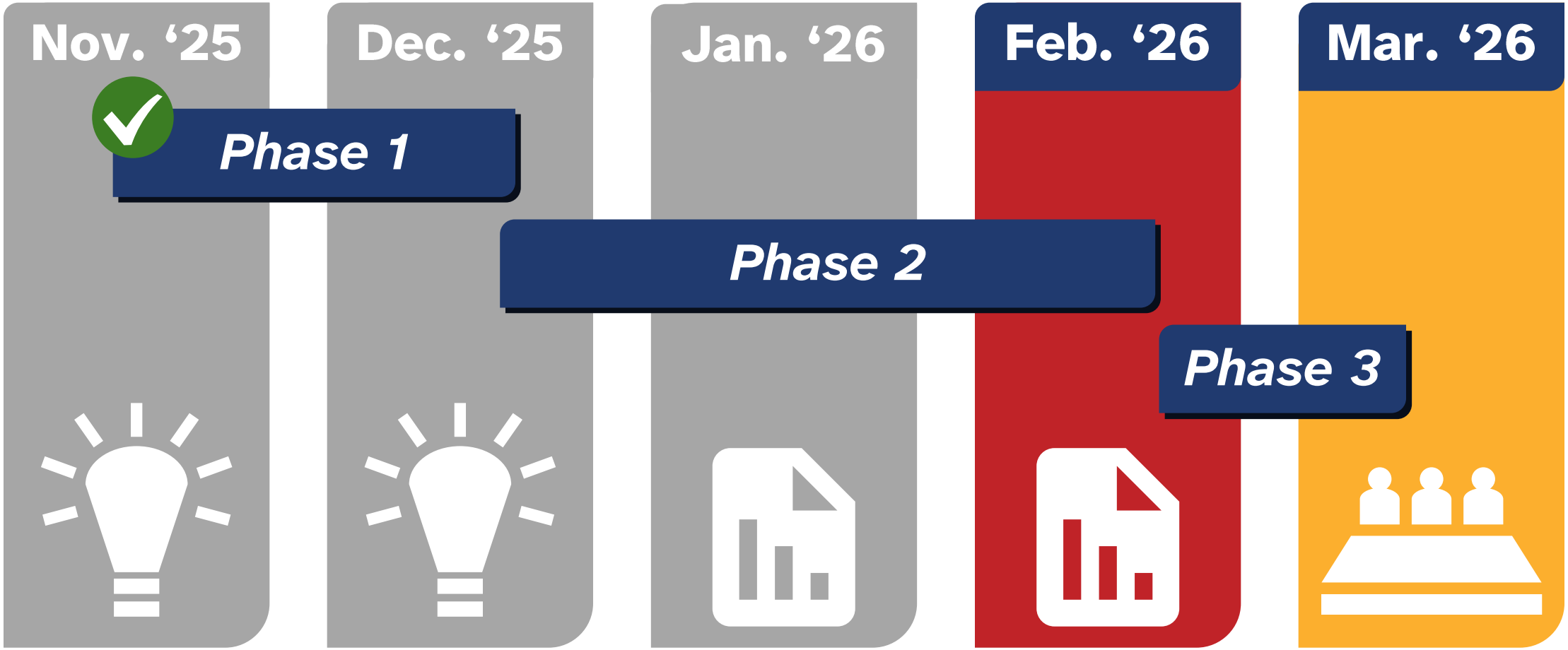


Reinforce Fiscal Responsibility



Improve Operational Efficiency

01 Project Timeline



01 Outcomes

Phase 1

Short-term

- **Phase 1** – Foundation and Engagement
- **Phase 2** – Student Programs and Opportunities/Plan Development and Public Input
- **Phase 3** – Plan Finalization and Adoption

Long-term

- Implementation of the final report
- Program enhancements and implementation
- Capital Improvement Plan addressing future needs
- Foundation of the district's strategic plan

01 Community Themes

Phase 1

- Academics and Learning
- Electives and Enrichment
- Programs and Magnets
- Teachers and Staff
- School Culture and Climate
- Student Support and Care
- Community and Belonging
- Activities and Events
- Facilities and Operations
- Transportation Services
- Community Connections
- Financial Stewardship

02 Why Now?

Overview

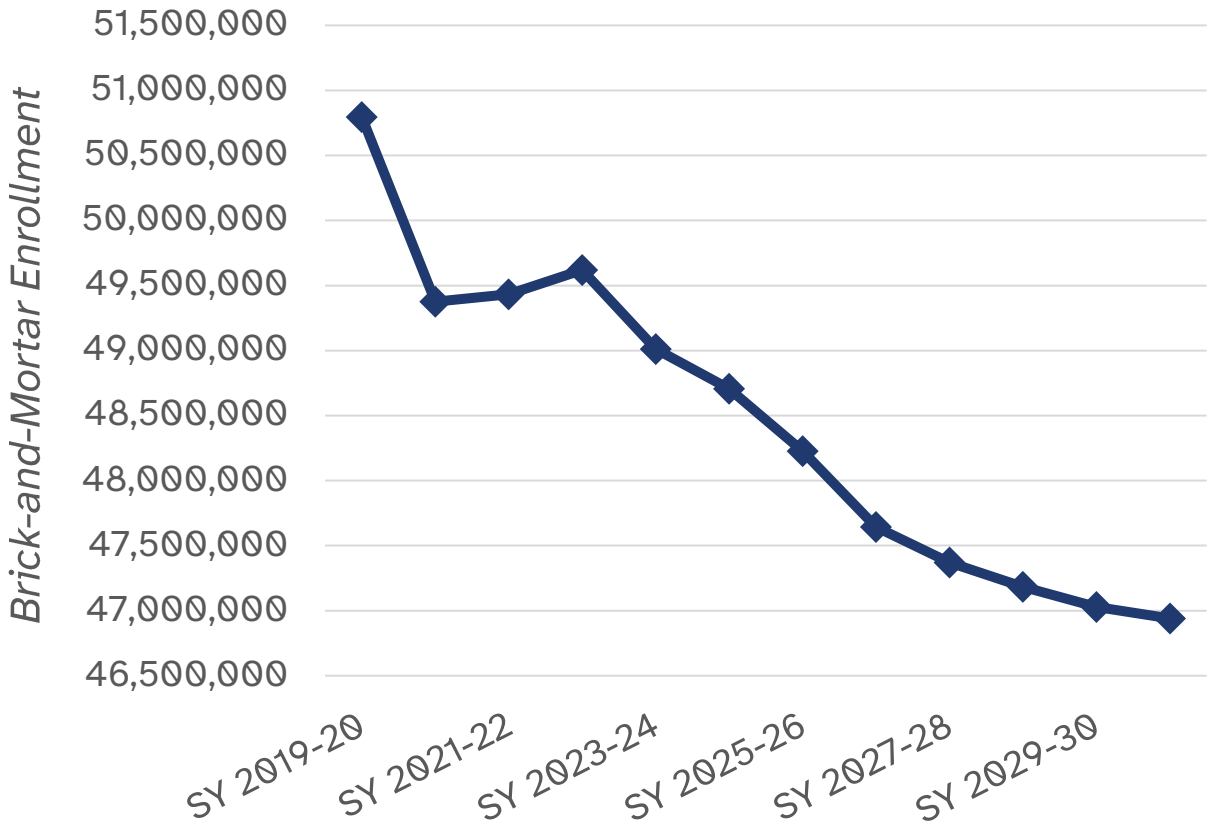
This project was spurred by data, input, and ongoing trends regarding:

- *Long-term Sustainability*
- *State Enrollment*
- *District Enrollment*
- *Demographic Shifts*
- *Program Opportunities*
- *Facility Optimization*
- *Fiscal Stewardship*
- *Outside Legislation*

02 Why Now?

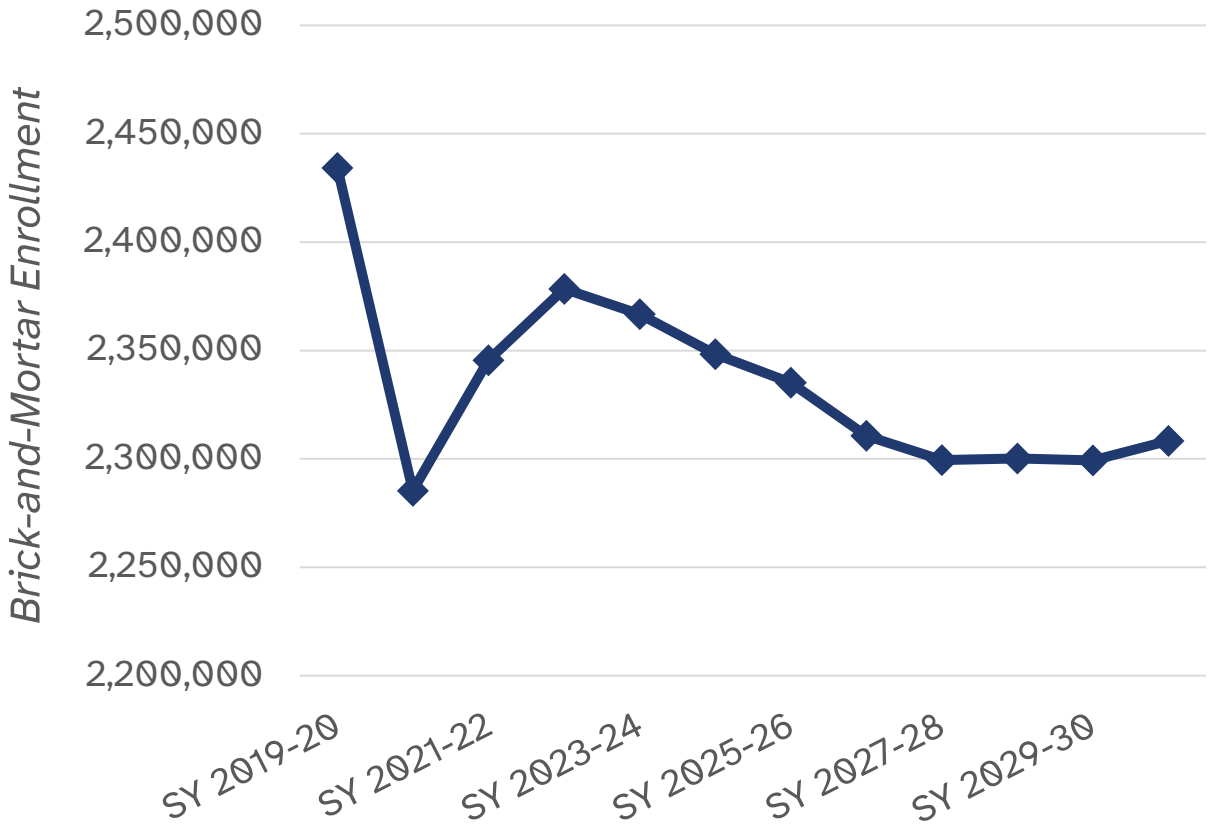
Enrollment Trends

Projected National Enrollment



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Projected State Enrollment

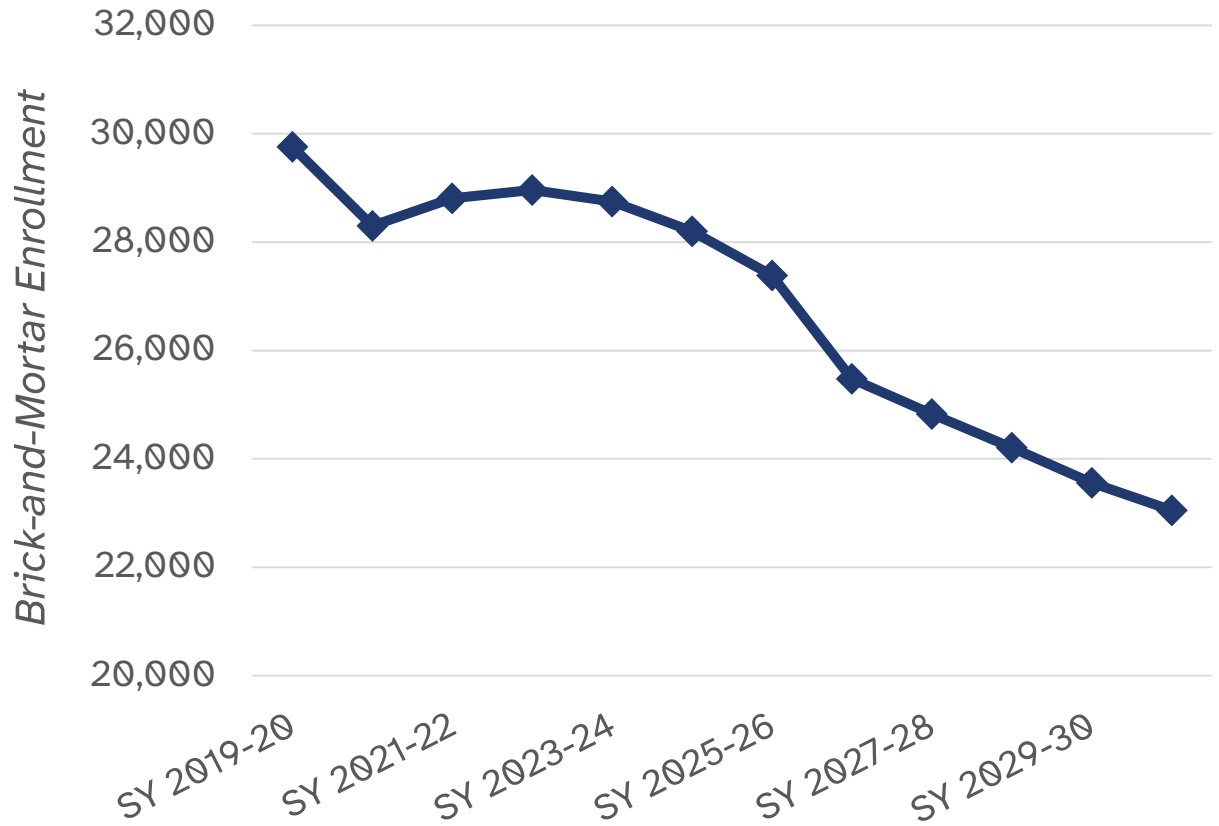


Source: *FLDOE COFTE Forecast*

02 Why Now?

Enrollment Trends

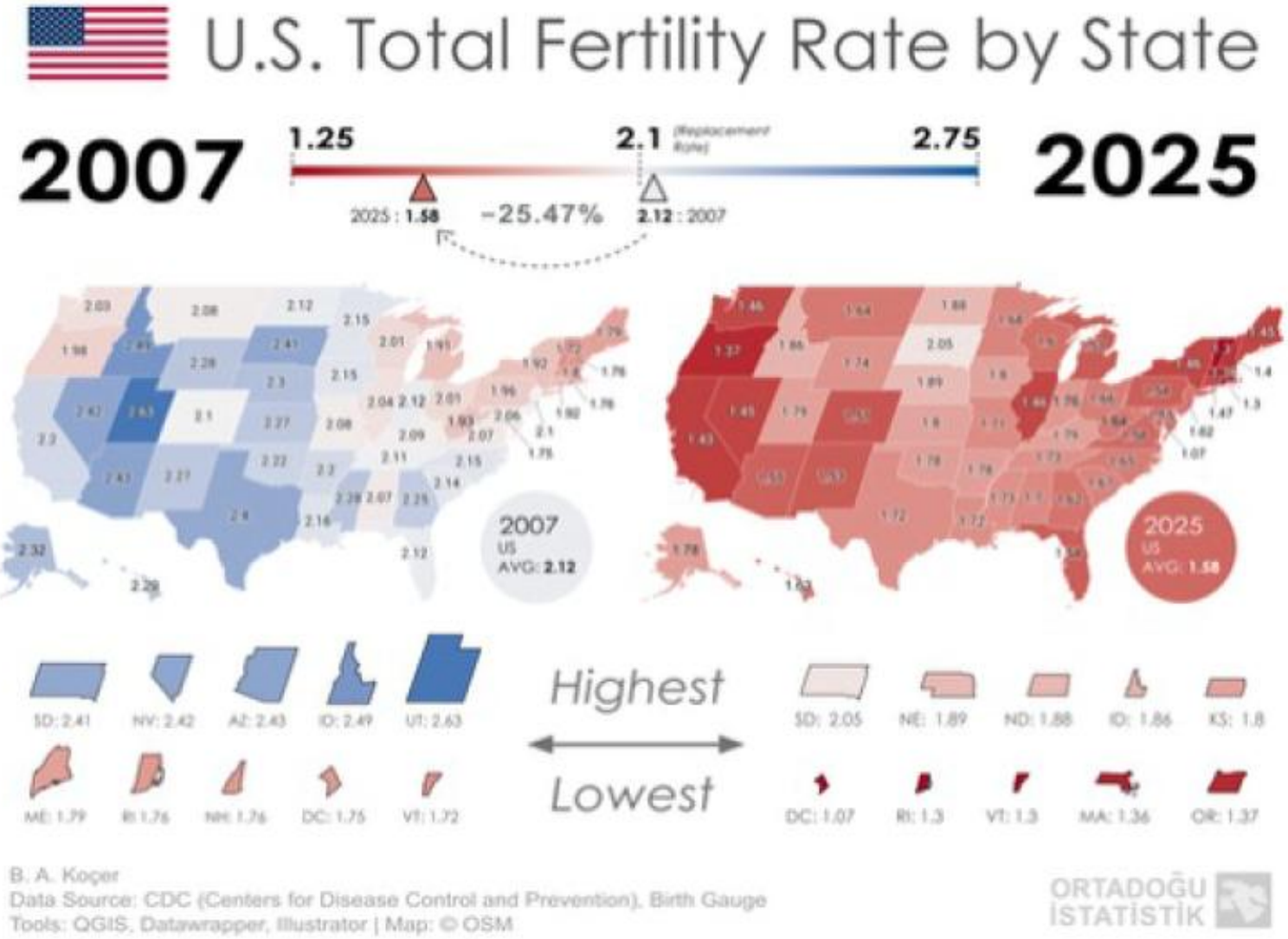
Projected District Enrollment



Source: *Florida Office of Economic & Demographic Research (EDR)*

02 Why Now?

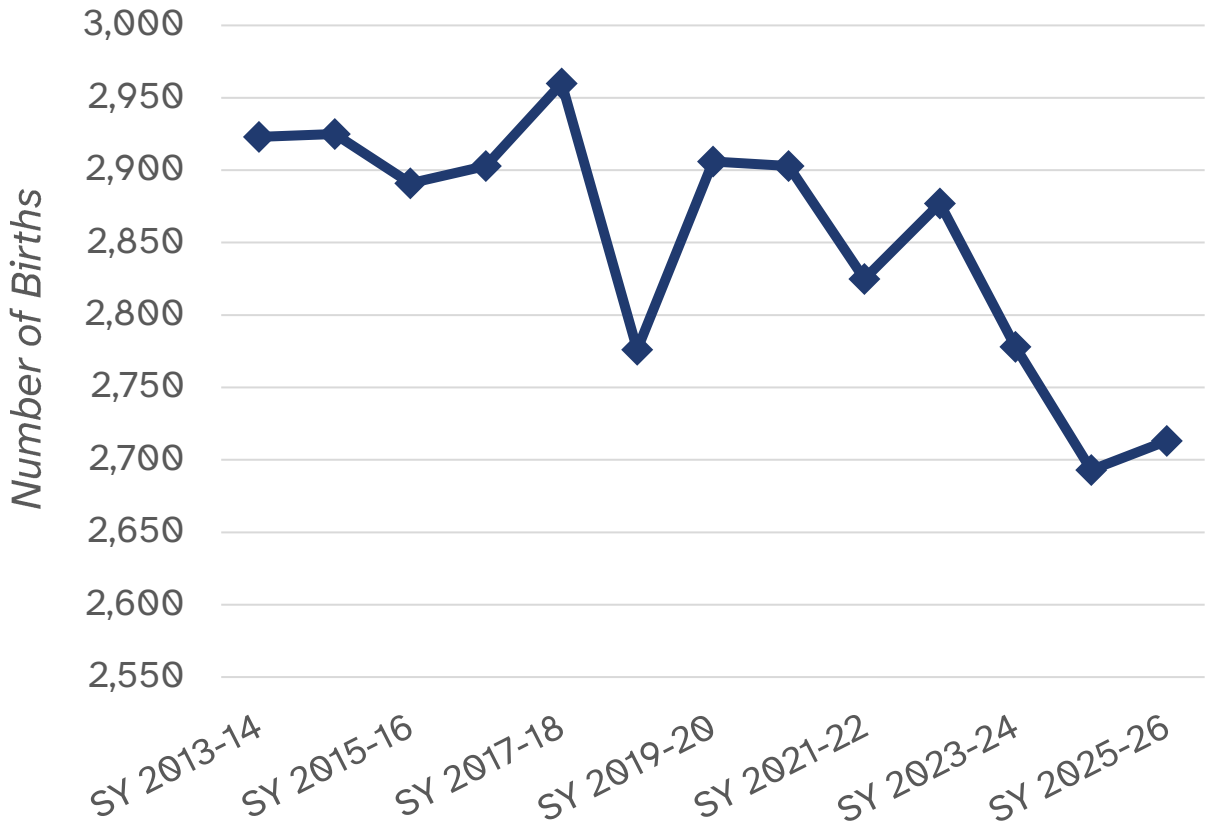
Fiscal Stewardship



02 Why Now?

Demographic Shifts

County Birth Rate

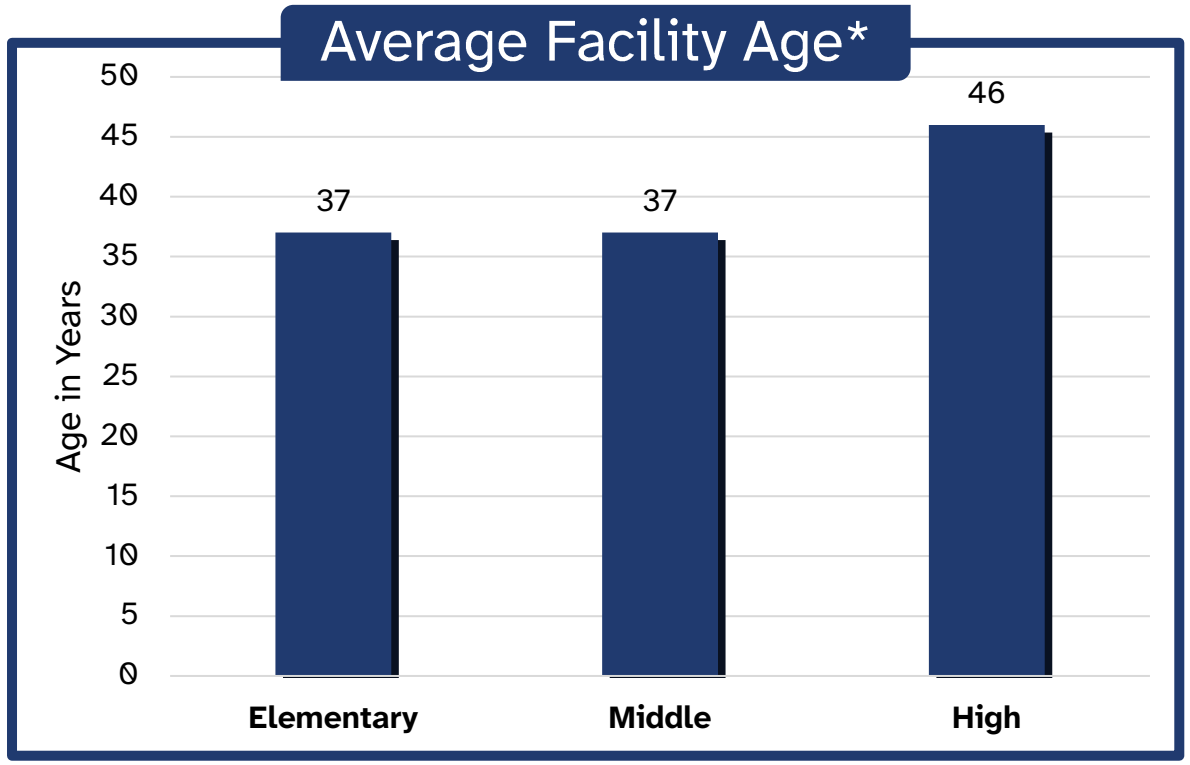


Source: *FLDOE COFTE*

Enrollment changes due to:

- Birth rate trends
- New housing developments
- Population shifts
- School choice participation

What is the current condition of our facilities?



*The facility age of individual schools is determined by calculating the average age of all buildings on a given school campus

Ranges

Elementary:
Lower Value – 5
Upper Value – 65

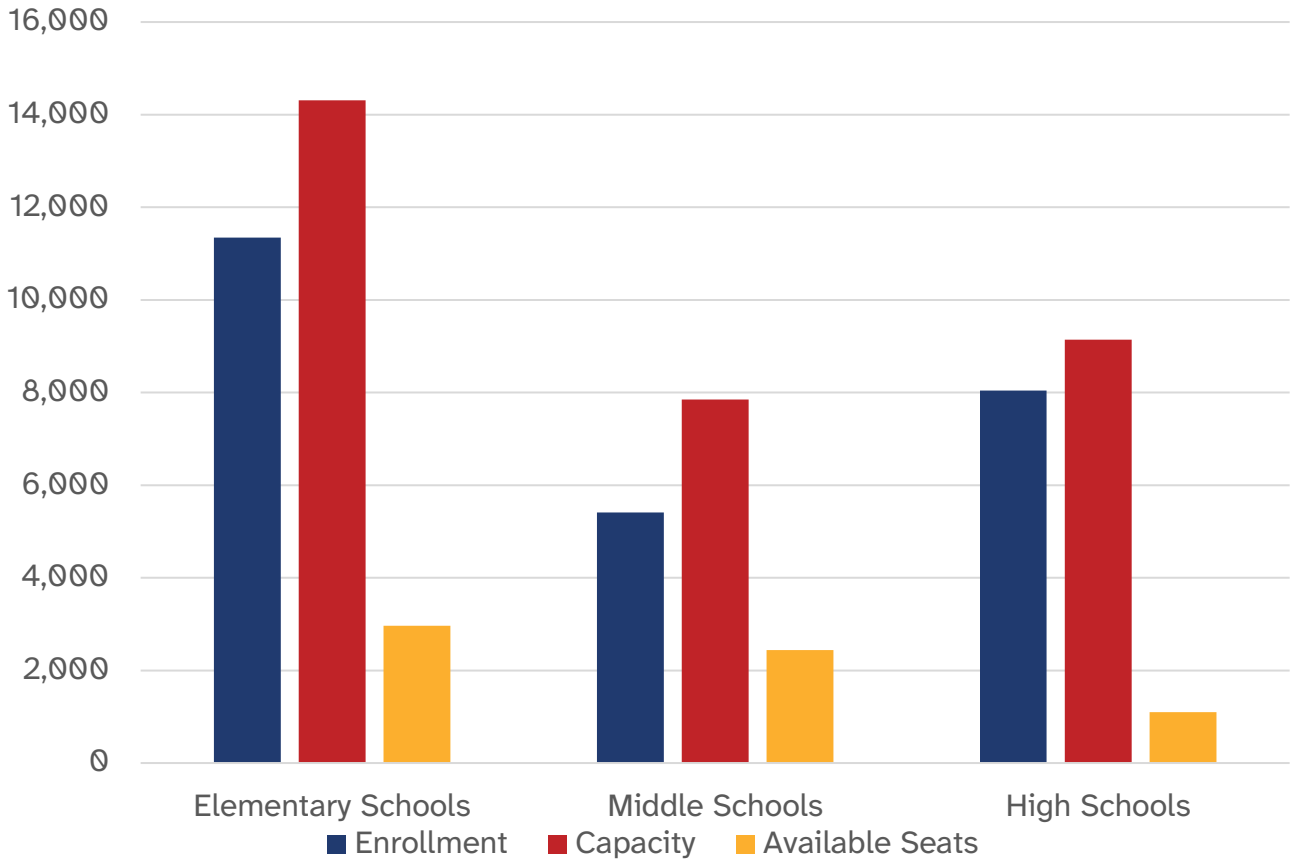
Middle:
Lower Value – 11
Upper Value – 71

High:
Lower Value – 31
Upper Value – 59

02 Why Now?

Long-term Sustainability

Enrollment vs. Capacity



- ***Future-focused***
- ***Multi-year strategic planning***
- ***Respond to future growth or decline***
- ***Proactive decision-making to protect educational quality***

02 Why Now?

Fiscal Stewardship

Address disparities in school capacity at all grade levels districtwide

Consolidate resources and direct more targeted funding to programs and facilities

*Lower **duplicative operational costs** in utilities, maintenance, and overhead*

Overview of Open Capacity by Grade Level

Grade Level	Open Capacity	Average Capacity	Excess Schools
Elementary[1]	2,666	632	4.2
Middle[2]	1,981	1,027	1.9
High[3]	983	1,440	0.7

[1] Enrollment and capacity counts exclude the Early Learning Academy at Duval
[2] Hawthorne Middle High School is tabulated exclusively as a high school for this dataset
[3] Enrollment and capacity counts exclude Loften High School

02 Why Now?

Right-sizing schools...

Aligns school enrollment with building capacity

Avoids both overcrowded and underused school

Uses facilities and resources more efficiently

Responds to demographic and community changes

Supports safe, high-quality learning environments

Focuses on long-term sustainability, not short-term fixes

02 Why Now?

Program Opportunities

Right-sized schools....

*Expand and **enhance offerings** in advanced coursework (AP, IB, AICE, Honors, etc.)*

*Provide **stronger, more expansive** Career and Technical (CTE) pathways*

***Better support coursework** in fine arts, music, theater, and world languages*

*Offer more accessible magnet and specialty programs **at all grade levels***

*Open doors for a **wider variety** of elective and exploratory courses*

*Introduce students of all grade levels to a **broader peer group***

02 Why Now?

Facility Optimization

Right-sized schools....

*Match enrollment **and** programmatic needs*

***Reduce deferred maintenance** and long-term capital costs*

***More frequently receive** investments, upgrades, and modernization*

*Align **future capital planning** with enrollment projections*

*Support students and learning, maximizing the impact of **every resource***

Prevent the maintenance of underutilized buildings

03 Boundary Scenarios

Alignment

Student Focused:

- Provide for student needs
- Balance student opportunities
- Ensure programs are maintained
- Recognize and align feeder patterns
- Move entire neighborhoods, not individual students

03 Boundary Scenarios

Alignment

Facilities and Operations:

- **Optimize school capacity**
- **Consider the age and condition of school facilities**
- **Use major roadways for boundaries**
- **Incorporate 2-mile walk zones**

03 Boundary Scenarios

Alignment

Strategic Planning:

- **Minimize changes from current zones**
- **Plan for future development and county growth**
- **Think through future facility and program costs**
- **Identify key implementation steps and timeline**

03 Boundary Scenarios

Considerations

Benefits of K-8s:

Siblings start and end school day at same time

Long-term student connections with teachers, staff, and peers

Students feel known, supported, and comfortable. Student behaviors improve.

Fewer school transitions throughout grade levels

Programs are easier to sustain long term

All proposed K-8s are at existing middle school campuses, ready for athletics

03 Boundary Scenarios

Considerations

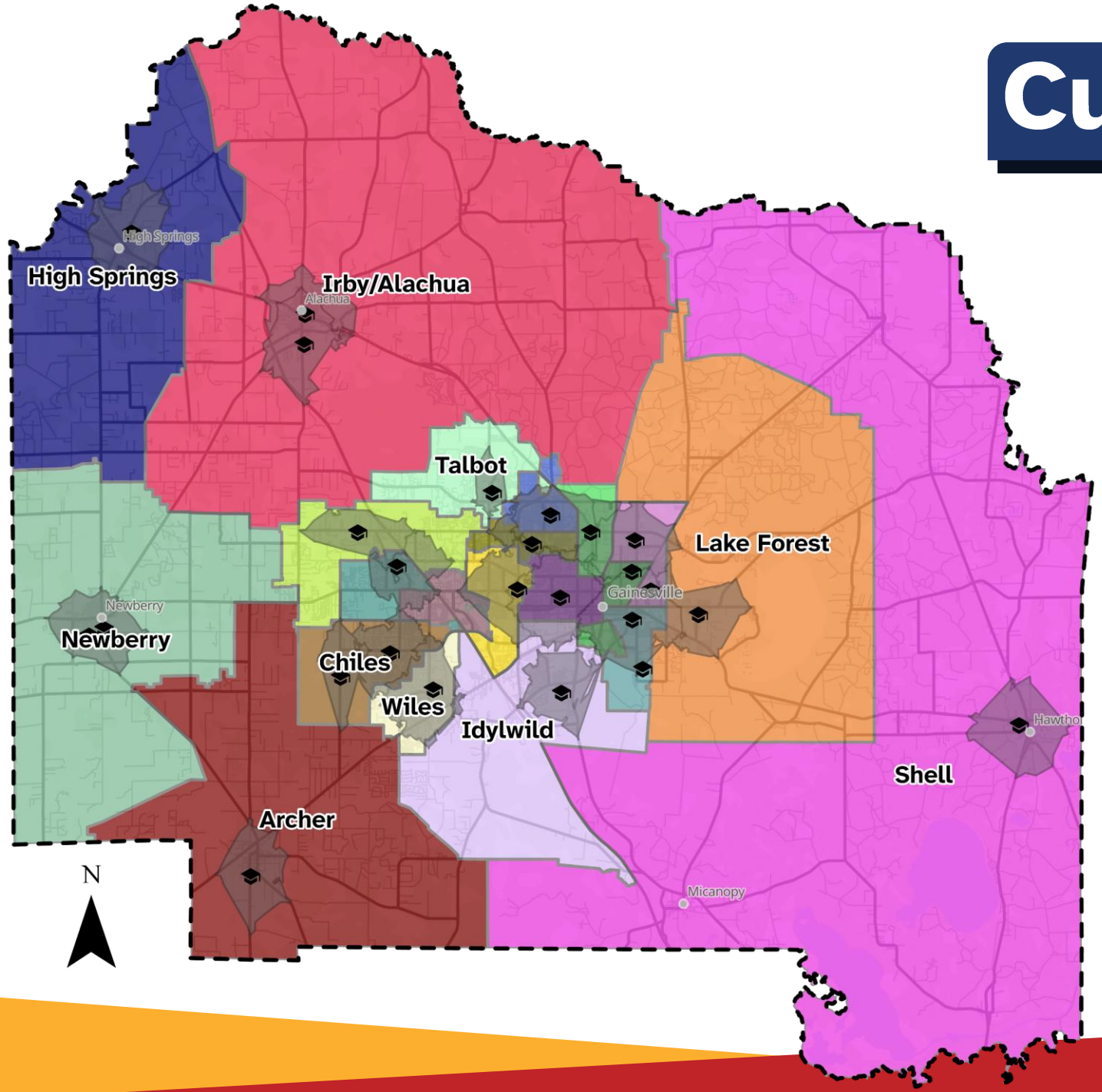
Proposed Scenarios:

- **Use the guiding principles as a foundation**
- **Result in the right-sizing of schools at each grade level**
- **Seek to improve the condition and maintenance of facilities**
- **Are not linear; each draft is independent**
- **Focus on improving transportation**
- **Are not final zones**

03 Boundary Scenarios

Elementary Scenarios

Current *Elementary*



Elementary Location

Walk Zone

Zoned School

- Archer
- Chiles
- Glen Springs
- Hidden Oak
- High Springs
- Idylwild
- Irby/Alachua
- Lake Forest
- Littlewood
- Meadowbrook
- Metcalfe
- Norton
- Parker
- Shell
- Talbot
- Terwiliger
- Wiles
- Williams
- Foster
- Newberry
- Rawlings
- Terwilliger

03 Elementary Scenarios

Proposed Common Changes

1. Boundary lines are shifted
2. Close Foster Elementary / Move Magnet to Norton Elementary
3. Convert Oak View to PreK-8 in Fall 2026
4. Move Duval VPK / PreK to Lake Forest Elementary
5. Ensure Terwilliger Elementary is located within its zone
6. Move the Turkey Creek neighborhood to Talbot Elementary
7. Focus on walk zones
8. Future conversion of Lincoln to K-8, projected by Fall 2028
    - Incorporate Williams Elementary

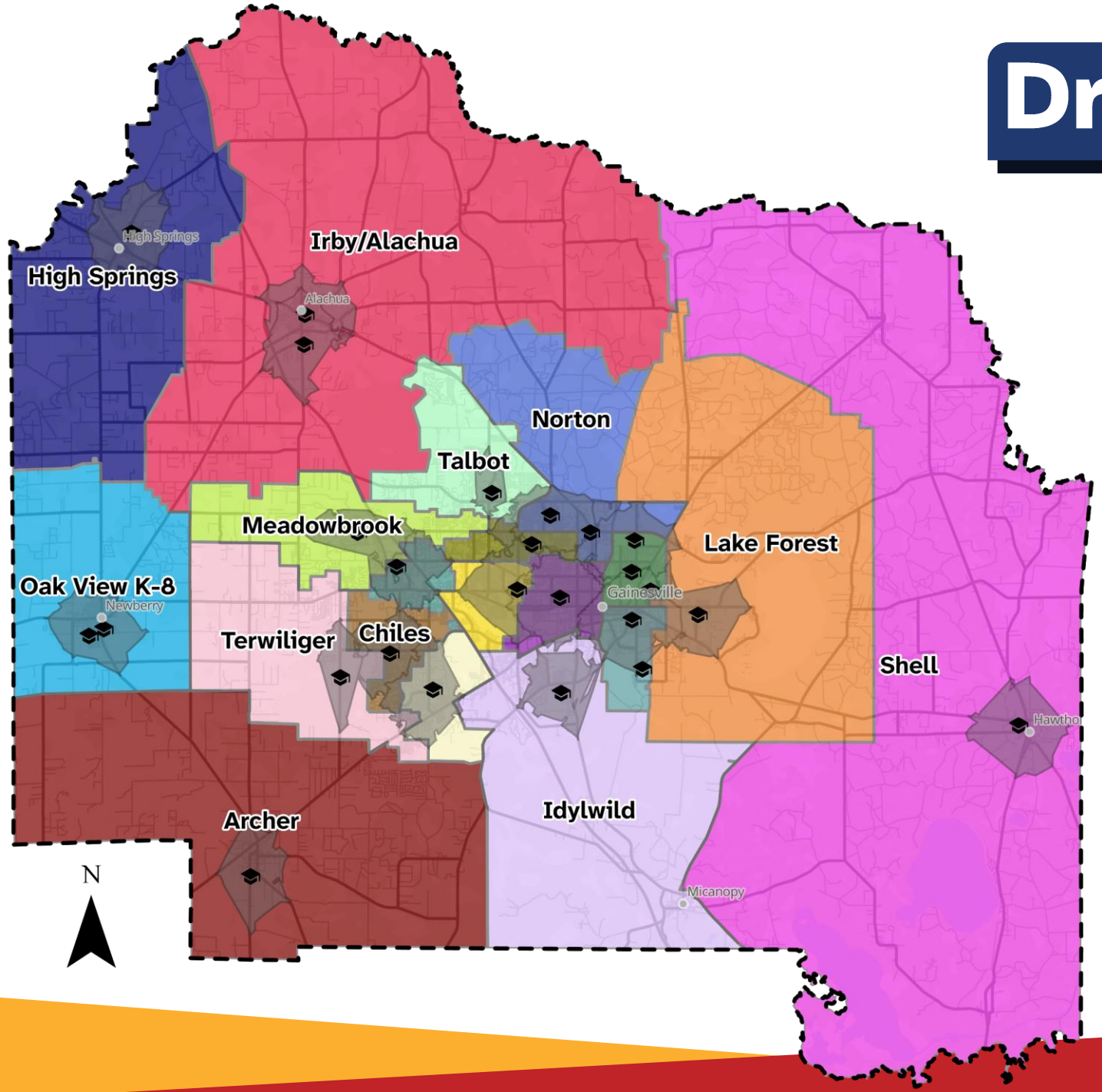
03 Elementary School Scenarios

Draft A

Additional Proposed Changes

1. Close Rawlings Elementary
   - Students go to Norton and Metcalfe
2. Close Foster Elementary
   - Students go to Norton and Parker
3. Current Terwilliger zone to Chiles, Hidden Oak, & Littlewood Elementaries
4. Proposed Terwilliger zone pulls from Chiles, Hidden Oak, Meadowbrook, Newberry, and Wiles Elementaries

Draft A *Elementary*



Elementary Location

Walk Zone

Label

- Archer
- Chiles
- Glen Springs
- Hidden Oak
- High Springs
- Idylwild
- Irby/Alachua
- Lake Forest
- Littlewood
- Meadowbrook
- Metcalfe
- Norton
- Oak View K-8
- Parker
- Shell
- Talbot
- Terwiliger
- Wiles
- Williams

03 Elementary School Scenarios

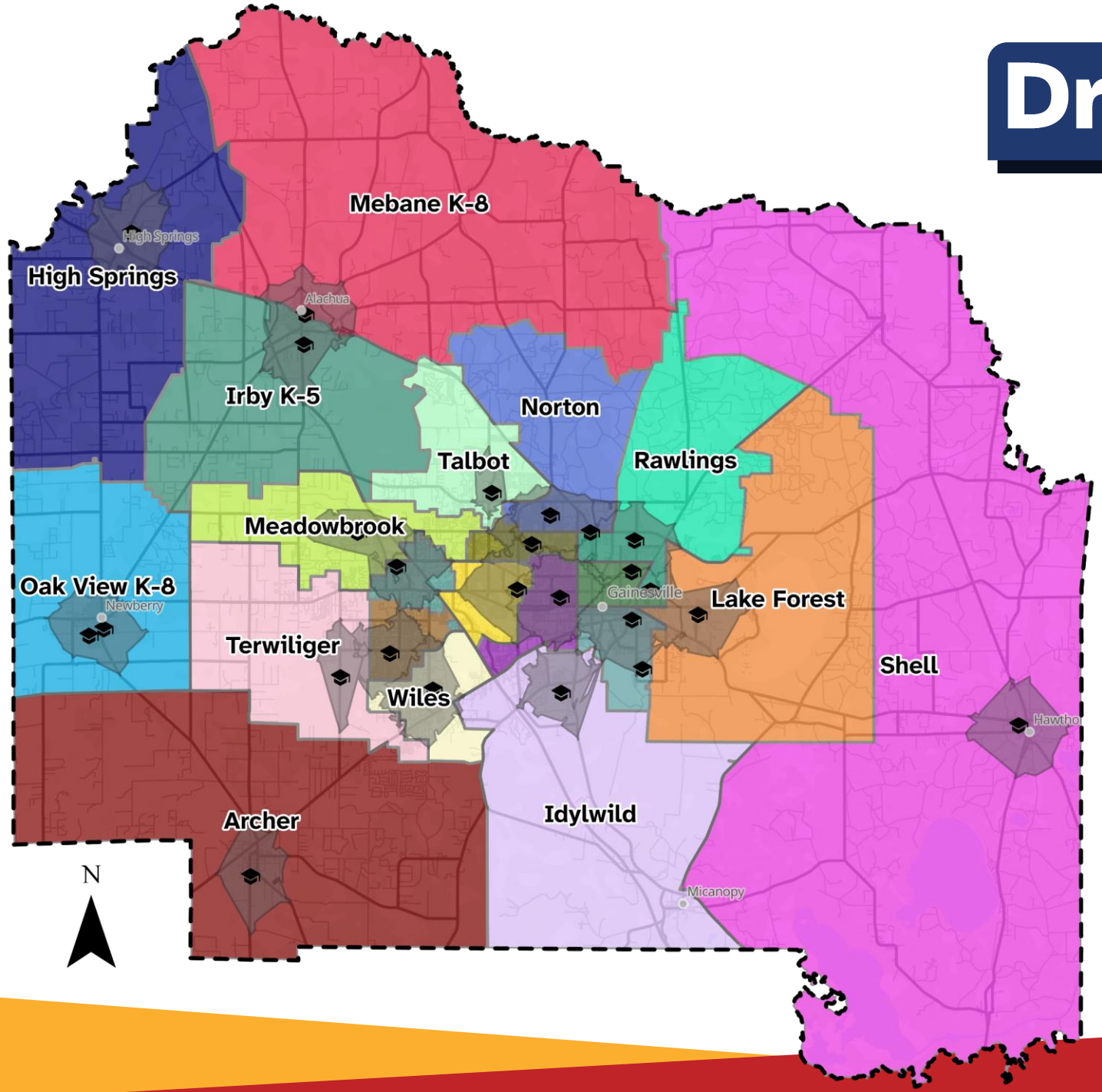
Draft B

Additional Proposed Changes

1. Current Foster zone to Norton, Rawlings, and Metcalfe Elementaries
2. Current Terwilliger zone to Chiles, Hidden Oak, Proposed Terwilliger, Littlewood, Glen Springs Elementaries
3. Proposed Terwilliger zone pulls from Chiles, Wiles, Archer, Meadowbrook, Hidden Oak, and Newberry Elementaries
4. Future conversion of Mebane to K-8, projected by August 2027
    - Expand Irby Elementary to PreK-5
    - Close Alachua Elementary

Draft B

Elementary



Elementary Location

Walk Zone

Label

- Archer
- Chiles
- Glen Springs
- Hidden Oak
- High Springs
- Idylwild
- Irby K-5
- Lake Forest
- Littlewood
- Meadowbrook
- Mebane K-8
- Metcalfe
- Norton
- Oak View K-8
- Parker
- Rawlings
- Shell
- Talbot
- Terwiliger
- Wiles
- Williams

03 Elementary School Scenarios

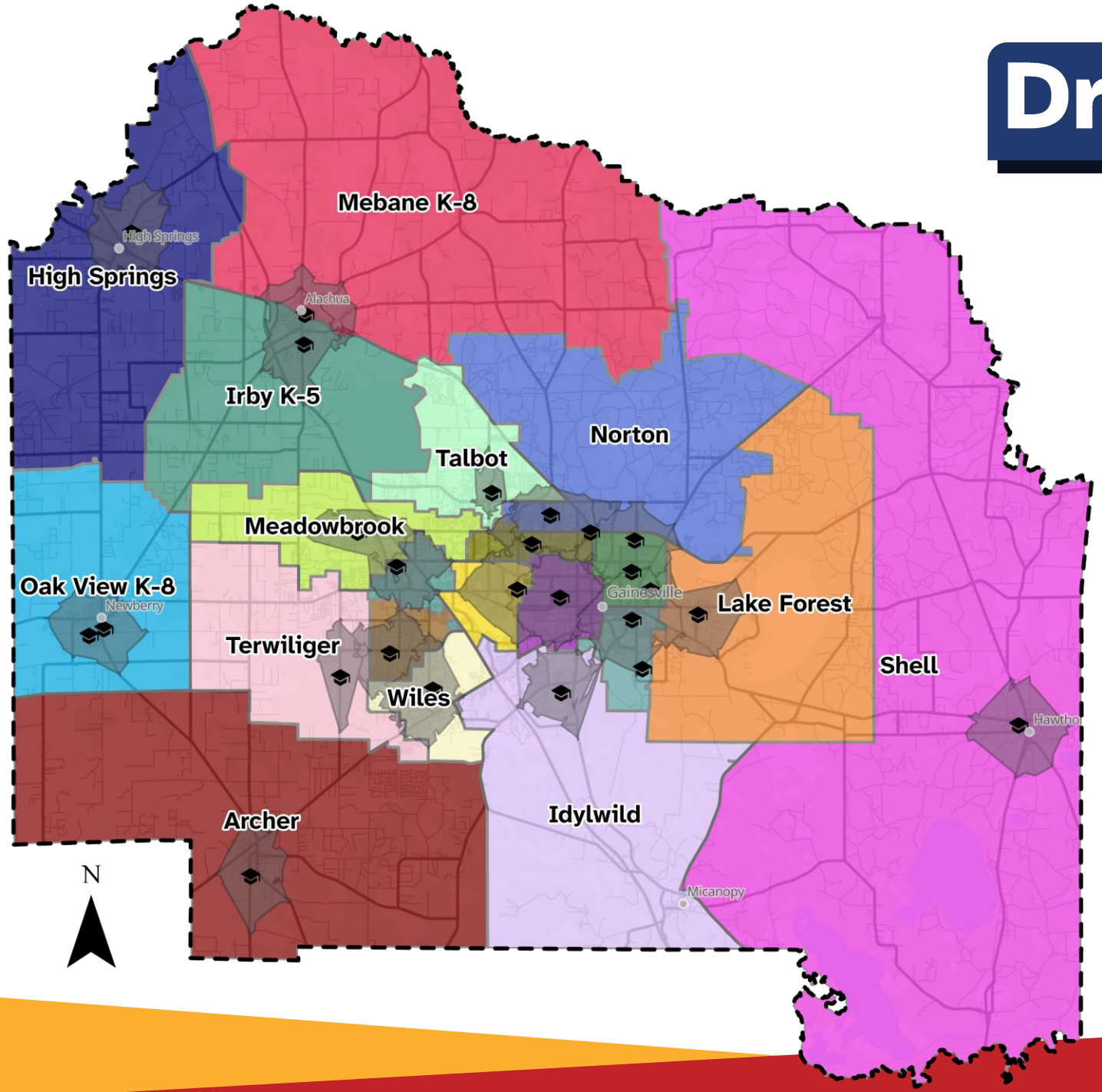
Draft C

Additional Proposed Changes

1. Close Rawlings Elementary, students to Metcalfe and Norton Elementaries
2. Close Foster Elementary, students to Norton and Metcalfe Elementaries
3. Current Terwilliger zone to Hidden Oak, Littlewood, and Chiles Elementaries
4. Proposed Terwilliger zone pulls from Archer, Chiles, Hidden Oak, Meadowbrook, Newberry, and Wiles Elementaries
5. Future conversion of Mebane to K-8, projected by August 2027
    - Expand Irby Elementary to PreK-5
    - Close Alachua Elementary

Draft C

Elementary



Elementary Location

Walk Zone

Label

- Archer
- Chiles
- Glen Springs
- Hidden Oak
- High Springs
- Idylwild
- Irby K-5
- Lake Forest
- Littlewood
- Meadowbrook
- Mebane K-8
- Metcalfe
- Norton
- Oak View K-8
- Parker
- Shell
- Talbot
- Terwiliger
- Wiles
- Williams

03 Elementary Scenarios *Proposed Closures*

Duval

- Capacity:
  - 408 student stations
- Enrollment:
  - 120 students
  - 30% capacity
- Location:
  - 30 students from Idylwild
  - 24 students from Lake Forest
  - 6 students from Metcalfe—same number coming from Shell

03 Elementary Scenarios *Proposed Closures*

Foster

- Campus Age:
  - 1952—Second oldest in district
- Magnet program:
  - Moves to Norton
- Walk Zones:
  - Covered by other walk zones
- Attendance:
  - Smallest number of zoned students
  - 209 of 394 attend on choice
  - 55% are not zoned

03 Elementary Scenarios *Proposed Closures*

Williams

- Age:
  - Built in 1938
  - Oldest school in the district
- Enrollment:
  - 200 under capacity
- Property:
  - Co-located with Lincoln
- Facility Redevelopment:
  - Open Lincoln K-8 2028

03 Elementary Scenarios *Proposed Closures*

Alachua

- Capacity:
  - 768 open seats Alachua area
  - Alachua: 61% capacity
  - Irby: 70% capacity
  - Mebane: 49% capacity
- Age:
  - Alachua nearly 3 decades older than Irby campus
- Location:
  - Irby located in proposed elementary zone

03 Elementary Scenarios

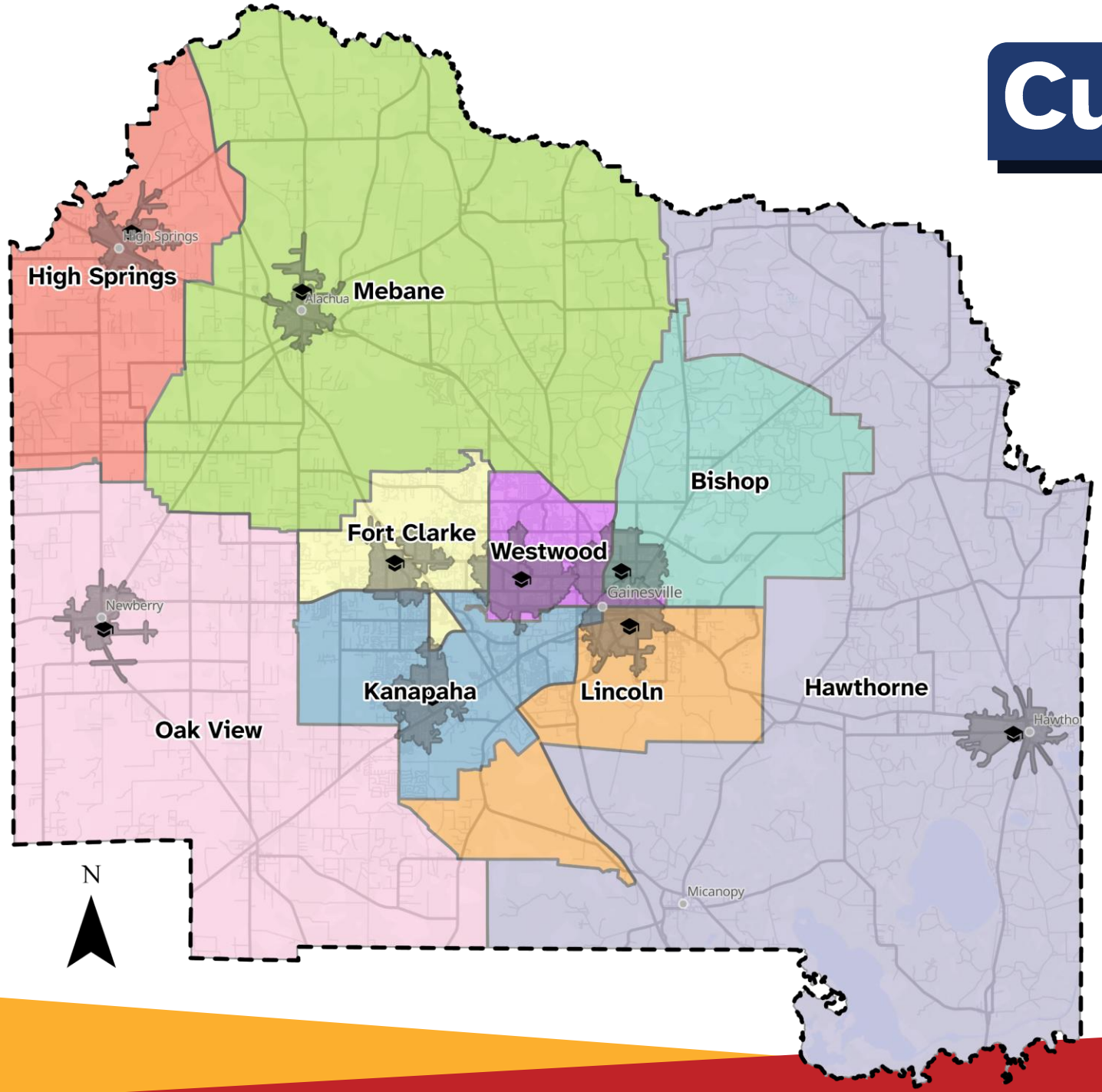
Rawlings

- Condition:
  - Age: over 3 decades older than Metcalfe
  - Metcalfe redeveloped in 2018
- Location:
  - 1 ½ miles of Metcalfe
  - Walking zones coincide with Metcalfe
  - Majority of Rawlings students within Metcalfe walking zone

03 Boundary Scenarios

Middle School Scenarios

Current *Middle*



- M.S. Location
- Walk Zone

Zoned School

- Bishop
- Fort Clarke
- Hawthorne
- High Springs
- Kanapaha
- Lincoln
- Mebane
- Oak View
- Westwood

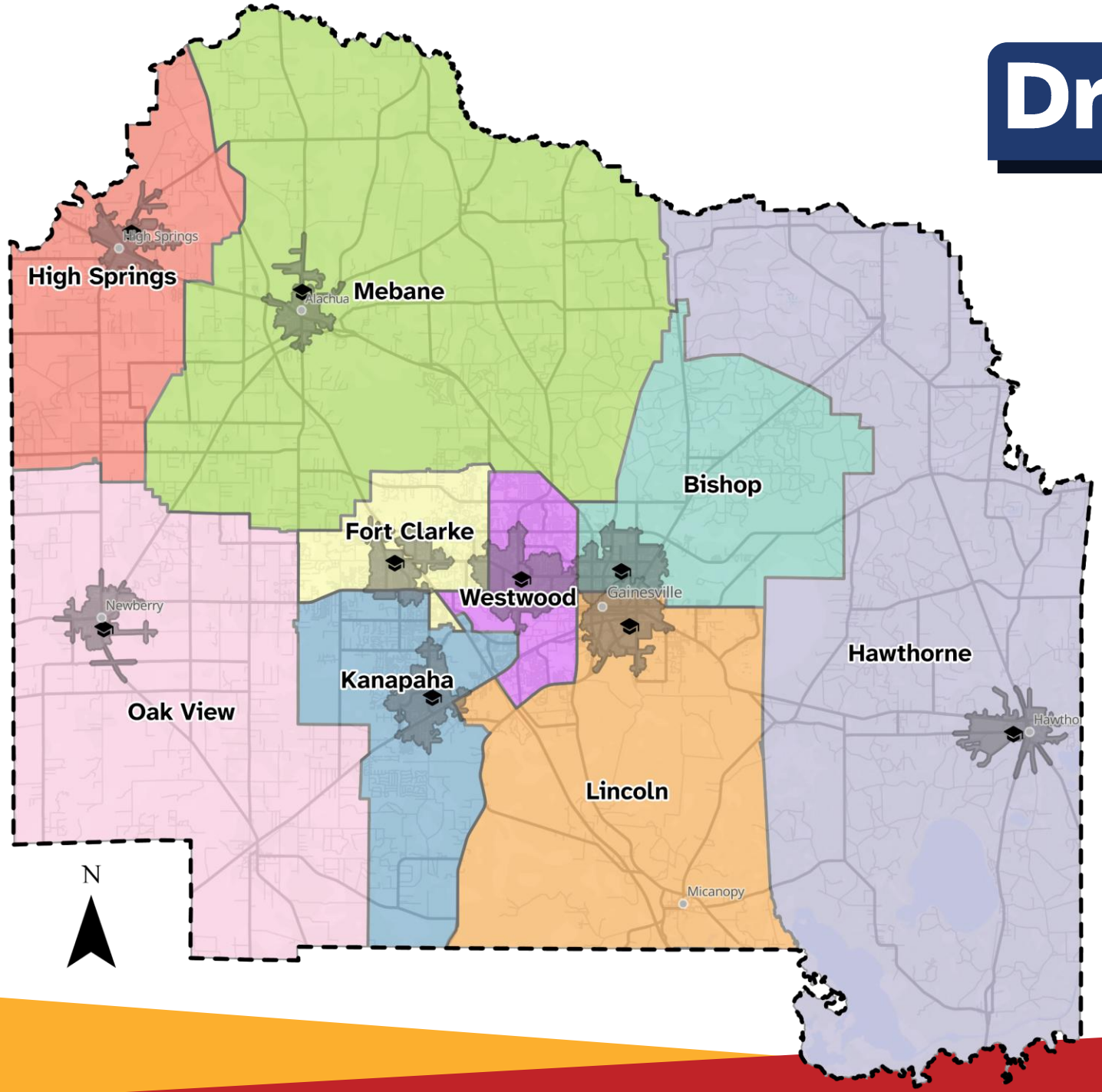
03 Middle School Scenarios

Common Proposed Changes

1. Boundary lines shift
2. Increase the efficiency of all schools
3. Level out attendance and enrollment numbers
4. Turkey Creek neighborhood in different zones
5. Draw more students to Bishop and Lincoln
6. Reduce attendance at Kanapaha by moving the zone east
7. Convert Oak View to K-8 in 2026
8. Future conversion of Lincoln to K-8, projected by Fall 2028
    - Incorporate Williams Elementary

Draft A

Middle



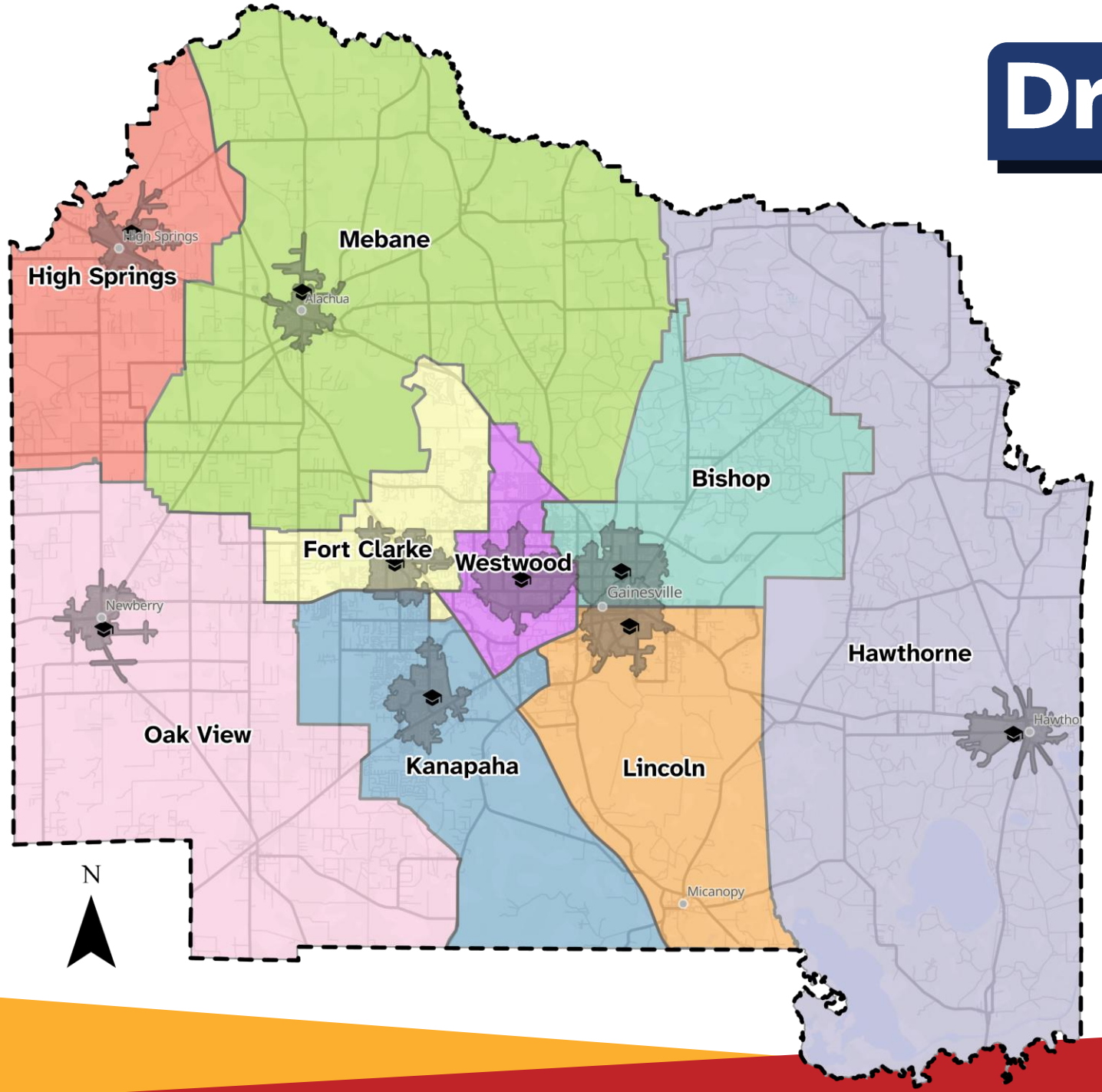
- M.S. Location
- Walk Zone

Zoned School

- Bishop
- Fort Clarke
- Hawthorne
- High Springs
- Kanapaha
- Lincoln
- Mebane
- Oak View
- Westwood

Draft B

Middle



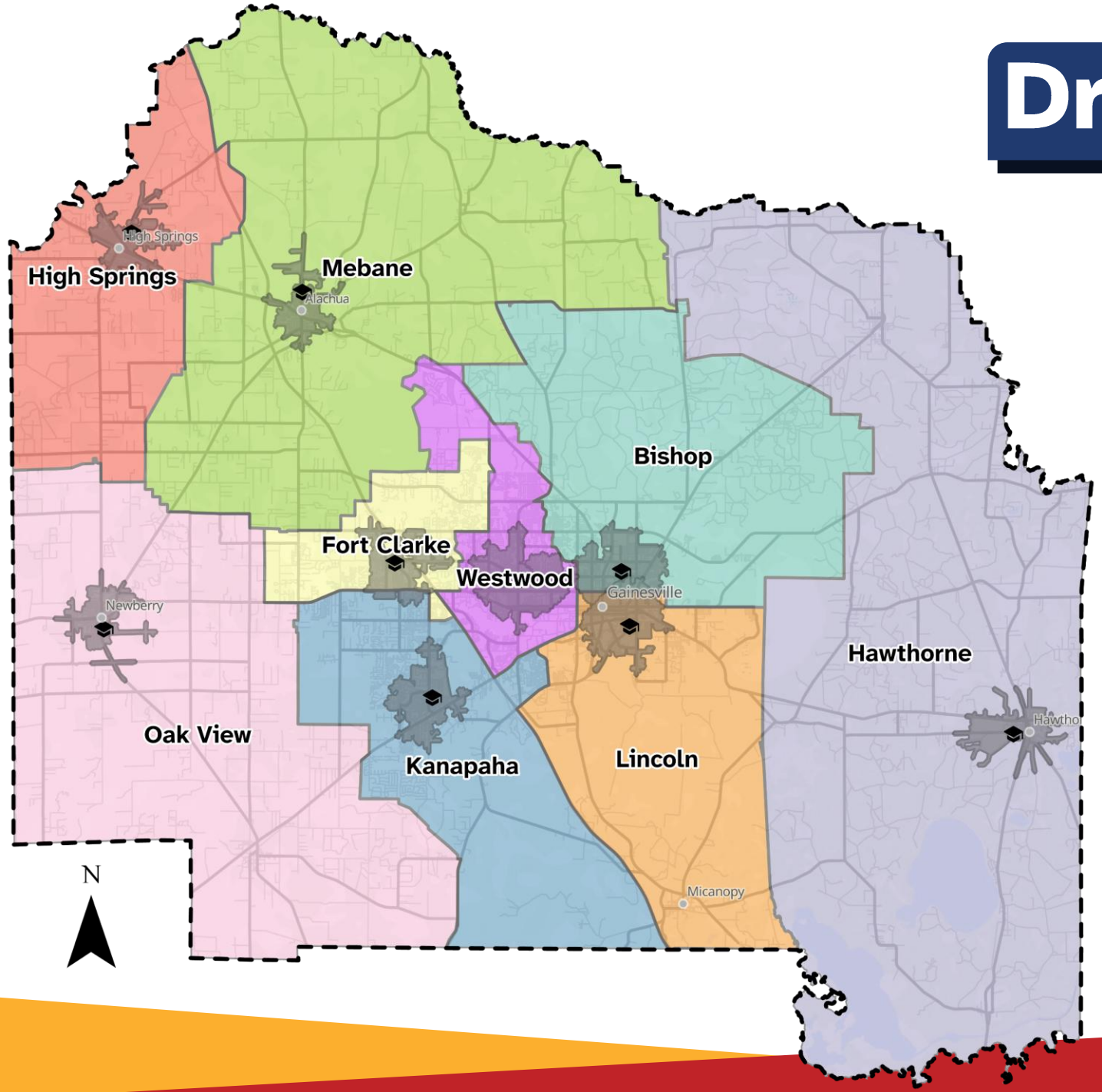
- M.S. Location
- Walk Zone

Zoned School

- Bishop
- Fort Clarke
- Hawthorne
- High Springs
- Kanapaha
- Lincoln
- Mebane
- Oak View
- Westwood

Draft C

Middle



- M.S. Location
- Walk Zone

Zoned School

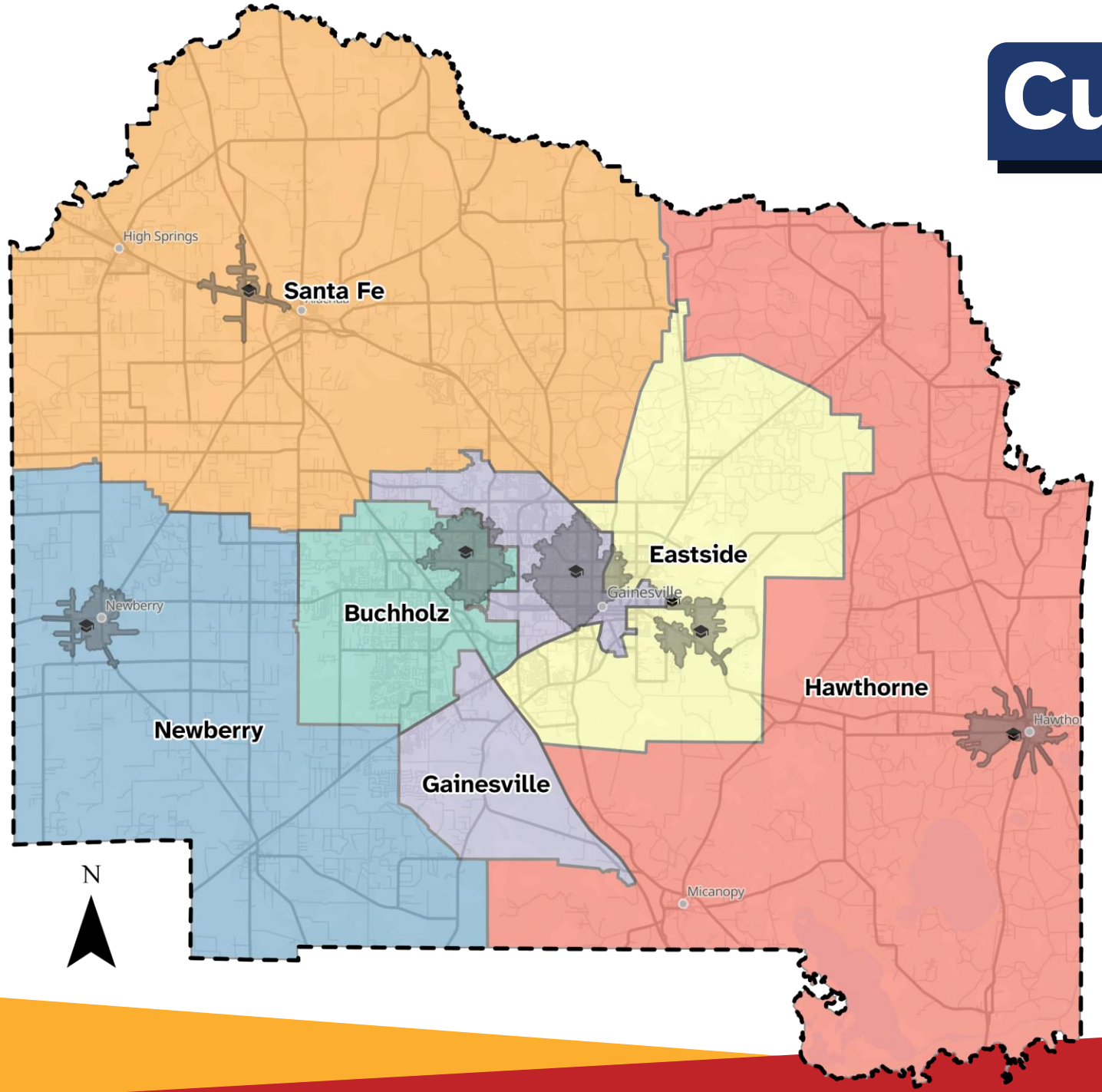
- Bishop
- Fort Clarke
- Hawthorne
- High Springs
- Kanapaha
- Lincoln
- Mebane
- Oak View
- Westwood

03 Boundary Scenarios

High School Scenarios

Current

High



- H.S. Location
- Walk Zone

Zoned School

- Buchholz
- Eastside
- Gainesville
- Hawthorne
- Newberry
- Santa Fe

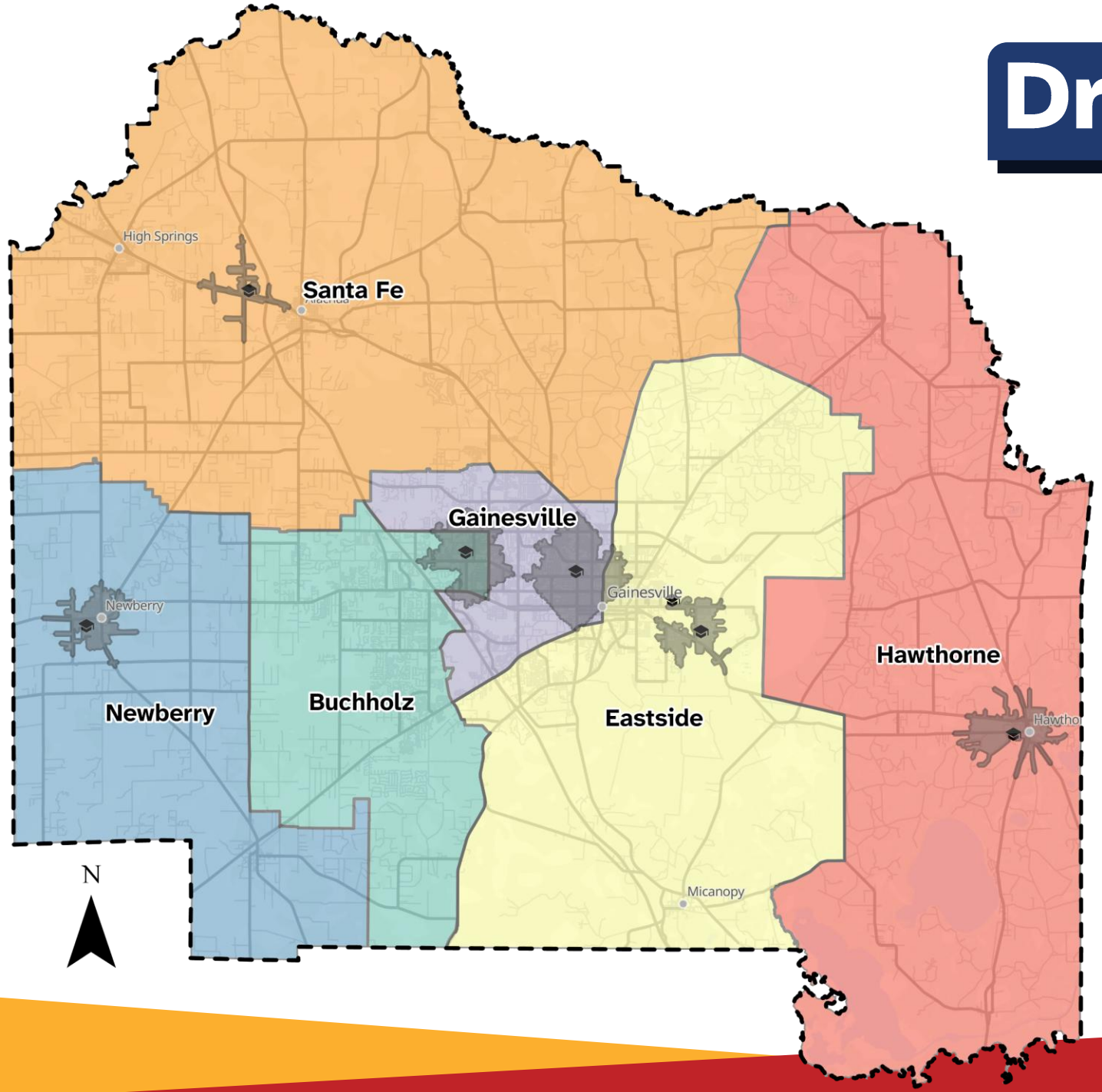
03 High School Scenarios

Common Proposed Changes

1. Boundary lines shift
2. Increase the efficiency of all schools
3. Level out attendance and enrollment numbers
4. Eastside High School's boundary moves west
5. Adjust Gainesville High School's Archer Road enclave

Draft A

High



H.S. Location

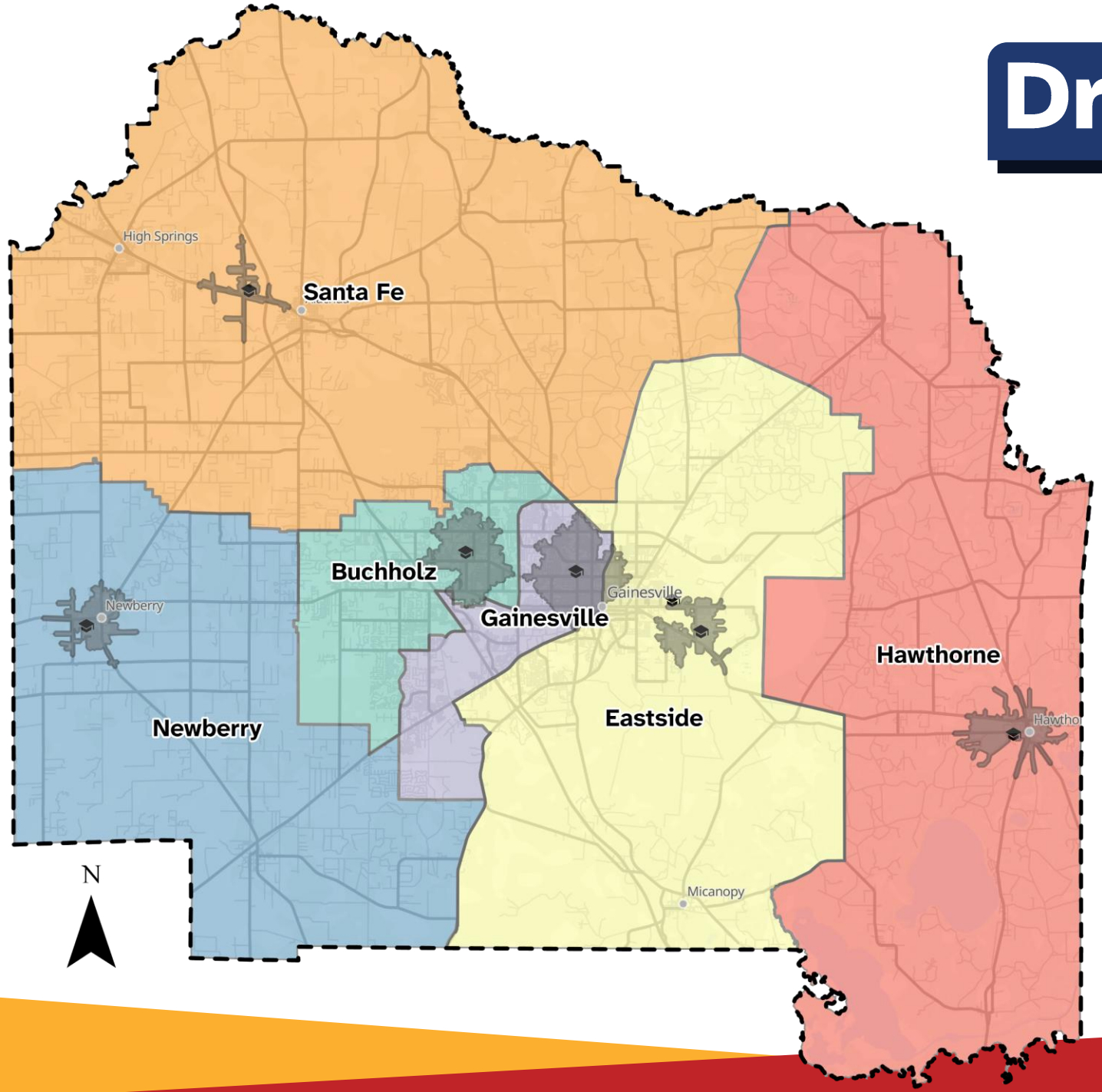
Walk Zone

Zoned School

- Buchholz
- Eastside
- Gainesville
- Hawthorne
- Newberry
- Santa Fe

Draft B

High



H.S. Location

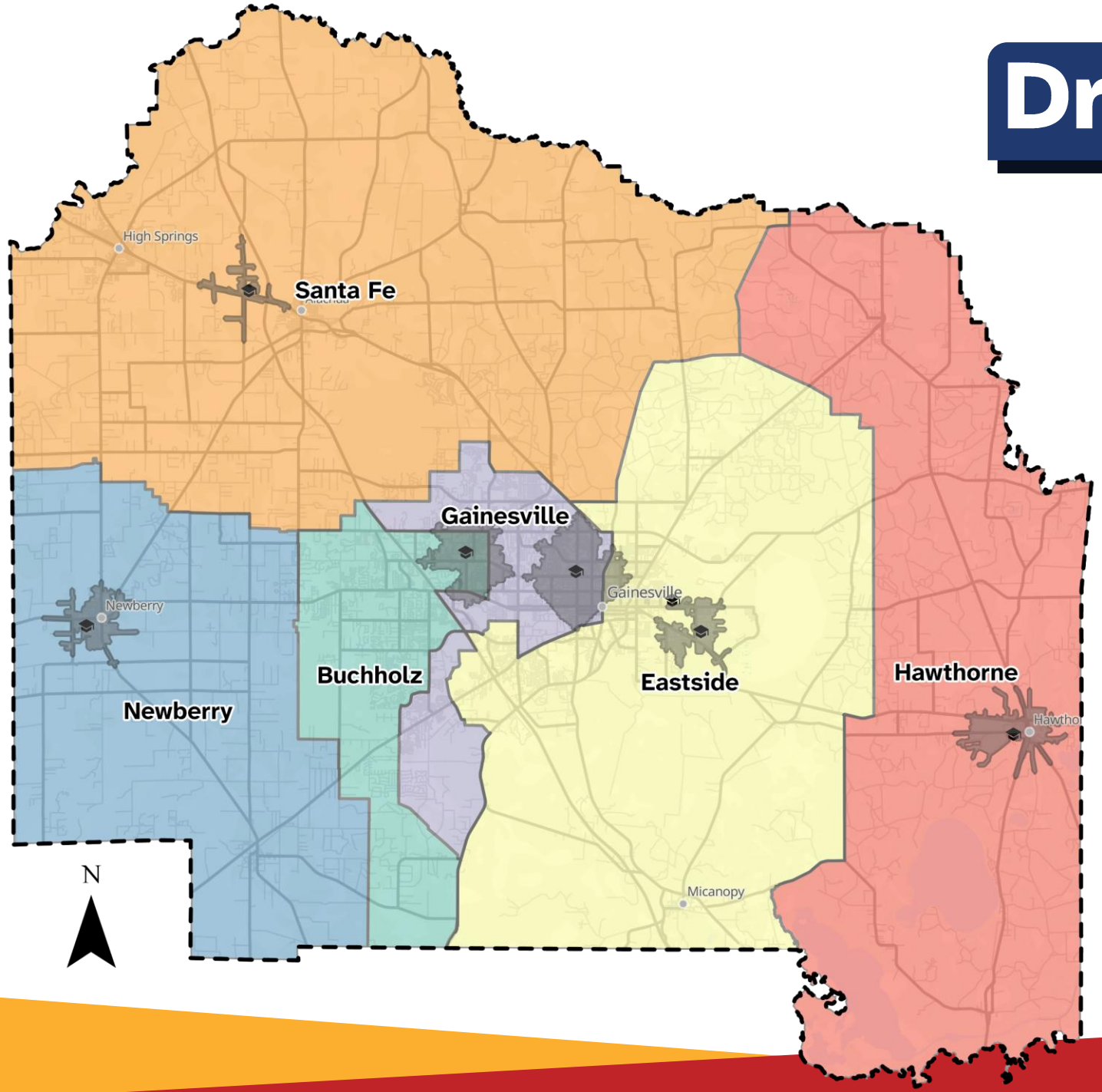
Walk Zone

Zoned School

- Buchholz
- Eastside
- Gainesville
- Hawthorne
- Newberry
- Santa Fe

Draft C

High



H.S. Location

Walk Zone

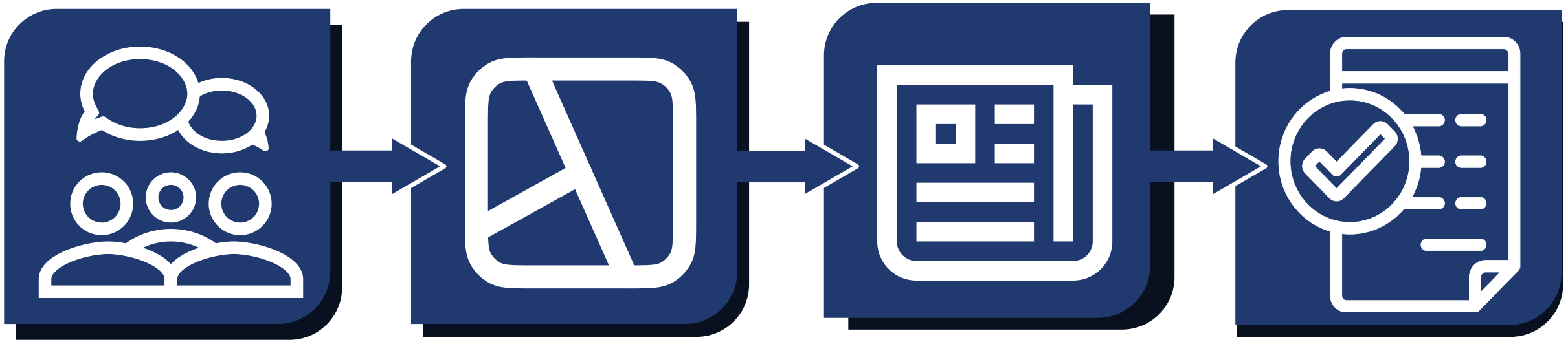
Zoned School

- Buchholz
- Eastside
- Gainesville
- Hawthorne
- Newberry
- Santa Fe

04 Coming Next

Phase 2

Phase 3



2nd Round of Engagement

Revised Boundary Scenarios

Final Report

Board Workshop

04 Schedule of Engagement



No final decisions have been made.

Your continued input, comments, and engagement are vital to the plan's future.

04 Schedule of Engagement



Engagement Opportunities

Hawthorne Middle High – Feb. 4

High Springs Community - Feb. 5

Buchholz High – Feb. 9

Oak View Middle – Feb. 10

Eastside High – Feb. 11

Kanapaha Middle – Feb. 12

Mebane Middle – Feb. 17

Westwood Middle – Feb. 18

04 Feedback Opportunities

Online Survey

Interactive Map



Individual Discussion & Comments

in the media center following this presentation