

JETER-WATSON FACT SHEET



Born July 1, 2022

Alleghany County Public Schools, Covington City Public Schools, and Jackson River Technical Center merged on July 1, 2022, and created Alleghany Highlands Public Schools. The school division is jointly funded by Alleghany County and the City of Covington, which operates as an independent city within the county.

In September 2020, the Alleghany County Board of Supervisors and Covington City Council adopted resolutions endorsing the merger. The Virginia Board of Education approved the merger in January 2021.

Alleghany County and Covington students will be merged into a single student body of approximately 2,700 students at the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year. Existing county and city elementary schools will remain open, but the consolidated division will have a single middle school (housed in the current Covington High School building) and a single high school (housed in the current Alleghany High School building).

Jeter-Watson, Edgemont Primary Realignment

- ❖ *Edgemont Primary and Jeter-Watson Intermediate are now combined into one school for the start of the 2022-2023 school year.*
- ❖ *The name of the combined school is Jeter-Watson Elementary School.*
- ❖ *Jeter-Watson Elementary School is being overseen by a principal and an assistant principal.*
- ❖ *The school will house grades PK-7 in 2022-2023. There will be no redistricting of students this academic year.*

Changes at Jeter-Watson in 2023-2024

- ❖ *Grades 6-7 will be moved to the joint middle school.*
- ❖ *Covington High School will become the joint middle school. It will be named Covington Middle School and house Grades 6-8.*
- ❖ *Grades PK-5 will remain at Jeter-Watson Elementary.*

Background on Realignment

- ❖ *The Covington City School Board approved a resolution on June 28, 2022, suggesting realignment of EPS and JWIS.*
- ❖ *The Covington School Board requested the combined school be named Jeter-Watson.*
- ❖ *The school is named after James G. Jeter and William G. Watson.*
- ❖ *Mr. Jeter and Mr. Watson are historic figures and they greatly impacted education in the Highlands during their time.*
- ❖ *A public hearing was held on Aug. 8, 2022, before the realignment plan was finalized.*
- ❖ *The Alleghany Highlands Public Schools Board approved the realignment on Aug. 10, 2022.*

