



DATE: September 1, 2021
TO: School Board Members
FROM: Dr. Brian V. Hightower
Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Annual Report - - Critical Overcrowding

The SY2021-22 Cherokee County Inventory of School Housing (CCISH) shows the impact of sustained enrollment growth and indicates several areas where additional classroom space will soon be needed. NOTE: CCSD did not generate this report last school year due to extreme anomalies in enrollment resulting from COVID-19's impact on in-person learning.

Additionally, SY2021-22 marks the ninth consecutive year during which none of the School District's schools are considered "critically overcrowded," reflecting long-standing successful management practices and School Board Policies governing student enrollment growth forecasts, school construction project planning and student attendance area decisions.

The attached chart uses this school year's 20-day enrollment count (August 27, 2021) to measure the percentage of overcrowding. School Board Policy defines "critically overcrowded" as when a school exceeds 140% of its enrollment capacity and meets other criteria, including use of all existing portable classrooms. Pursuant to the School Board's Critical Overcrowding Policy (FDBD), the impact of actual student enrollment is evaluated annually after the 20th day of classes, which is when attendance traditionally peaks, to determine critically overcrowded schools and what, if any, action is needed.

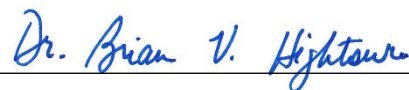
The effort to eliminate "critical overcrowding" in the School District began in 2001, with an aggressive, multi-tiered Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (Ed-SPLOST) plan proposed by a Blue Ribbon Committee of community leaders and approved by the School Board for inclusion on a local ballot referendum. This plan to "bond" future sales tax revenue, which has been extended three times by voters over the past 15 years, continues today with new construction, strategic land purchases, facility renovations, replacement school buses and emerging technologies for students and staff.

Unfortunately, if portable classrooms were not available, six schools would currently be operating at 100% or more of their capacity. It should be remembered that, while portable classrooms provide relief for classroom instruction, they do not alleviate overcrowding in media centers, cafeterias, restrooms and hallways, as well as not resolving (and sometimes exacerbating) shortages in critical resources such as lockers, parking and

recess/playground areas. The schools are: Free Home ES, Creekland MS, E.T. Booth MS, Teasley MS, Creekview HS and Woodstock HS. Of those six schools, two are operating at more than 120% capacity.

Staff continues to analyze this new data to determine recommendations that may be needed to address overcrowding in preparation for the next school year(s). Data is compiled and analyzed year-round to monitor not only enrollment growth, but also the local real estate market, development trends, local birth rates and other demographics...in order to best determine when and where new and/or replacement school facilities are needed.

Again, it should be noted that all new and replacement school construction and renovations in the School District are funded by Ed-SPLOST revenue, which will be up for renewal during the November 2021 general election. If the Ed-SPLOST is successfully renewed, current overcrowding and capacity issues will be alleviated through construction of the following projects over the next five-year period: Cherokee HS Replacement, Free Home ES Replacement, Creekland MS Classroom Addition and the Creekview HS Classroom Addition. Also, with our high schools ranging in enrollment from 1902 to 2912 students, Auxiliary Gymnasium Construction at Creekview HS and River Ridge HS would result in all six of our high schools possessing a second gymnasium, which is critical space for both curricular and extracurricular programming.



BVH

BVH/BS/MMc
Attachment

cc: Agenda Preparation Group
Principals
Assistant Principals
School Board Attorney

2021-2022 Cherokee County Inventory of School Housing

School Name	Facility Enrollment Capacity ¹			SY2021-2022 20 Day Enrollment	Percentage Overcrowding		Portable Classrooms
	As Constructed ²	Special Programs ³	With Portables		Without Portables	With Portables ⁴	
Arnold Mill ES (K-5)	1,100	1,062	1,100	793	75%	72%	2
Avery ES (K-5)	1,175	1,163	1,163	1,043	90%	90%	0
Ball Ground ES (K-5)	1,175	1,150	1,150	553	48%	48%	0
Bascomb ES (K-5)	1,062	1,050	1,250	946	90%	76%	12
Boston ES (K-5)	862	850	891	589	69%	66%	4
Carmel ES (K-5)	1,100	1,068	1,281	902	84%	70%	12
Clark Creek ES (K-5)	1,200	1,187	1,187	1,044	88%	88%	0
Clayton ES (K-5)	312	312	462	275	88%	60%	12
Free Home ES (K-5)	250	250	400	309	124%	77%	8
Hasty ES (K-5)	1,175	1,143	1,143	979	86%	86%	0
Hickory Flat ES (K-5)	925	918	918	846	92%	92%	0
Holly Springs ES (K-5)	1,100	1,088	1,193	711	65%	60%	6
Indian Knoll ES (K-5)	1,200	1,200	1,200	845	70%	70%	0
Johnston ES (K-5)	512	512	862	462	90%	54%	20
Knox ES (K-5)	1,200	1,187	1,187	874	74%	74%	0
Liberty ES (K-5)	1,175	1,143	1,343	996	87%	74%	12
Little River ES (K-5)	1,518	1,506	1,506	1,252	83%	83%	0
Macedonia ES (K-5)	862	862	862	754	87%	87%	0
Mountain Road ES (K-5)	725	713	713	394	55%	55%	0
Oak Grove ES (K-5)	687	687	687	453	66%	66%	0
R. M. Moore ES (K-5)	1,062	1,050	1,050	926	88%	88%	0
Sixes ES (K-5)	891	879	879	689	78%	78%	0
Woodstock ES (K-5)	1,175	1,150	1,225	1,030	90%	84%	4
Creekland MS (6-8)	1,200	1,187	1,362	1,455	123%	107%	10
Dean Rusk MS (6-8)	1,675	1,637	1,637	1,473	90%	90%	0
E. T. Booth MS (6-8)	1,562	1,550	1,650	1,632	105%	99%	6
Freedom MS (6-8)	1,200	1,150	1,150	942	82%	82%	0
Mill Creek MS (6-8)	1,562	1,525	1,525	1,339	88%	88%	0
Teasley MS (6-8)	1,562	1,538	1,538	1,667	108%	108%	0
Woodstock MS (6-8)	1,362	1,325	1,325	1,037	78%	78%	0
Cherokee HS (9-12)	3,480	3,420	3,420	2,912	85%	85%	0
Creekview HS (9-12)	1,875	1,850	1,962	2,054	111%	105%	6
Etowah HS (9-12)	2,575	2,550	3,040	2,421	95%	80%	24
River Ridge HS (9-12)	2,075	2,038	2,038	1,902	93%	93%	0
Sequoyah HS (9-12)	2,400	2,375	2,375	2,091	88%	88%	0
Woodstock HS (9-12)	1,975	1,938	2,381	2,134	110%	90%	22

Total Overcrowding Percentage	
Without Portables	With Portables
Total ES % Overcrowding	80%
Total MS % Overcrowding	96%
Total HS % Overcrowding	95%
< 90%	90% - 99%
100% - 139%	> 140%

Note: Enrollment numbers include P3 and P4 students where applicable.

¹ Capacity calculations based on State Instructional Unit Capacity Charts

² Original Facility Construction IU Designation

³ Adjustments are calculated to accommodate specialized classrooms that operate at a limited capacity based on usage

⁴ If/when school capacity is extended by the use of portables, the capacity of core areas (e.g., media center, cafeteria, hallways, kitchens, restrooms, etc.) is not expanded.