

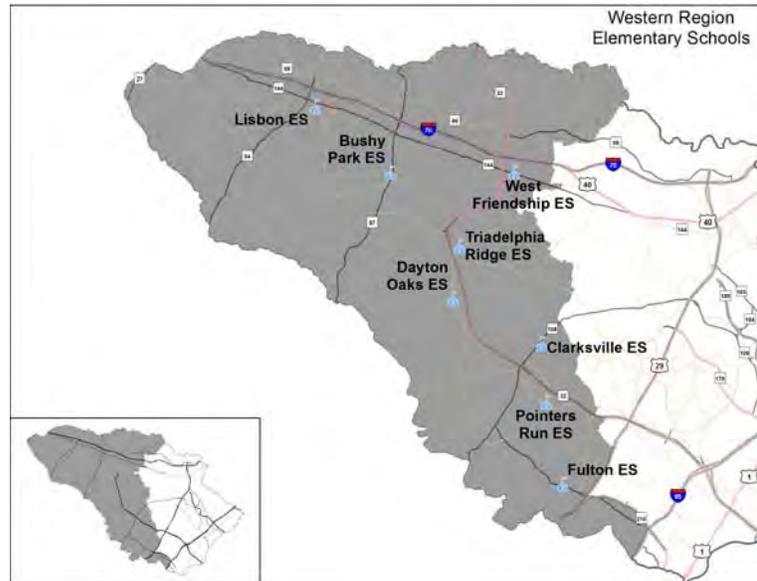
Figure 6.
Western Region

Need:

More fully utilize capacity in the Western Region.

Strategy:

Monitor projections.
Proceed with evaluation of West Friendship ES closure.



Elementary capacity in the Western Region exceeds need. Twelve years ago, overcrowding in western elementary schools was significant. The September 30, 2000, enrollment report indicated that the region was at 120 percent capacity utilization. The construction of Dayton Oaks ES, the replacement of Bushy Park ES and lower enrollment trends for the region have lowered the overall capacity utilization, which is now approaching 70 percent for the region. The projections which preceded the construction of the new Bushy Park ES and Dayton Oaks ES anticipated larger pupil generation rates than the existing housing stock has produced. Future redistricting plans outlined in earlier sections of this document address Manor Woods ES by using some of this capacity in other parts of the system as was done to balance the Southeastern Region in 2011. West Friendship ES has consistently shown declining enrollment in recent projections. West Friendship ES operates with a septic system outside the sewer service area and could eventually be subject to more stringent requirements which may require expensive upgrades.

Previous studies have examined the possibility of closing West Friendship ES and using existing capacity in the short term. Eventually a new school is likely in proximity to the Turf Valley development and within the sewer service area. This report recommends proceeding with the closure of West Friendship ES because excess capacity in the Western Region persists and the funds for a modern waste water system are more wisely invested in construction of a new school located within the sewer service area. The operating cost savings of closing West Friendship ES have been estimated to be approximately two million per year. Staff positions would be absorbed through vacancies across the system.

The closure of a school is governed by Policy 6070 Discontinuation of School Use. The policy requirements for closing the school coupled with the necessary redistricting will take a minimum of fourteen months. At the earliest, closure could happen in August 2014, but no later than August 2017 to coincide with Manor Woods ES redistricting plans.

The first step is to have a technical analysis and report done in-house or by a consultant. Plans must be made for the appointment and staffing of an advisory committee which will review the school closure report.

B. Middle School Section

At the countywide level, middle school capacity utilization reaches 110 percent in 2017. While it is possible to balance all schools countywide, the challenge has been that the capacity and enrollment growth do not share the same geography. The Columbia West Region exceeds 110 percent capacity utilization by 2014 and the Northern Region exceeds 110 percent by 2015. The Northeastern and Southeastern Regions combined exceed 110 percent capacity utilization in 2014. The Western Region is within acceptable levels but there are specific schools exceeding policy targets. The Columbia East Region has surplus capacity. The later years of the projection seem to indicate the need for more capacity within the long-range plan and should be monitored in future planning analysis. For now the projection certainly supports acquisition or development of additional school site options in the Route 1 Corridor through agreements with other agencies or developers.

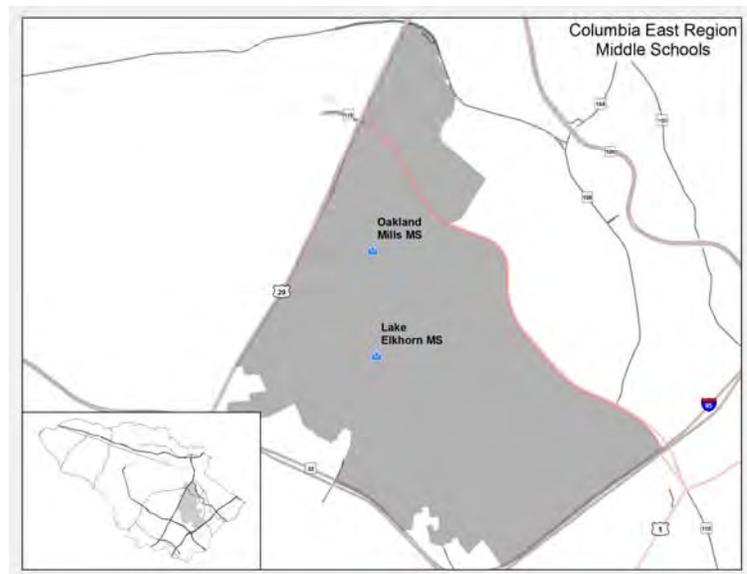
Columbia East Region

Need:

Some capacity exists in this region.

Strategy:

Monitor long-term needs.



Lake Elkhorn MS has some available capacity for the foreseeable future. While it is geographically positioned to provide some relief to schools in the Northeastern Region, the enrollment of Northeastern Region schools including Bonnie Branch MS, Elkrige Landing MS, and Mayfield Woods MS continues to increase throughout the projection well above any available capacity in Columbia East.