



**KENTWOOD**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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# Hamilton

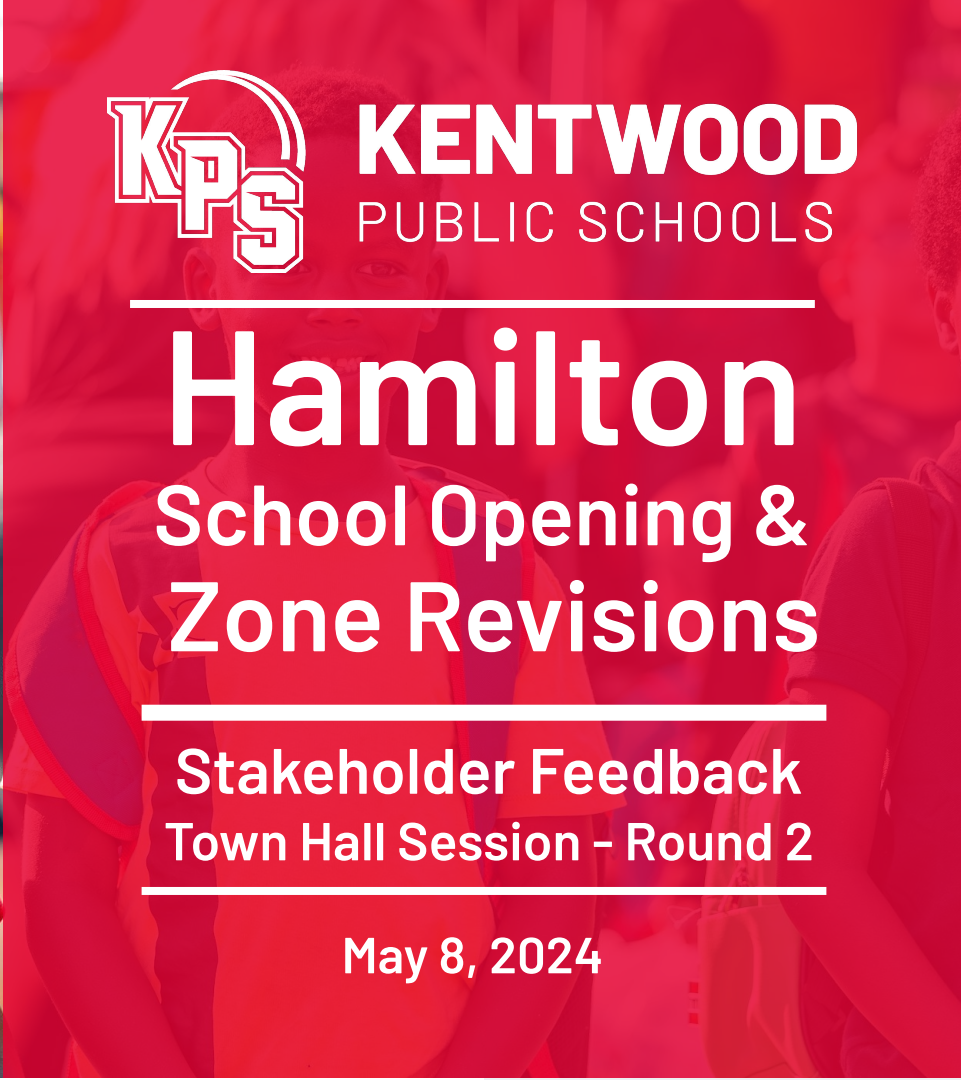
## School Opening & Zone Revisions

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**Stakeholder Feedback  
Town Hall Session - Round 2**

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**May 8, 2024**





# Purpose

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Purpose of today's session

VALLEYWOOD  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

A

Your feedback is **essential** to our collective success

- **Critical Decisions for Long-term Success:** The choices we make now are **pivotal**, shaping the **future** of our district.
- **Valuing Your Input:** We are committed to a **thoughtful dialogue**, hence the 2025-26 timeline.

# Strategic Plan Goals



## CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

**Goal 1:** Establish, implement and uphold a common standard of excellence for school climate and instruction.



## EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES & OUTCOMES

**Goal 2:** Celebrate diversity, while elevating equity of opportunities and outcomes for each student.



## WHOLE-CHILD ENVIRONMENTS

**Goal 3:** Cultivate an inclusive school environment that recognizes and addresses the whole child - social, emotional, physical and mental wellness.



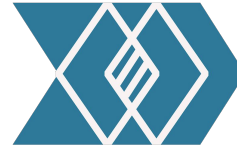
## HIGH-IMPACT DIVERSE STAFF

**Goal 4:** Recruit and retain high impact staff that uphold the values of Kentwood Public Schools - in particular, staff that are reflective of community diversity.



# STRATEGIC PLAN

FOR EXCELLENCE & EQUITY IN EDUCATION

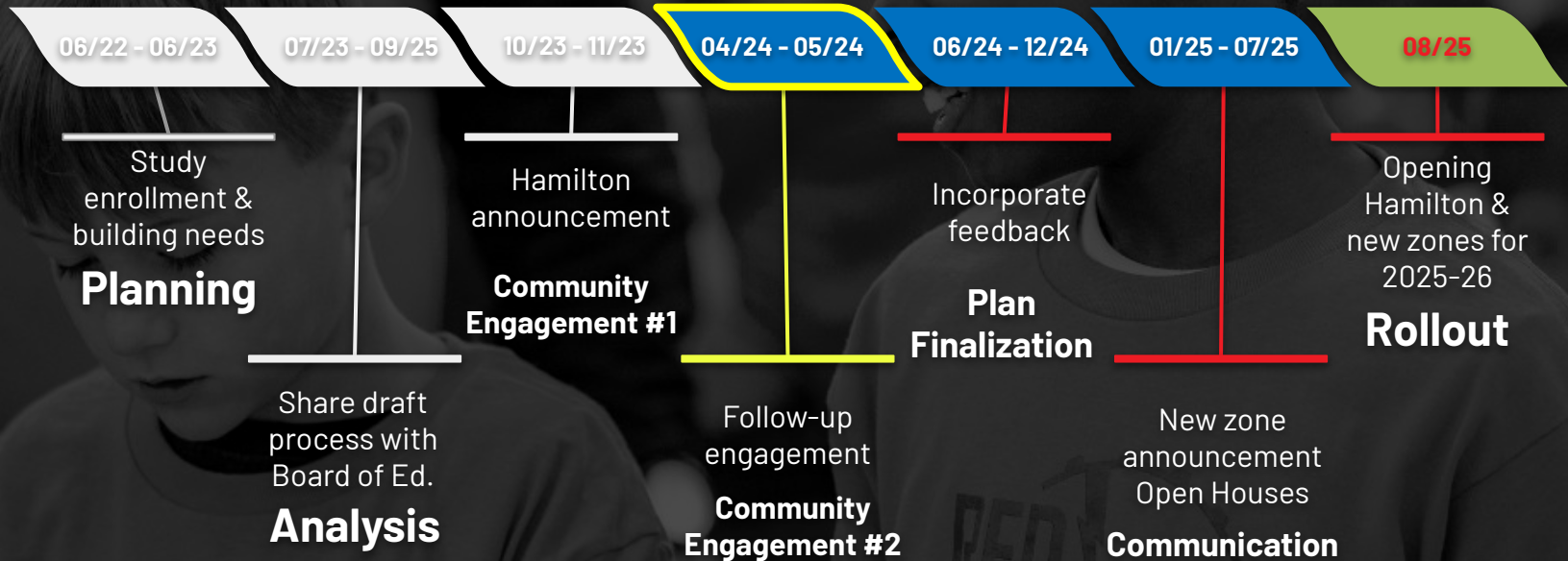


EQUITABLE  
OPPORTUNITIES  
& OUTCOMES

**Goal 2.1:** Ensure **equitable access** to **resources** and **opportunities** in **each** school building.

**2.1.1a - Conduct a *comprehensive study* of *physical building needs* to *accommodate the district's growing and diverse student population*.**

# Timeline for Hamilton opening and attendance zone revisions





# Rationale

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Current enrollment trends &  
facilities needs in KPS

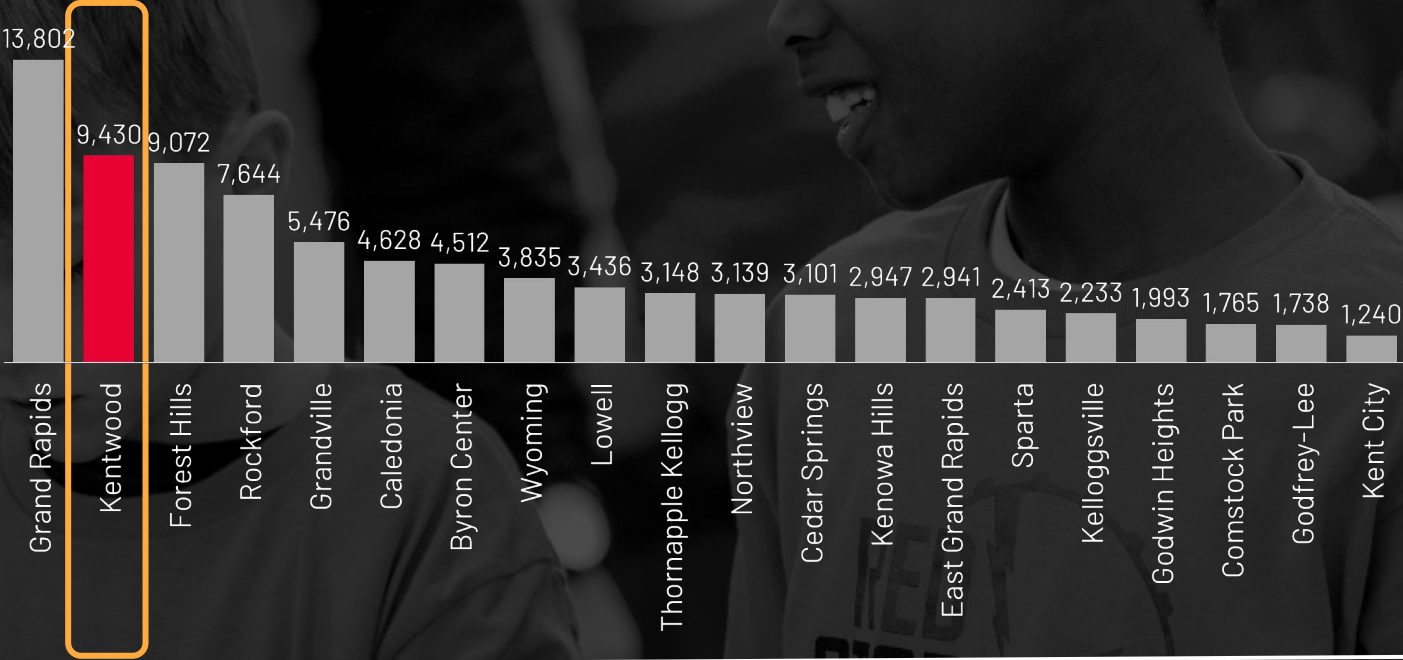


# KPS second largest among Kent ISD LEA districts

SJ

## Student Enrollment

Kent ISD Area LEA Districts (PK-12) - 2023-24



Source: CEPI Student Enrollment Counts, 2022-23

Note: Data include only LEA Districts. LEA Districts refer to traditional public school districts and excludes Public School Academies (PSA), also known as charter schools.

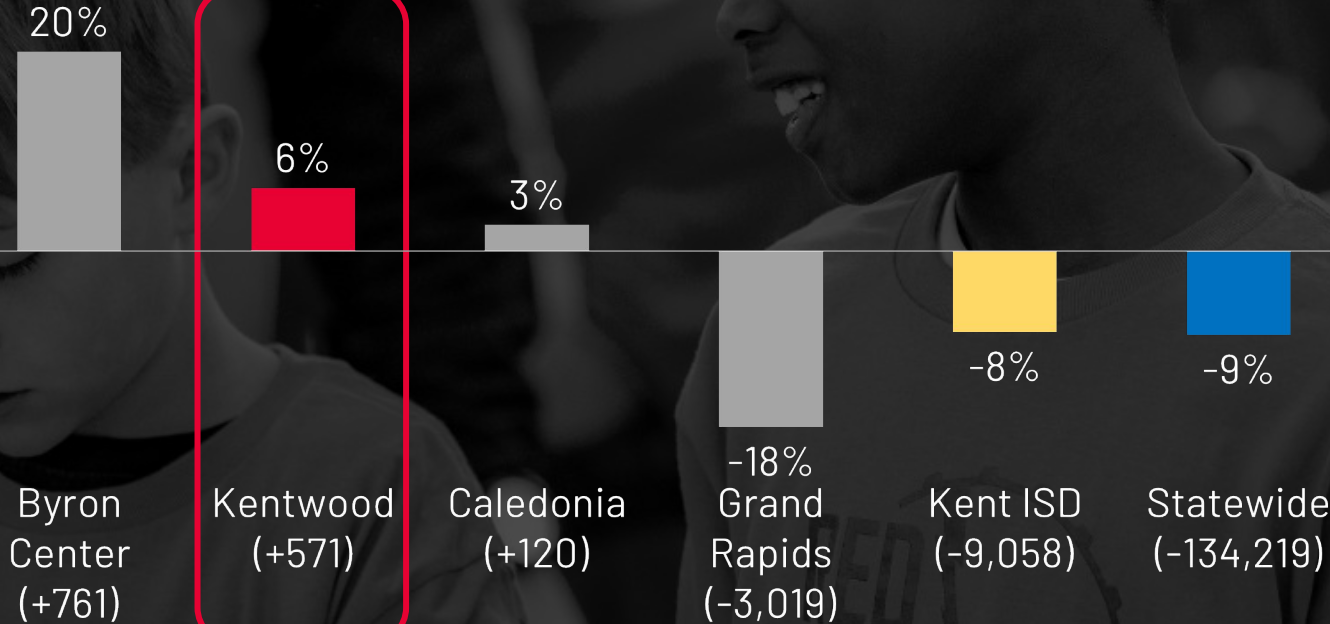


# KPS among top growing districts in Kent ISD over past decade

SJ

## Student Enrollment

Percent Change - 2013-14 to 2023-24



Source: CEPI Student Enrollment Counts, 2022-23

Note: Data include only LEA Districts. LEA Districts refer to traditional public school districts and excludes Public School Academies (PSA), also known as charter schools.

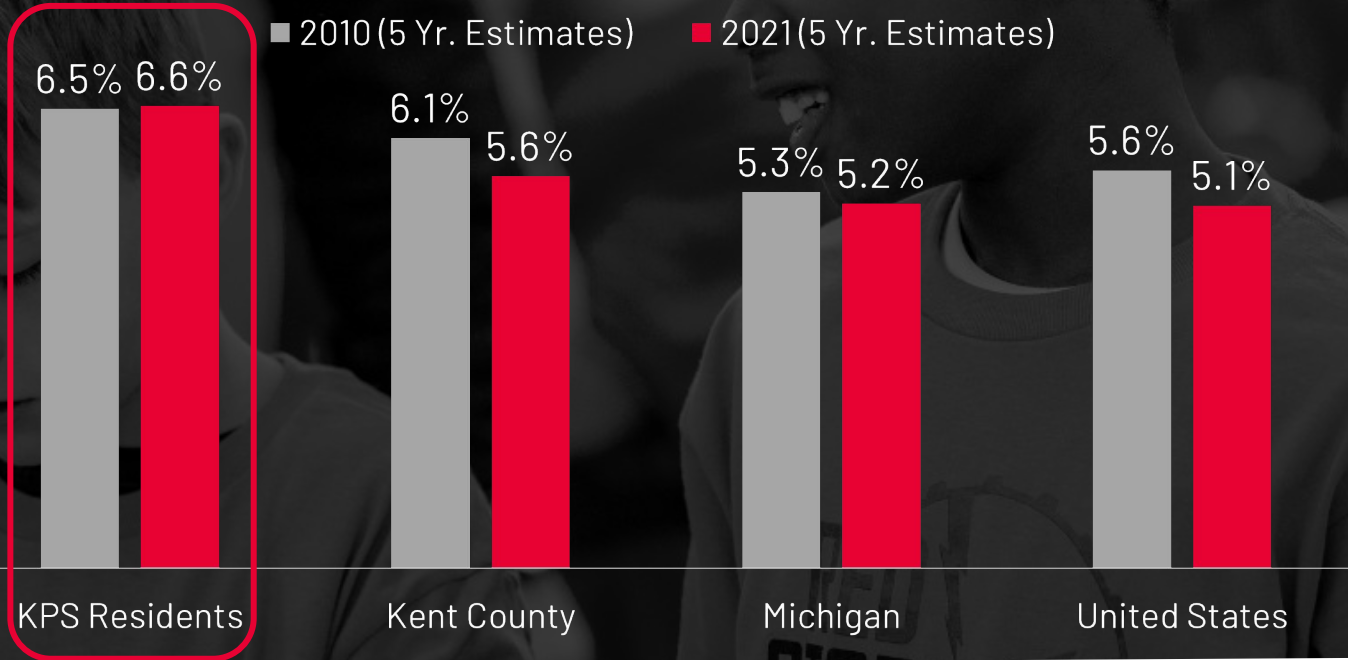
# KPS birthrate outpacing Kent County, Michigan and U.S.

SJ

## Births in last 12 months

Percent of women (age 15-50) giving birth

■ 2010 (5 Yr. Estimates) ■ 2021 (5 Yr. Estimates)



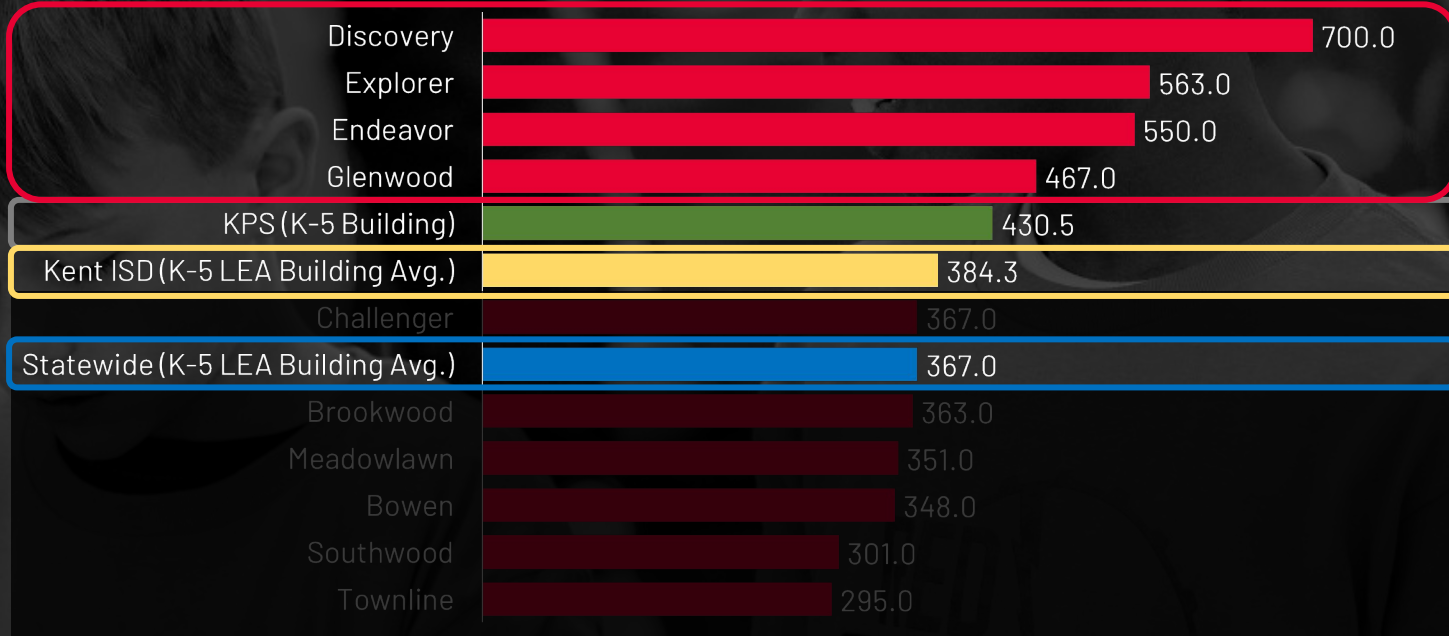
**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (B13002)

**Note:** KPS residents refer to all women living within Kentwood Public Schools' geographic boundaries.

# KPS elementary schools larger than ISD and state, on average

SJ

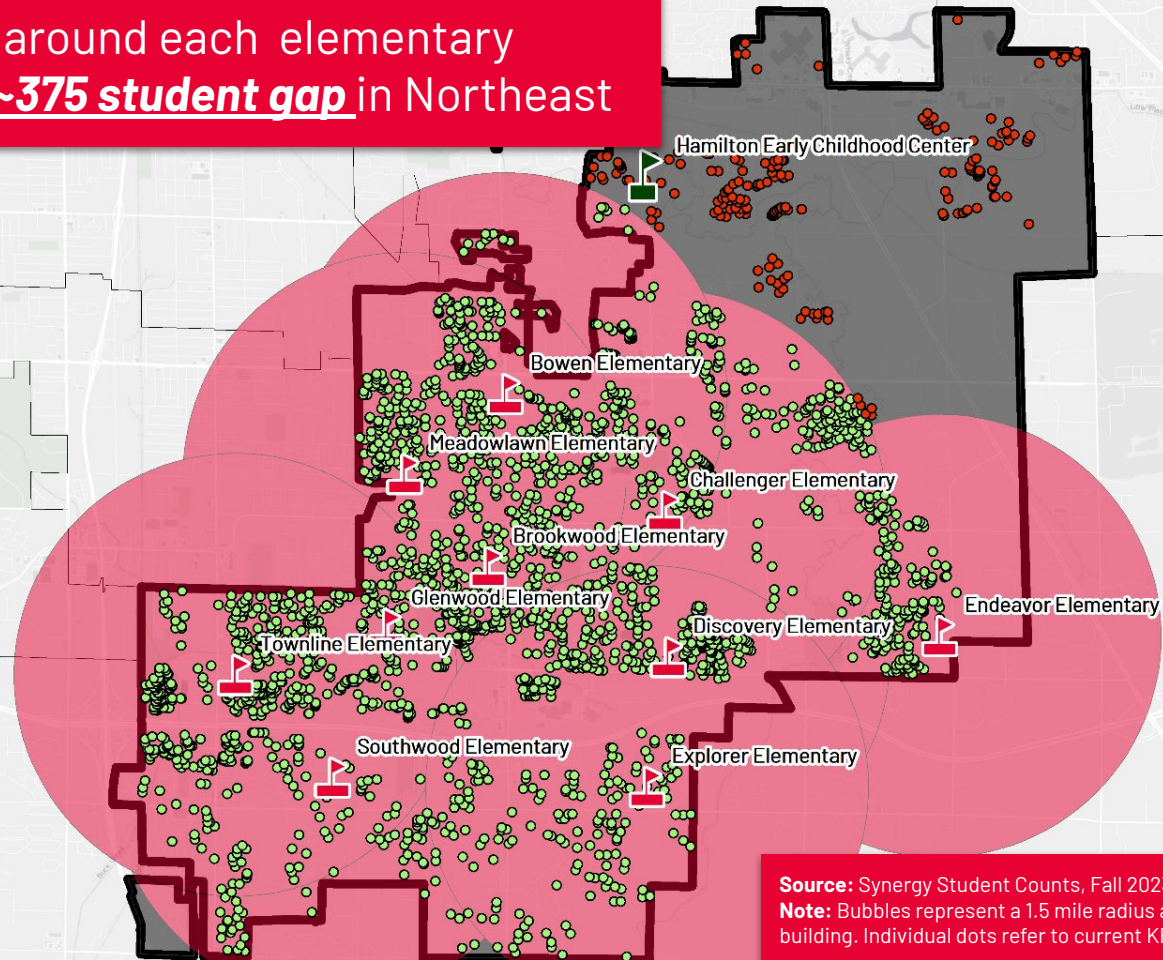
## Student Enrollment by Elementary Building – 2023-24



Source: CEPI Student Enrollment Counts, 2022-23

Note: Data include only LEA Districts. LEA Districts refer to traditional public school districts and excludes Public School Academies (PSA), also known as charter schools.

**1.5-mile radius** around each elementary school reveals **~375 student gap** in Northeast



**Source:** Synergy Student Counts, Fall 2023

**Note:** Bubbles represent a 1.5 mile radius around each KPS elementary building. Individual dots refer to current KPS elementary students.



New developments as of Fall 2023...

# Confirmed developments for near future in KPS

**Developer** TBD

**Zone** Discovery

**Homes** 240

**Students estimated** 94

**Developer** TBD

**Zone** Explorer

**Homes** 80

**Students estimated** 31

**Total Homes** 700

**Total Students estimated** 274

**Developer** Bosgraff

**Zone** Challenger

**Homes** 240

**Students estimated** 94

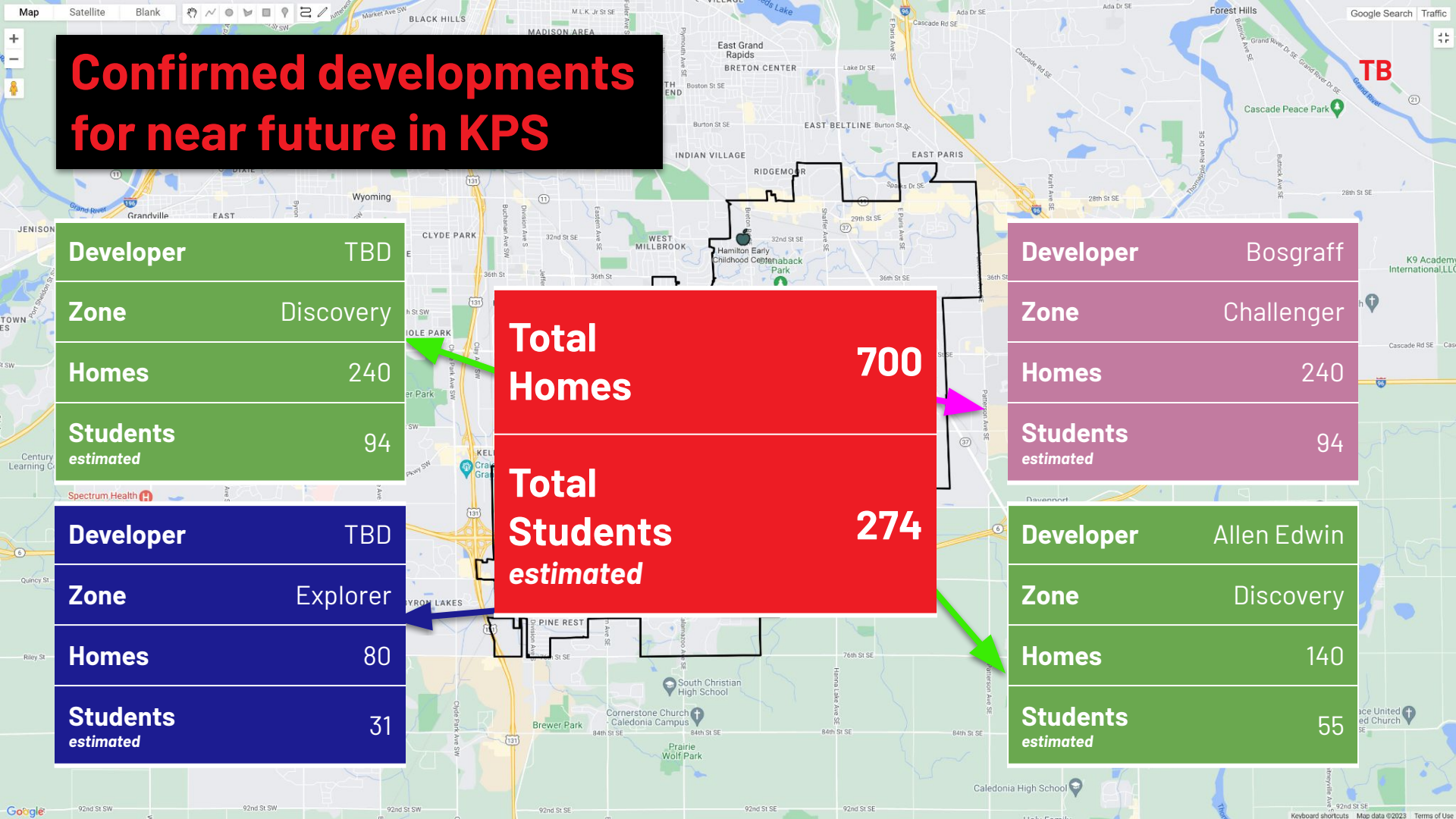
**Developer** Allen Edwin

**Zone** Discovery

**Homes** 140

**Students estimated** 55

TB





New developments as of January 2024...

# Growing supply of housing developments in Kentwood

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## CRAIN'S

NEWS REAL ESTATE HEALTH CARE

Real Estate

Developer plans 256 units of housing

Kentwood

Rachel Watson - January 31, 2024



Allen Edwin Homes has proposed the 256-unit Breton Ravines development of 52nd Street and Breton Road SE. Credit: Allen Edwin Homes

The Kentwood Planning Commission on Feb. 13 will host the second of two work sessions on the request of an affiliate of Portage-based Allen Edwin Homes to rezone 66.64 acres of vacant land southeast of 52nd Street and Breton Road SE to facilitate the construction of a 256-unit housing development called Breton Ravines.

The preliminary site plan for Breton Ravines calls for 24 site condominiums, or single-family houses on smaller lots, plus 11 one-story single-unit condos, 36 one-story and 46 two-story duplexes, 51 triplexes and 88 quadplexes.

## Project details

Allen Edwin Homes expects to build Breton Ravines in seven phases over the course of seven to 10 years, Larabel said.

The units will range from about 1,450 square feet up to 1,640 square feet, depending on the unit type. Initial home values are expected to range from the upper \$200,000s to upper \$300,000s.





New developments as of March 2024...



# New developments near Kentwood Community Church...

Search Google Maps

Kentwood Community Church

This area 55°

Light traffic in this area  
Typical conditions

Restaurants Hotels Things to do Museums Transit Pharmacies ATMs

60th St SE 60th St SE 60th St SE 60th St SE 60th St SE 60th St SE 60th St SE

61st St SE

X9 Level Up

Woodfield Dr SE Woodfield Dr SE

60th St SE

274 units over three phases

Site plan showing residential development layout.

ORION

Google

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# Hamilton Elementary Opening Highlighted in October Newsletter



## KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

OCTOBER 2023



**IT STARTS WITH RELATIONSHIPS**

**T**ownline Elementary third grade teacher Stacy Beck greets her students each morning with a smile, high fives, and hugs. Her students can depend on her warm and genuine welcome each and every day. Beck, who is in her twenty-fourth year of teaching third grade at her school, is not alone. If you walk up and down the hallways of Townline, you will see her colleagues engaging with students in a similar fashion. In fact, warm welcomes are standard practice in classrooms throughout Kentwood Public Schools.

Building positive relationships plays a crucial role in student success. KPS has made building relationships a cornerstone of its work. Beck summarizes how genuine relationships with students in class positively impact student learning, "When students feel connected to adults, when they feel valued by adults, there are usually fewer behavioral problems," she says. "The students are then more willing to accept help in times of struggle. Positive relationships set the stage for academic and emotional success."

*Positive relationships set the stage for academic and emotional success.*

Building relationships is not only friendly greetings in the morning, although warm hellos can be a perfect way to

start the day for young learners. Instead, a good deal of intentional work goes on throughout the day to help foster positive relationships in Kentwood Public Schools.

*A focus on relationships will truly prevent a lot of bad things from happening in schools.*

**WELCOME TO HAMILTON NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLANNED**


Kentwood Public Schools is excited to announce two new construction projects that are in the beginning stages. In late September, district leaders presented plans to the Board of Education to do an extensive renovation of the current Hamilton Early Childhood building, turning it into a new elementary school, and also plans for a new indoor multipurpose building that will be utilized by athletic teams, student groups, and members of the community, among others.



*Continued on page 2.*


Excellence and Equity in Education.

5820 Eastern Avenue SE, Kentwood, MI 48906  
Phone: (616) 455-4400 Fax: (616) 455-4475



## KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

OCTOBER 2023



**WHOLE-CHILD ENVIRONMENTS**

**It Starts with Relationships** *Continued from page 1*

Just down the hall from Beck's room, students in Fathiya Motamed's second grade classroom are busy taking part in a circle. They gather on the floor, sharing greetings with each other, and intently listening as each student answers a thought-provoking question. Circles are part of Restorative Practices, a larger initiative the district began last year, aimed at building community and also helping those who experience conflict rebuild trust.

In addition to Restorative Practices, Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) is a long-term program embraced by staff at Kentwood Public Schools. CKH also promotes a strong community, with students and staff working together to create a positive atmosphere for learning. Kentwood Public Schools consistently has several buildings named as Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools because of the dedication our staff has for building positive relationships.

Finally, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is a system implemented in all schools to promote and reward positive behavior choices by students. This, along with the other initiatives mentioned, are important components in meeting one of the goals of the district's strategic plan— creating whole-child environments for students.

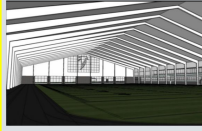
While playing a big role in students' academic success, building relationships also impacts safety and security in the district. Jason Russell, CEO of Secure Education Consultants, a national firm based in Grand Rapids that supports schools in safety and security, stresses the important role building positive relationships plays in keeping schools safe. "One of the things that has always impressed me about Kentwood Public Schools is the focus that is put on building strong relationships at all levels," Russell says. "A focus on relationships will truly prevent a lot of bad things from happening in schools."

This intentional focus on relational best practices, along with hellos, high-fives, and hugs in the morning and throughout the day, help to make Kentwood Public Schools a warm and welcoming place for each and every student, creating whole-child environments so crucial for student success.

**WELCOME TO HAMILTON NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLANNED** *Continued from page 1*

The new Hamilton Elementary School will be the eleventh elementary school in the district. Kentwood is one of only three school districts in Kent County to show an increase in student enrollment, having the second highest percentage of increase during the past ten years. Enrollment will continue to expand as more homes are being built in our community, and even more are planned for the near future. The new school will have a dedicated space for an early childhood center to continue at the site, in addition to the new early childhood center under construction near Townline Elementary. District leaders will soon reach out to students, families, staff, and community members to get input on the more details that go into building and opening a new elementary school. The new Hamilton Elementary is tentatively set to open in the fall of 2025.

The Indoor Multipurpose Building will be constructed on the East Kentwood High School campus. It will include a large indoor field and track around the field that will be utilized in many ways. Sports teams, the marching band, fine arts groups and physical education classes will all be able to practice in the space. The indoor track will also be open to use by community members who are looking for a warm place to walk or run on those cold Michigan winter days!



The projects are funded through the 2021 bond proposal approved by the Kentwood community. "We are thankful to our community for their ongoing support of KPS," commented Superintendent Kevin Pristow. "Stewardship of resources is a core value of KPS, and we take great pride in providing high-quality school facilities for our students and community. Our next projects will continue to provide exceptional learning environments for our students and community assets open and accessible for the entire Kentwood community."

Both projects are in the earliest stages of design. More details will be shared with you as plans develop in the coming months.

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# Families and staff overwhelmingly support Hamilton opening

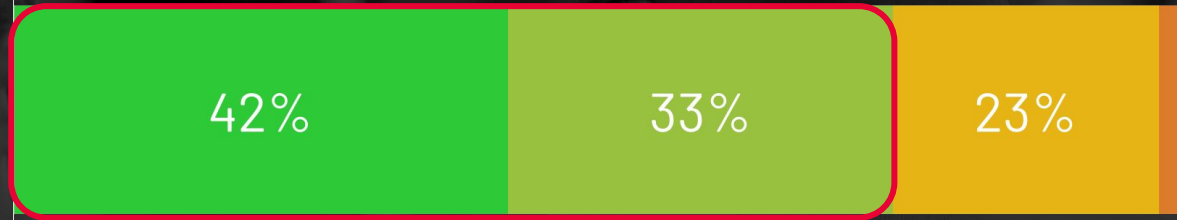
SJ

## Hamilton Elementary Opening Survey

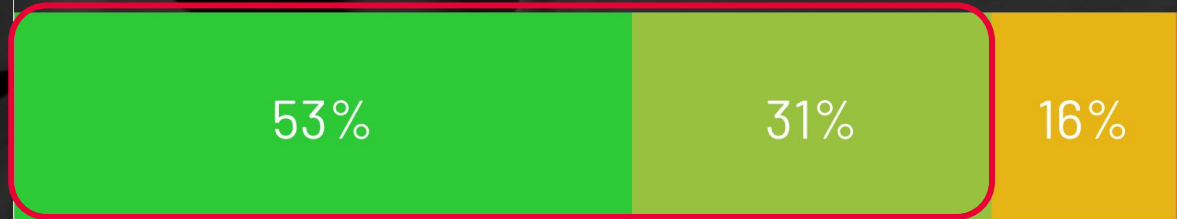
How do you feel about the decision to open Hamilton Elementary School?

■ Very Positive ■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative ■ Very Negative

Families  
(n = 248)



Staff  
(n = 300)





# Innovation

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Innovation in learning  
models for Hamilton



# VALLEYWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

# A

## Excellence in learning

The opening of Hamilton in 2025-26 presents a **golden opportunity** to bring **fresh, new learning approaches districtwide.**

## Opportunities for innovation in teaching and learning

- **21st Century Skills:** In a world that's **constantly changing**, our educational systems must **respond**. Innovation equips students with **adaptability, creativity, and problem-solving**.
- **Personalization & Empowerment:** Innovative models cater to **individual needs, empowering** students to have a **voice** and **ownership** in their **educational trajectories**.

## Exploring innovative learning models

- **Project-Based Learning:** Encouraging students to engage in hands-on, real-world projects that promote critical thinking and problem-solving.
- **Arts Education:** Integrating fine arts to elevate creativity and innovation.
- **Competency-Based Education:** Advancing students based on their mastery of specific skills or knowledge rather than grade levels.
- **Internationally Recognized Programs:** Adopting a globally recognized instructional program tied to a worldwide school network.
- **STEM:** Integrating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to advance critical thinking and collaboration.
- **Language Immersion:** Enabling foreign language fluency with immersion.



# STEM, Project-based & Immersion top models for families

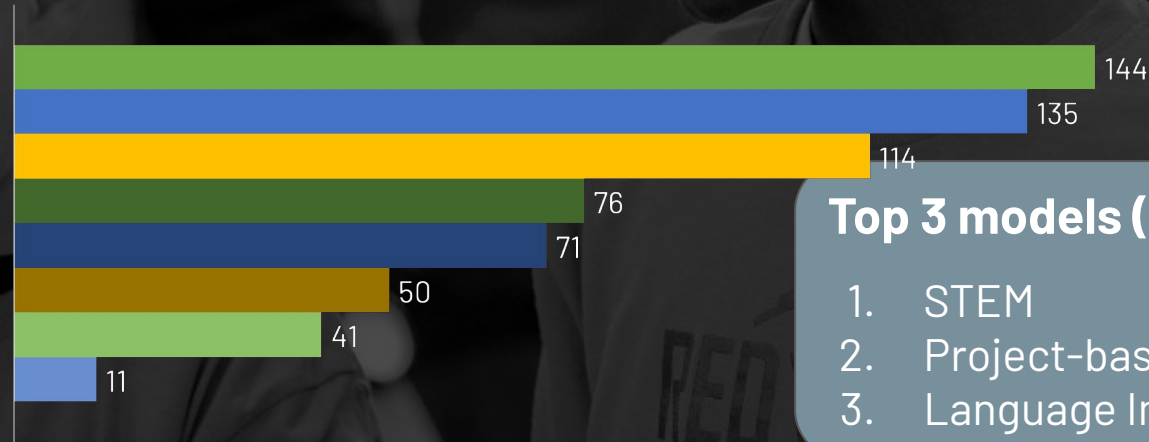
KP

## Hamilton Elementary Opening Survey

KPS should consider the following learning models to foster world-class learning.

- STEM
- Project-Based Learning
- Language Immersion
- Arts
- Competency-Based Education
- Traditional School
- Internationally Recognized
- Other

Families  
(n = 248)



### Top 3 models (Families):

1. STEM
2. Project-based
3. Language Immersion

# Project-based learning, STEM & Immersion models for staff

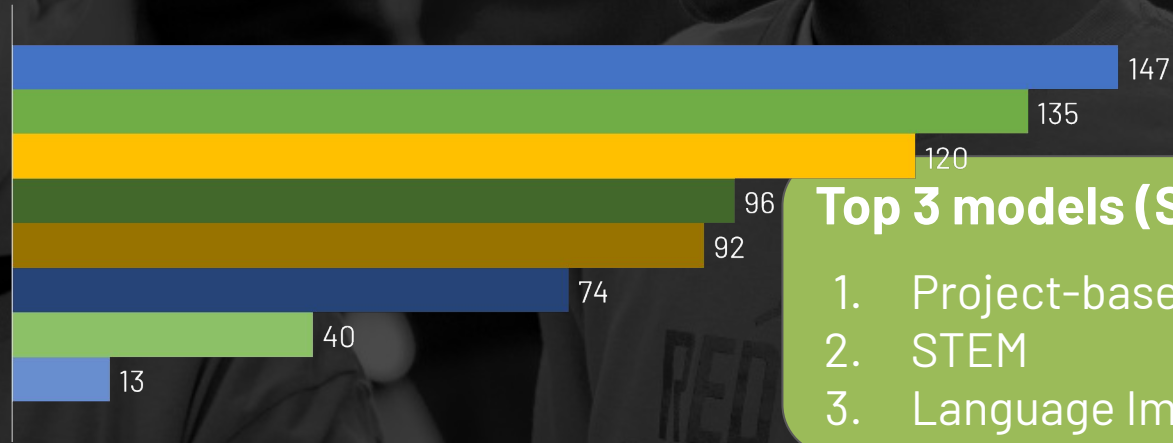
KP

## Hamilton Elementary Opening Survey

KPS should consider the following learning models to foster world-class learning.

- Project-Based Learning
- Language Immersion
- Traditional School
- Internationally Recognized
- STEM
- Arts
- Competency-Based Education
- Other

Staff  
(n = 300)



### Top 3 models (Staff):

1. Project-based
2. STEM
3. Language Immersion



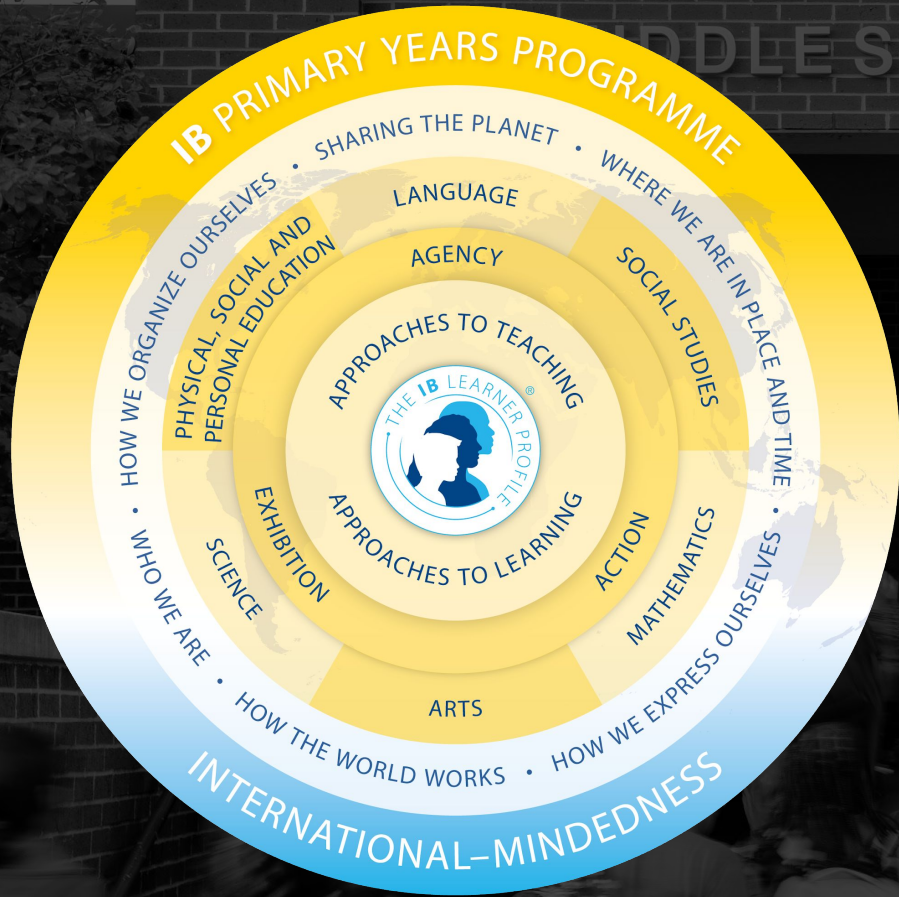
## Our approach to innovation

- When posed the question to families / staff - the concept of a new **& innovative model** that incorporates **relevant learning** was clear.
  - **Traditional learning** model was an option, but was **ranked low by both families and staff.**
- Rather than investing **time** and **resources inventing a model** - it makes sense to explore a **model** with a **track record of success.**
- We also heard from stakeholders that this new model should be **accessible to all** - not serve as a **magnet school option.**

# Exploring International Baccalaureate (IB)

- **International Baccalaureate (IB)** first formed in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968.
- Original intent was to provide children of diplomats a well-balanced **education** that could easily **transfer** anywhere.
- IB exists across over 5,700 schools in 160 countries – serving **1.95 million children ages 3 to 19**.
- Michigan has **91 programs in 72 public and private schools** – including some of the highest performing statewide.





# IB

Primary Years Programme

# IB Continuum



**Primary Years Programme**

Ages 3-12



**Middle Years Programme**

Ages 11-16



**Diploma Programme**

Ages 16-19



**Career-Related Programme**

Career focused

# IB Learner Profile

- ★ **Inquirers:** Cultivate curiosity, enjoy learning.
- ★ **Knowledgeable:** Explore concepts, ideas, issues.
- ★ **Thinkers:** Critical, creative, ethical decision-making.
- ★ **Communicators:** Express confidently, collaborate effectively.
- ★ **Principled:** Act with integrity, honesty.



# IB Learner Profile



- ★ **Open-minded:** Appreciate cultures, global histories.
- ★ **Caring:** Show empathy, compassion, respect.
- ★ **Risk-takers:** Exhibit innovation and resiliency.
- ★ **Balanced:** Intellectual, physical, and emotional.
- ★ **Reflective:** Thoughtful about personal development.



## Why Hamilton...why now?

- KPS' current map is in **conflict** with neighborhood schools.
- These plans align with goal 2 of our strategic plan - ensuring **equitable opportunities** for all students.
- **IB at Hamilton** can also serve as an **incubator** for **innovative ideas** that can be **scaled** across our district.

## Discussion

- What **intrigues** or **excites** you about **International Baccalaureate**? Are there any lingering questions or concerns you may have?



# Hamilton Elem & Early Childhood Center

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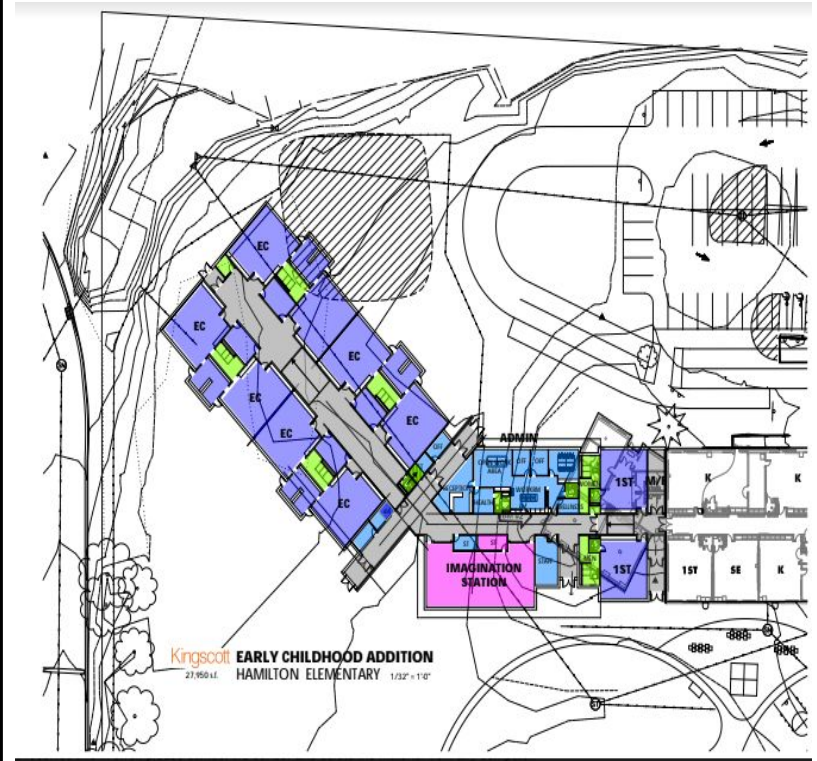
Initial renderings of new  
Hamilton Elem. & ECC



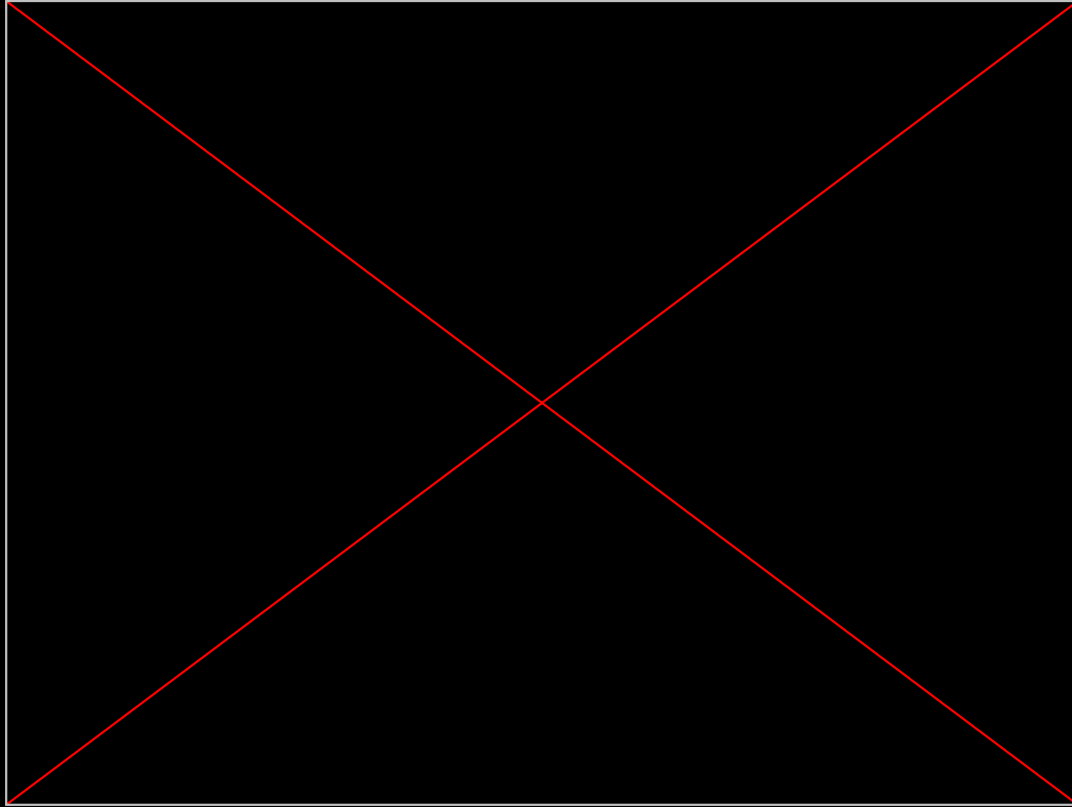


# Hamilton Elementary and Early Childhood Center

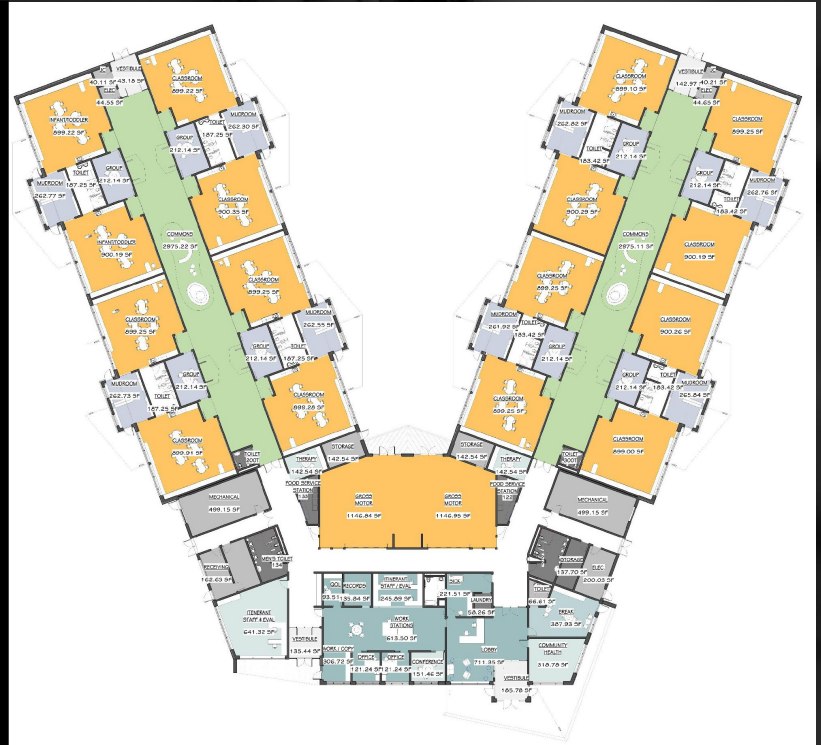
**\$20 million**  
renovation



# Hamilton Elementary and Early Childhood Center



# Townline Early Childhood Center: Opening Fall 2024





# Redistricting

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Updated attendance zones  
for Hamilton Elem. & ECC





# VALLEYWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

# A

## Priorities for new attendance zones

- With the opening of Hamilton, we also need to **update our elementary attendance zones** (i.e. how we slice the pie).
- **Fall stakeholder engagement** asked students, families and staff what **priorities** we should use in making these decisions.

## Priorities for elementary attendance zones

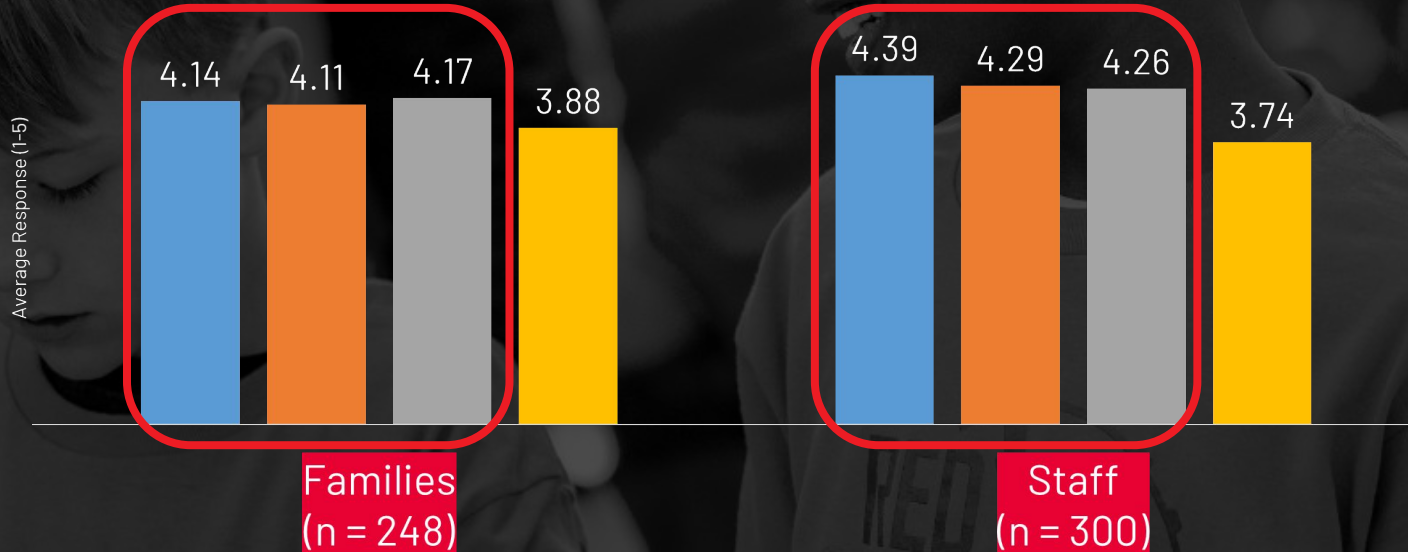
1. **Neighborhood schools:** Students live close to their school.
2. **Population balance and projected enrollment growth:** Balancing school size among all schools and considering future growth.
3. **Socioeconomic diversity:** Ensuring diversity across each building.
4. **Infrastructure and geography:** Taking into account major roads, development, and transportation routes.

# Neighborhood schools, diversity and population top priorities

## Hamilton Elementary Opening Survey

How important are the following factors in determining the new boundaries for elem. Schools?

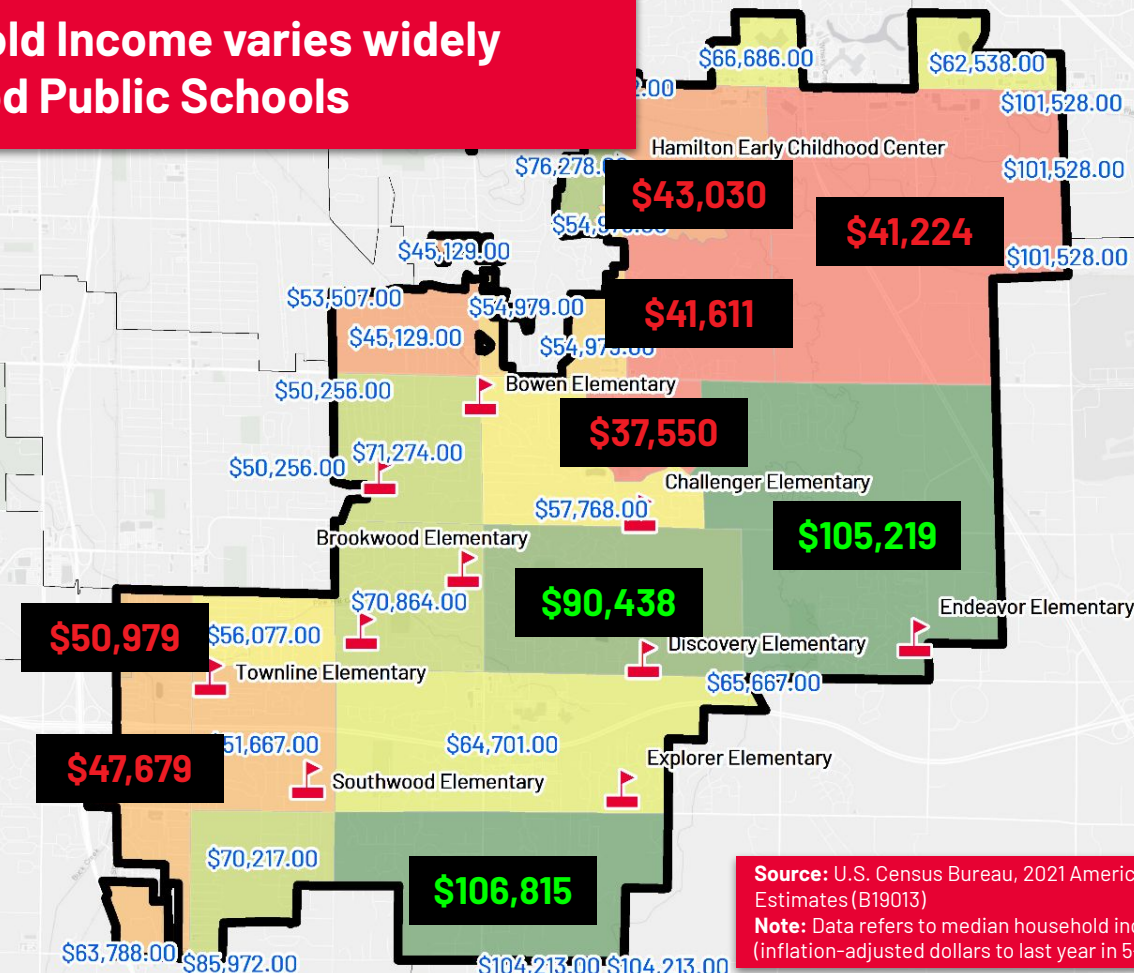
- Neighborhood schools
- Socioeconomic & diversity
- Population balance and growth
- Infrastructure & geography



## Note on draft elementary attendance zones

- Attendance zones are meant for the **long term (i.e. 10+ years)**
- We attempted to **balance neighborhood schools, socio-economic diversity & population balance.**
- In certain areas of our district - these are **competing concepts.**

# Median Household Income varies widely across Kentwood Public Schools

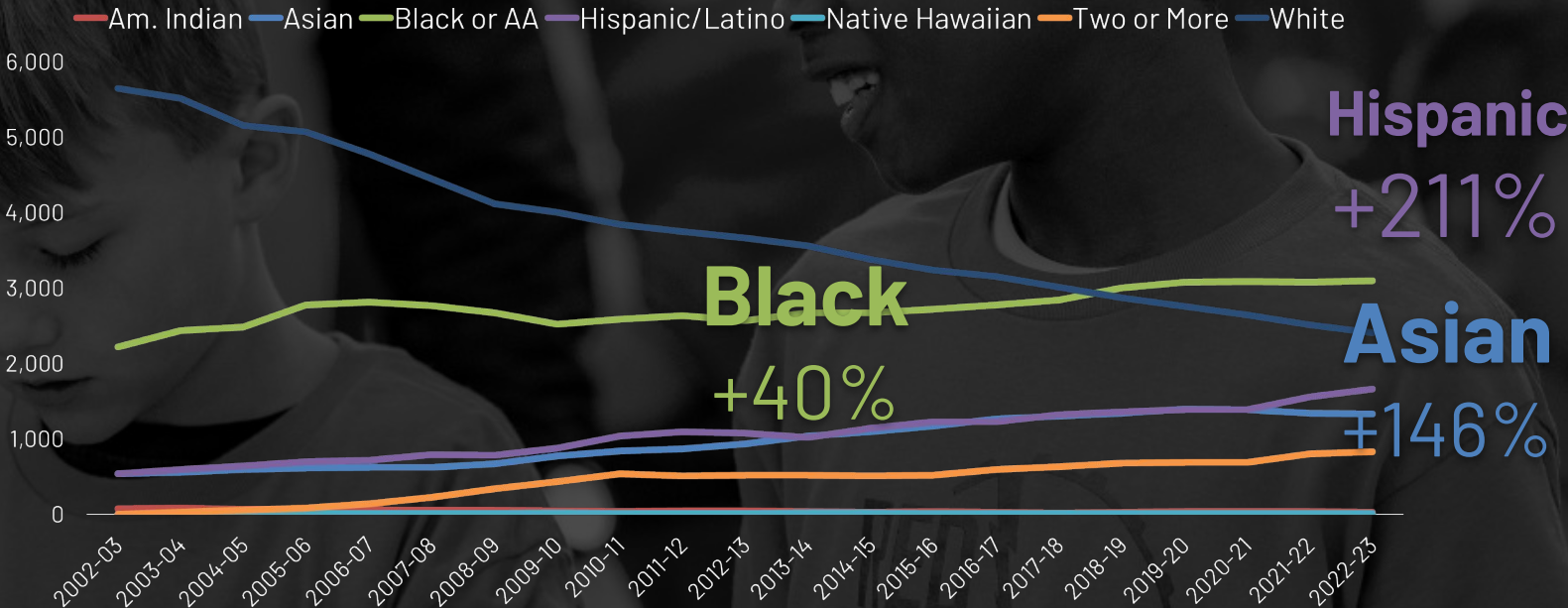


**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (B19013)  
**Note:** Data refers to median household income in past 12-months (inflation-adjusted dollars to last year in 5-year range)

# Diversity in KPS has grown steadily in past 20 years

CT

## Student Enrollment Kentwood - by Race/Ethnicity

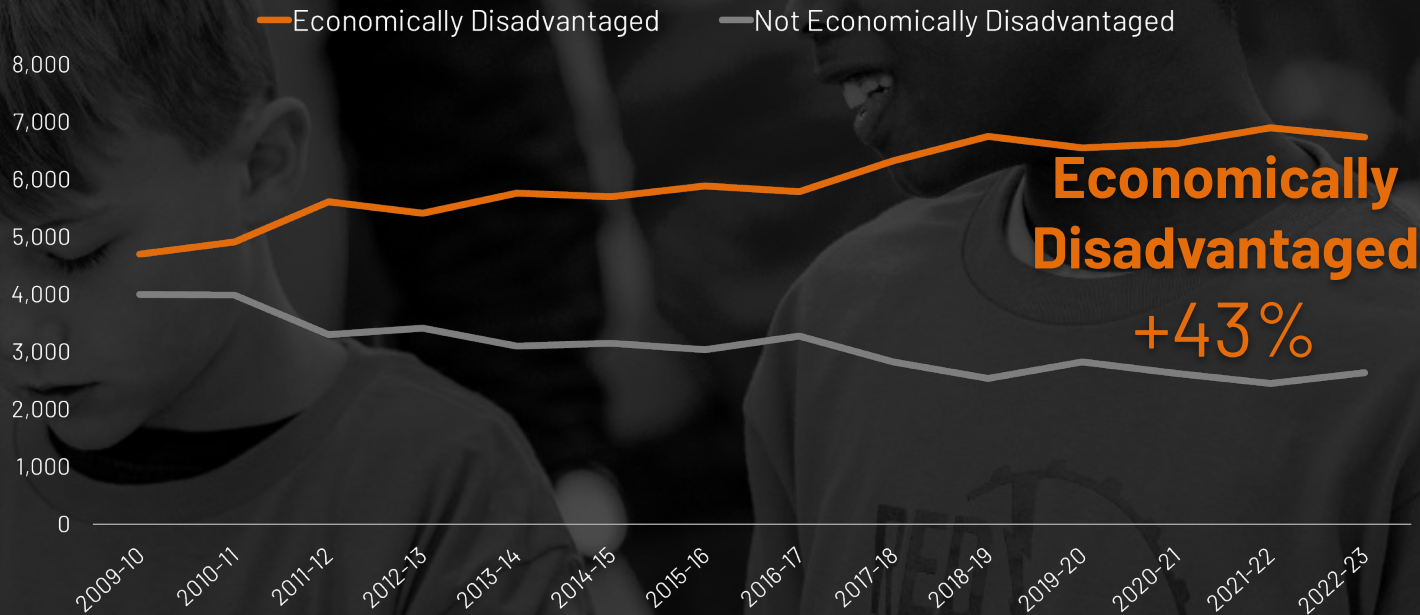


Source: CEPI Student Enrollment Counts, 2022-23

# Roughly 43% increase in KPS low-income students since '09-10

CT

## Student Enrollment Kentwood - by Income Status

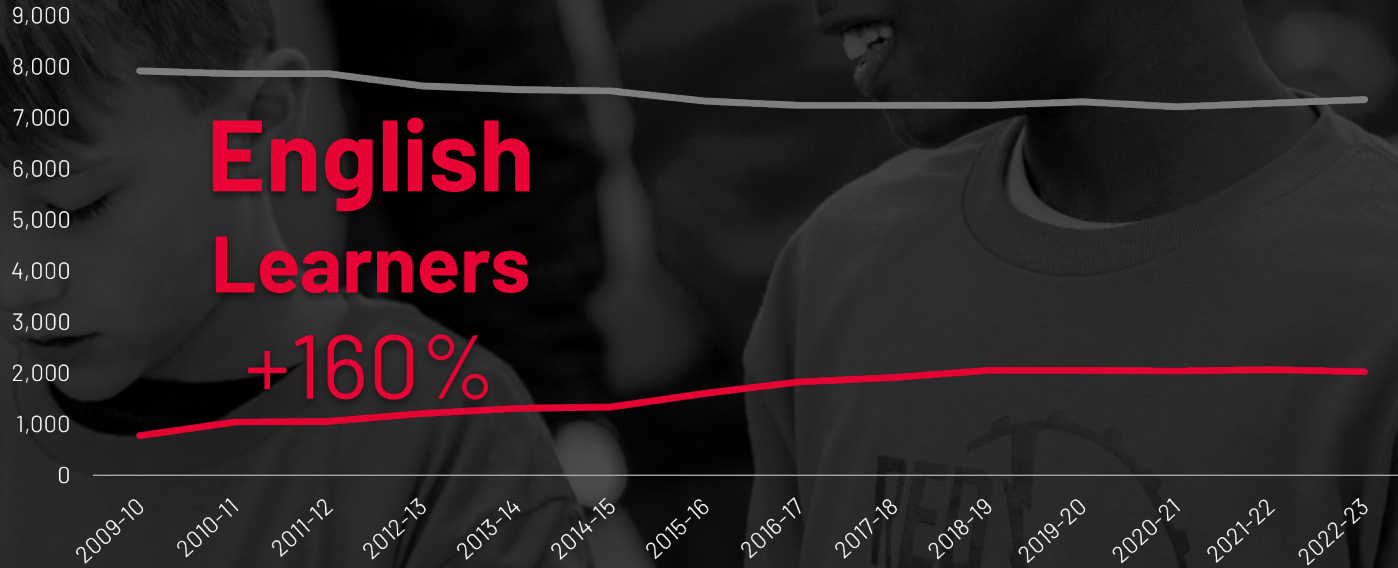


# Significant increase in English Learners in KPS since '09-10

CT

## Student Enrollment Kentwood - by Language Status

— English Learners — Not English Learners





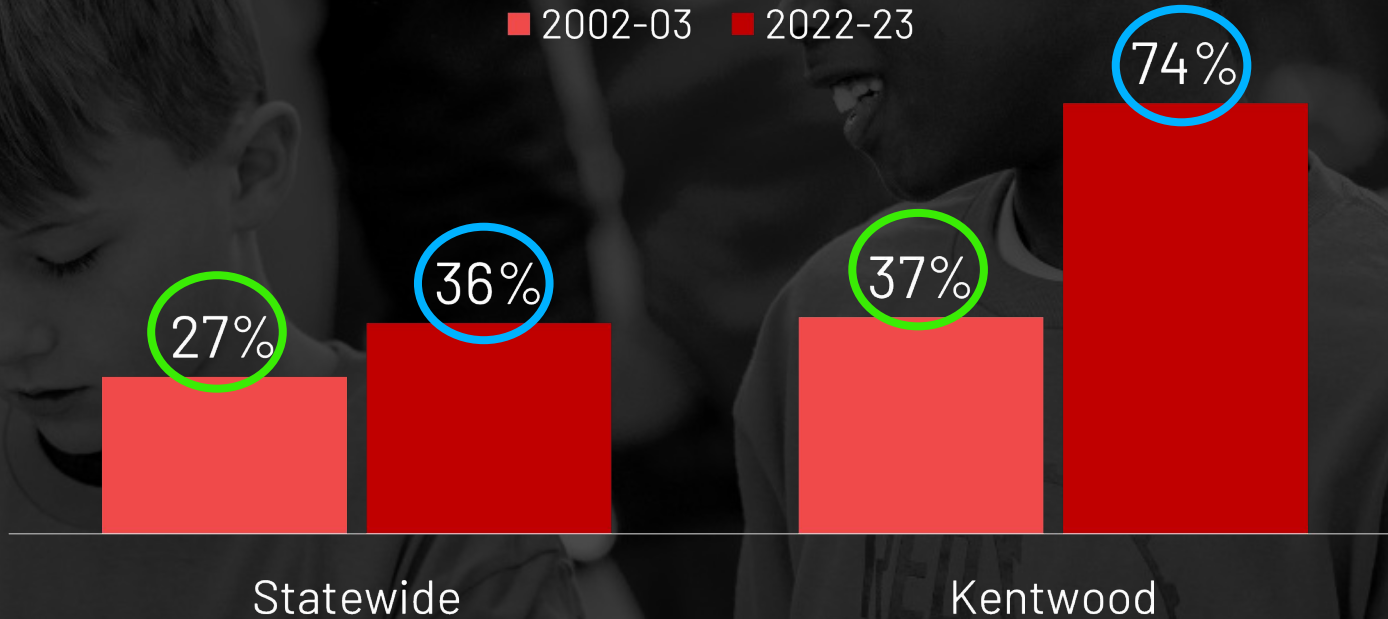
# KPS with similar student demographics as state - 20 years ago

CT/SJ

## Student Enrollment

Students of Color - 2002-03 to 2022-23

■ 2002-03 ■ 2022-23

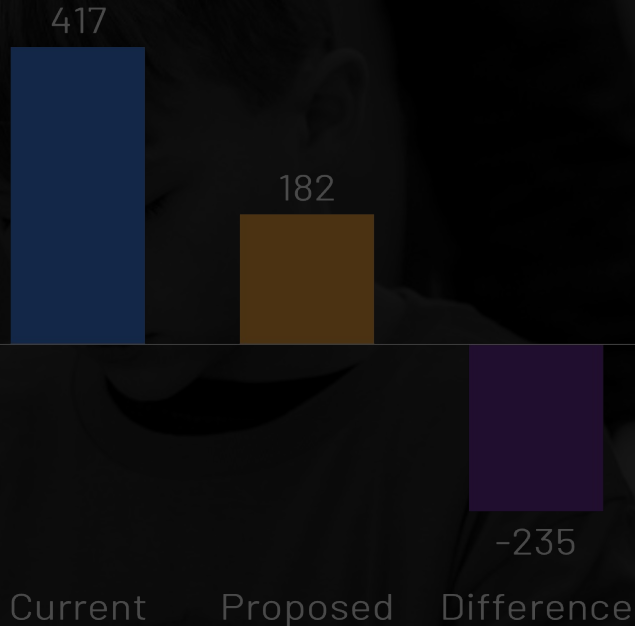


# Current vs. Proposed Elem. Attendance Zones

Range between Schools (Gap between Highest & Lowest Buildings)

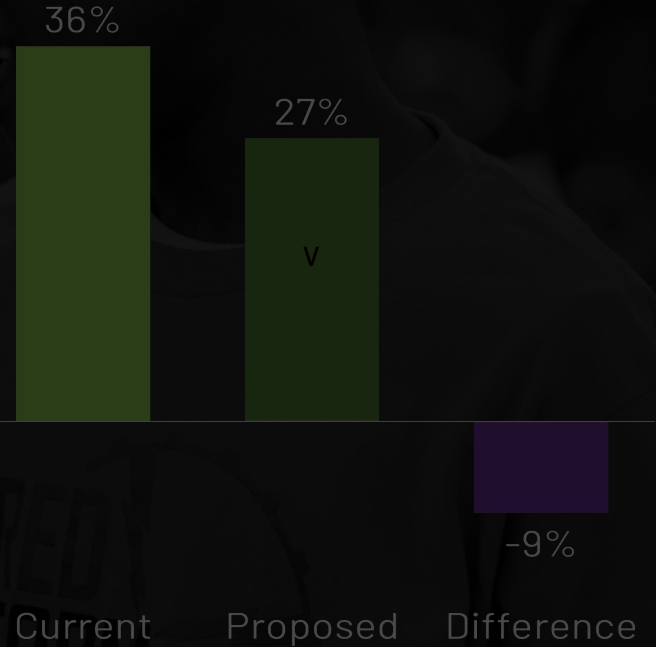
## Population Balance

Student Counts (Gr. Y5 - 5)



## Socio-economic Diversity

Percent Low Income (Gr. Y5 - 5)

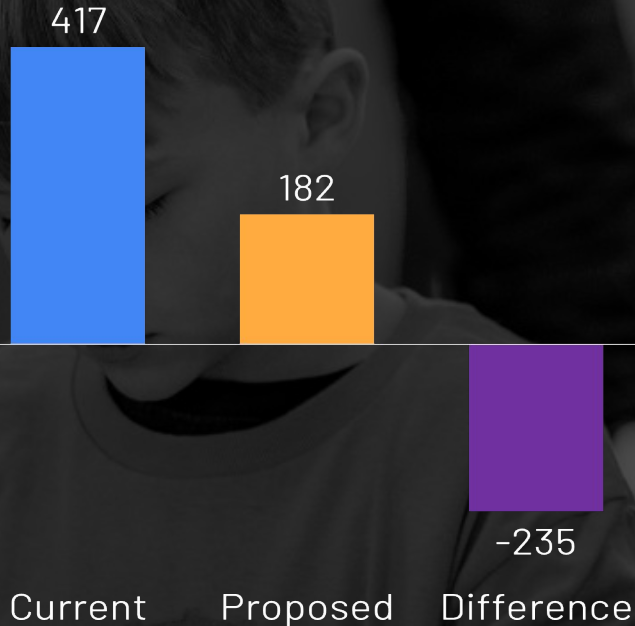


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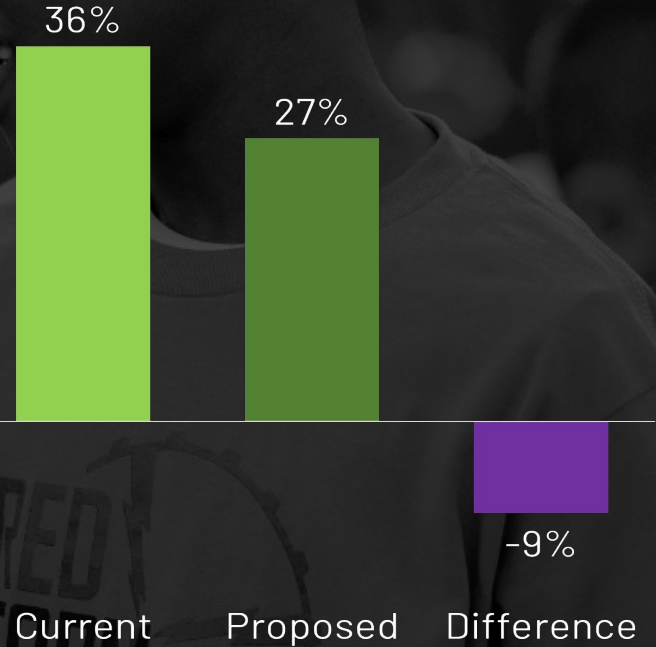
## Population Balance

Student Counts (Gr. Y5 - 5)

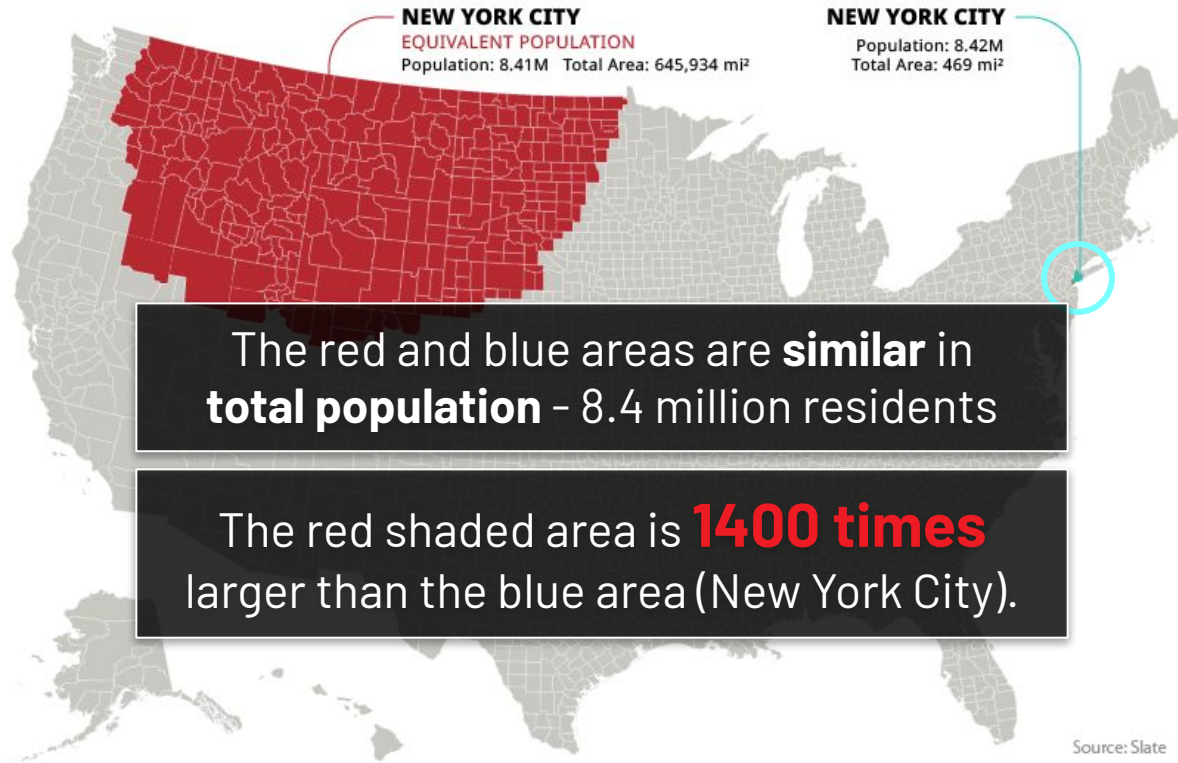


## Socio-economic Diversity

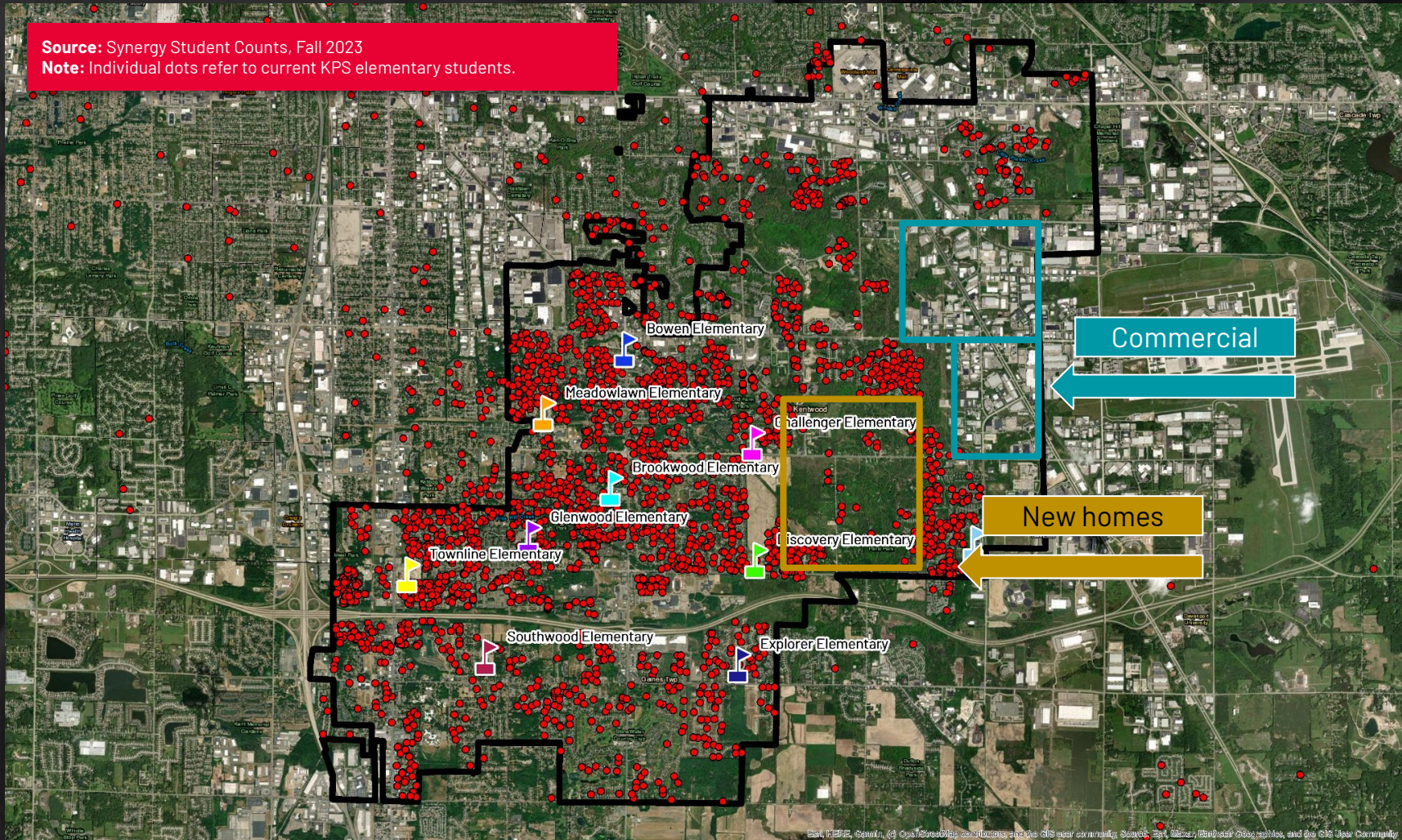
Percent Low Income (Gr. Y5 - 5)



# Example: Understanding Population Balance



**Source:** Synergy Student Counts, Fall 2023  
**Note:** Individual dots refer to current KPS elementary students.



# Current Zones

[bit.ly/kpscurrentzones](https://bit.ly/kpscurrentzones)

1. Go to [kentwoodps.org](https://kentwoodps.org)
2. Select "District Map" from "Our District" tab on the top left.
3. Scroll down to the bottom to see **current** attendance zones.



**Current** Elementary  
Attendance Zones

# Draft Zones

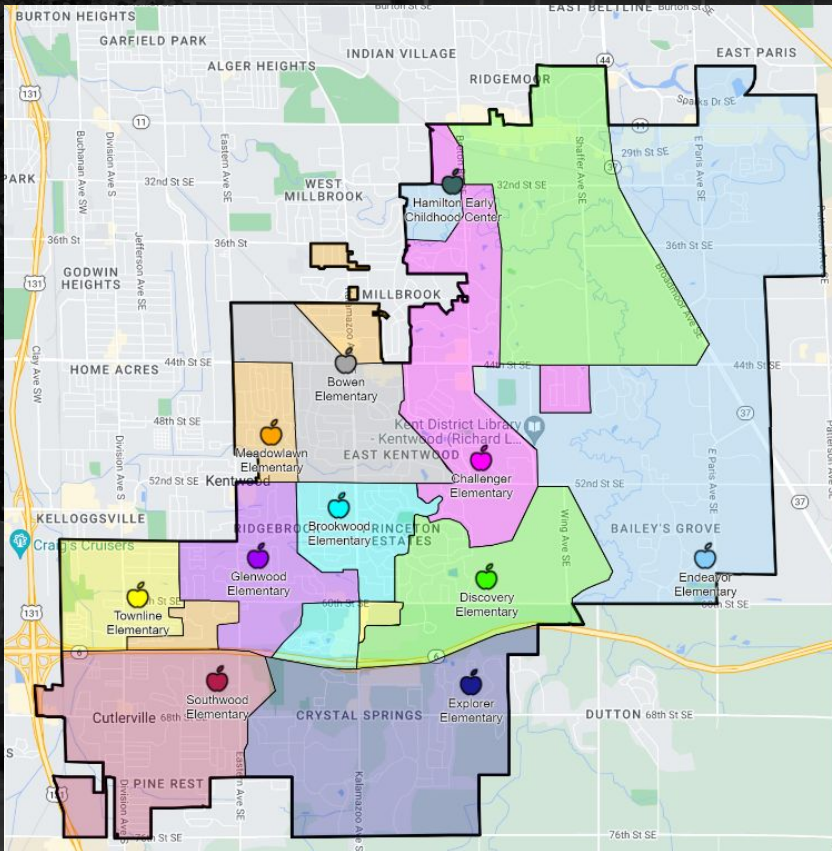
[bit.ly/kpsdraftzones25](https://bit.ly/kpsdraftzones25)

1. Go to [bit.ly/kpsdraftzones25](https://bit.ly/kpsdraftzones25)
2. Enter an address to see the **proposed** attendance zone.
  - a. You may also click "find on map" to see the **all** zones.

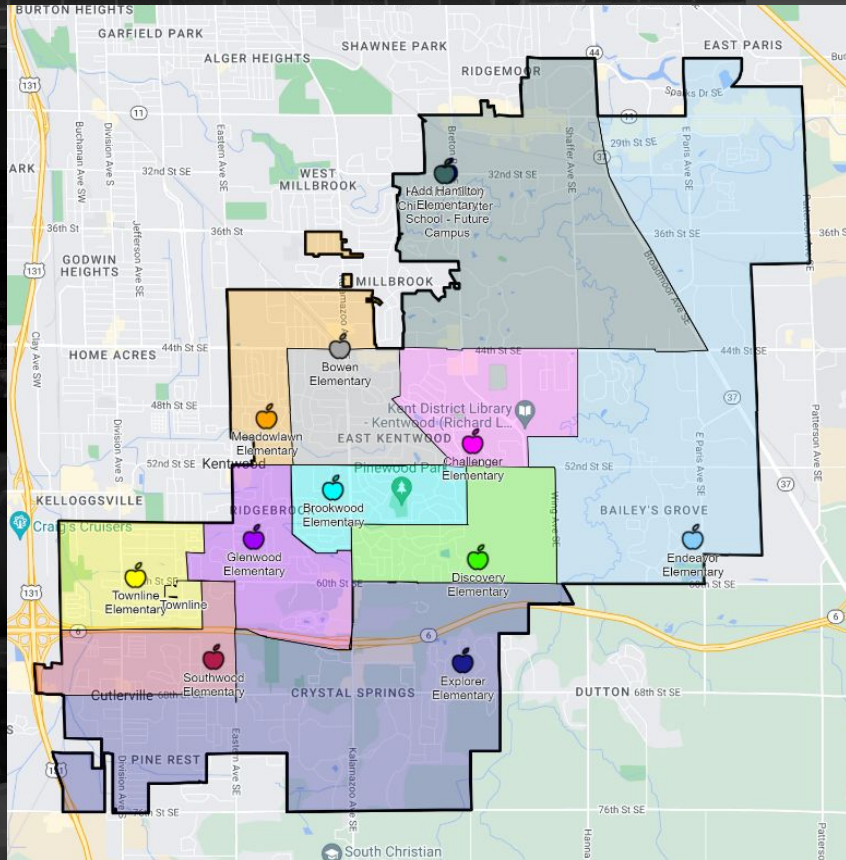


**Draft** Elementary  
Attendance Zones

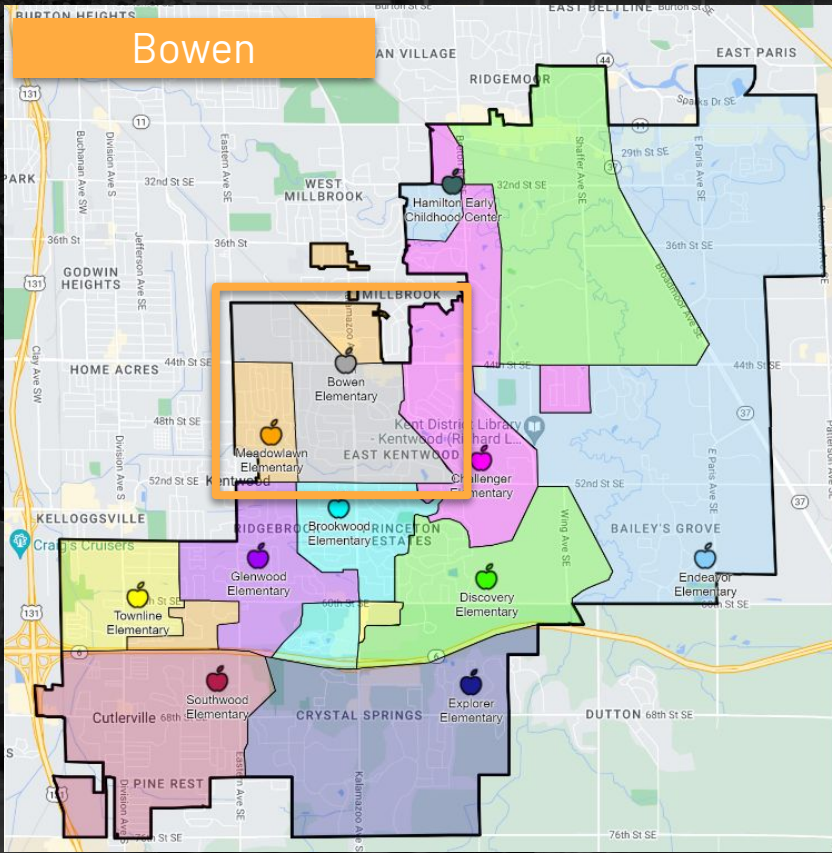
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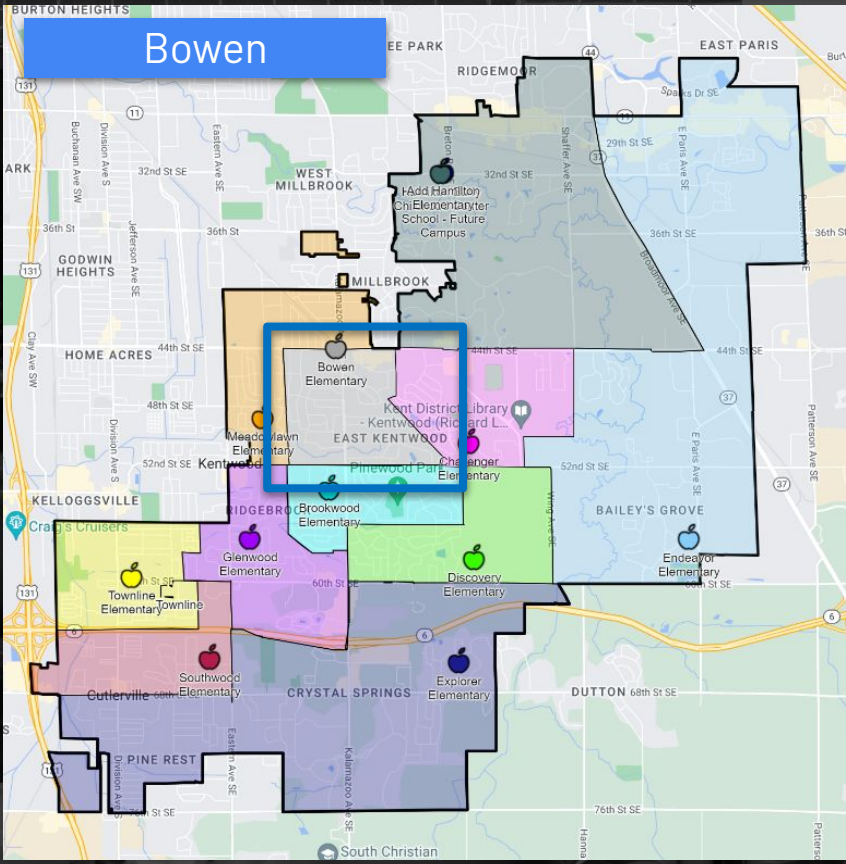
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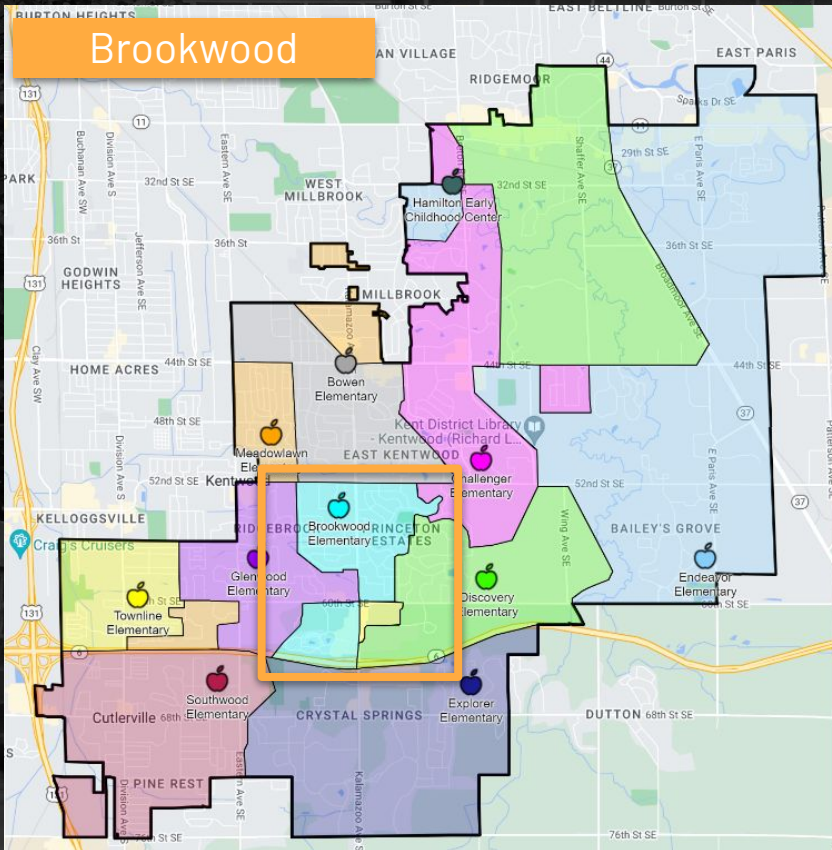


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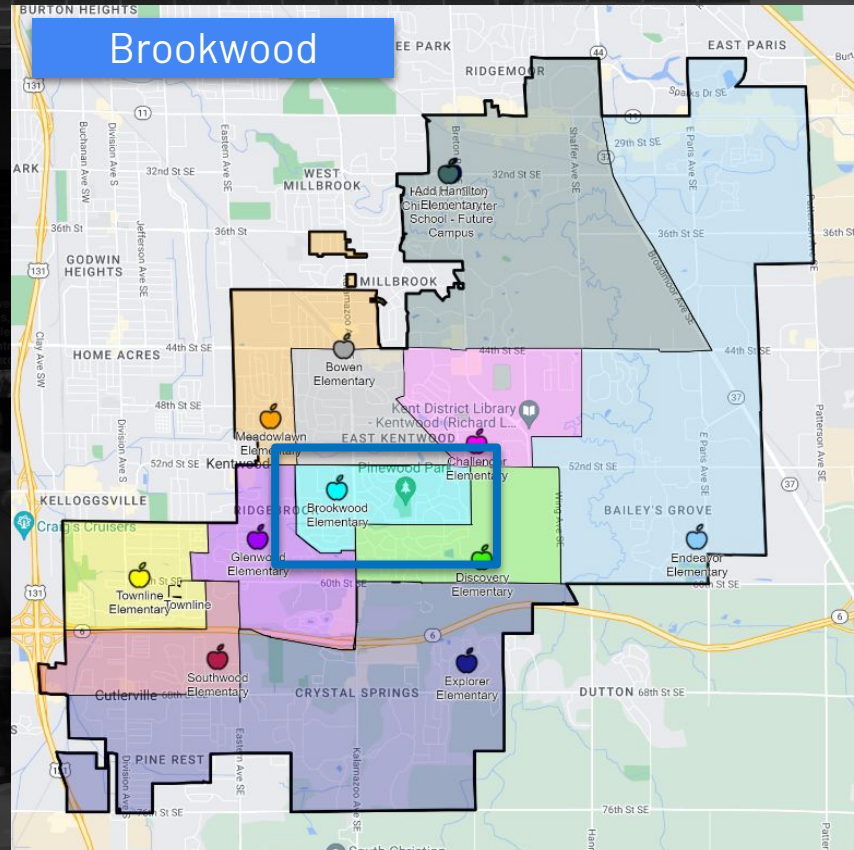




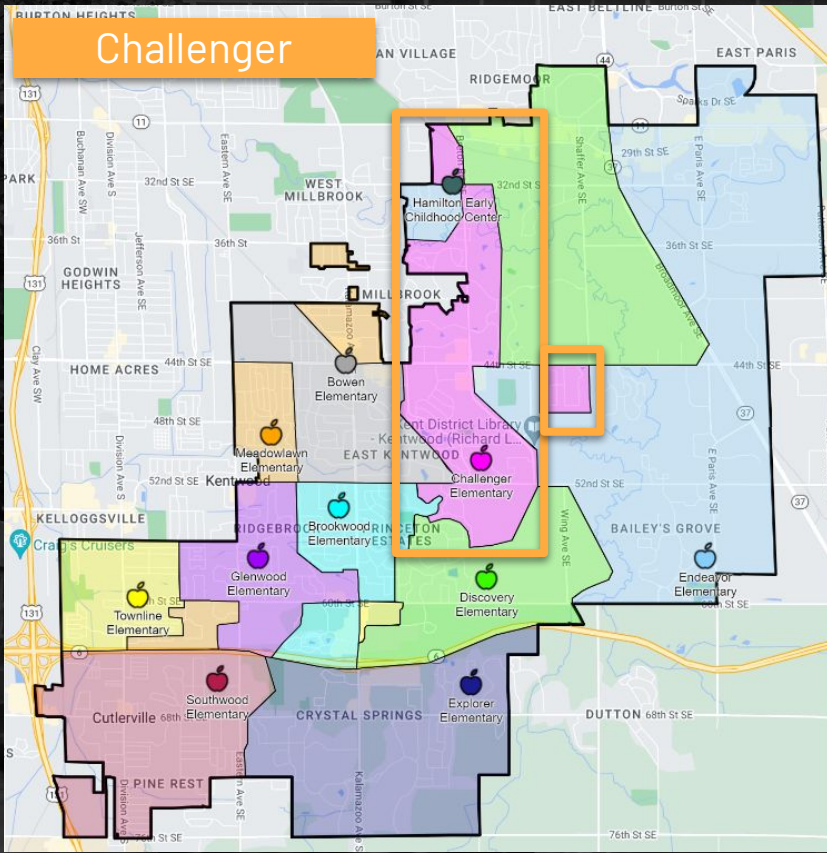
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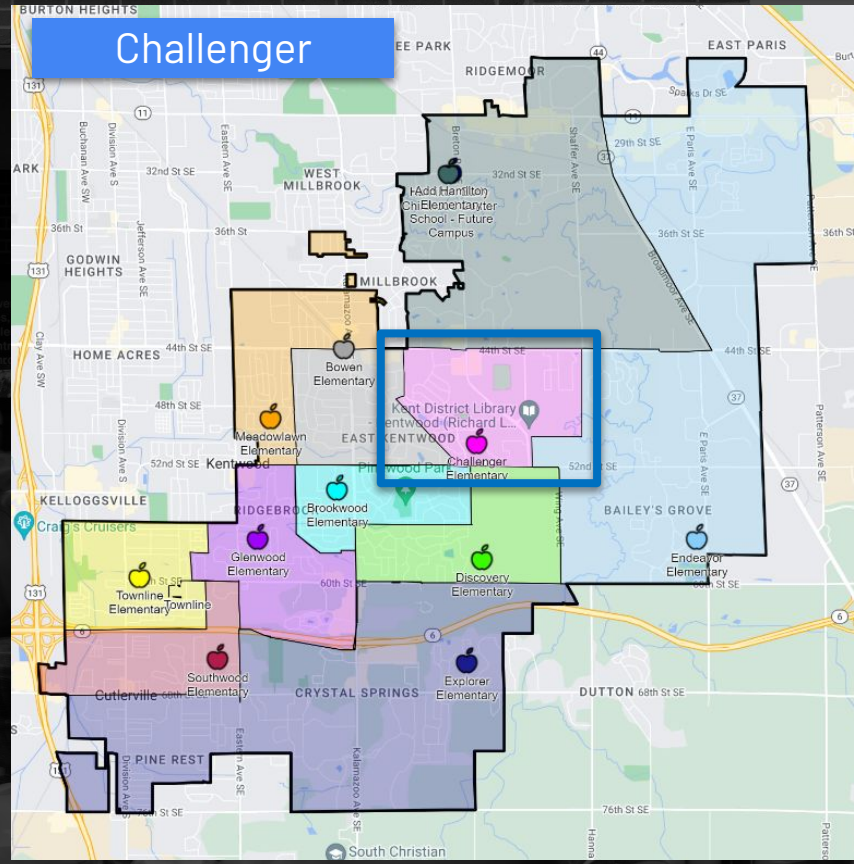
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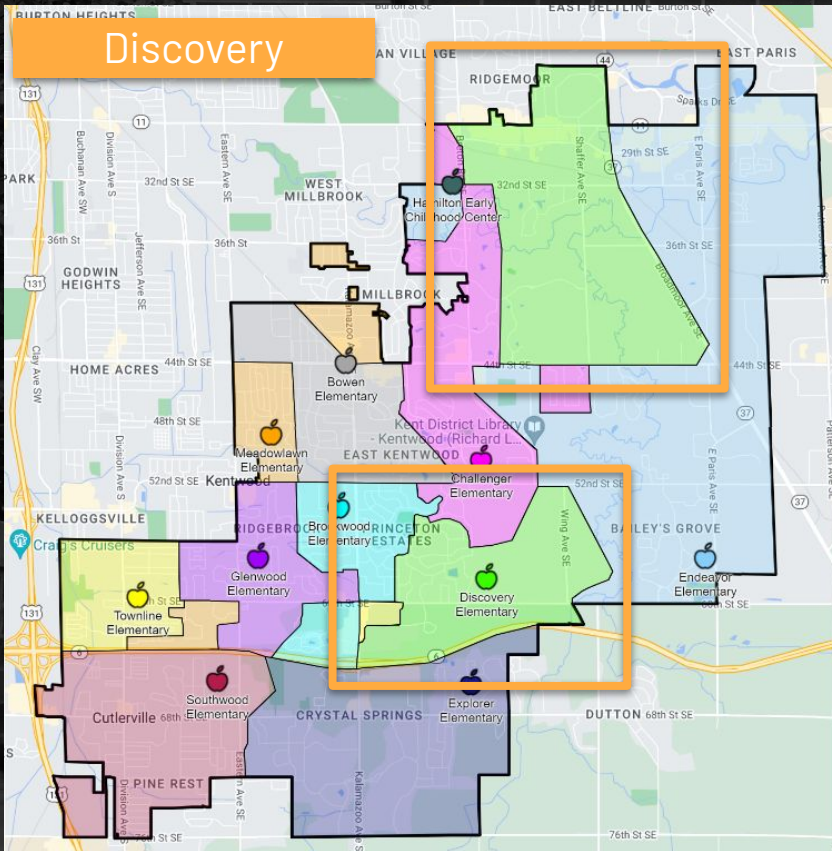
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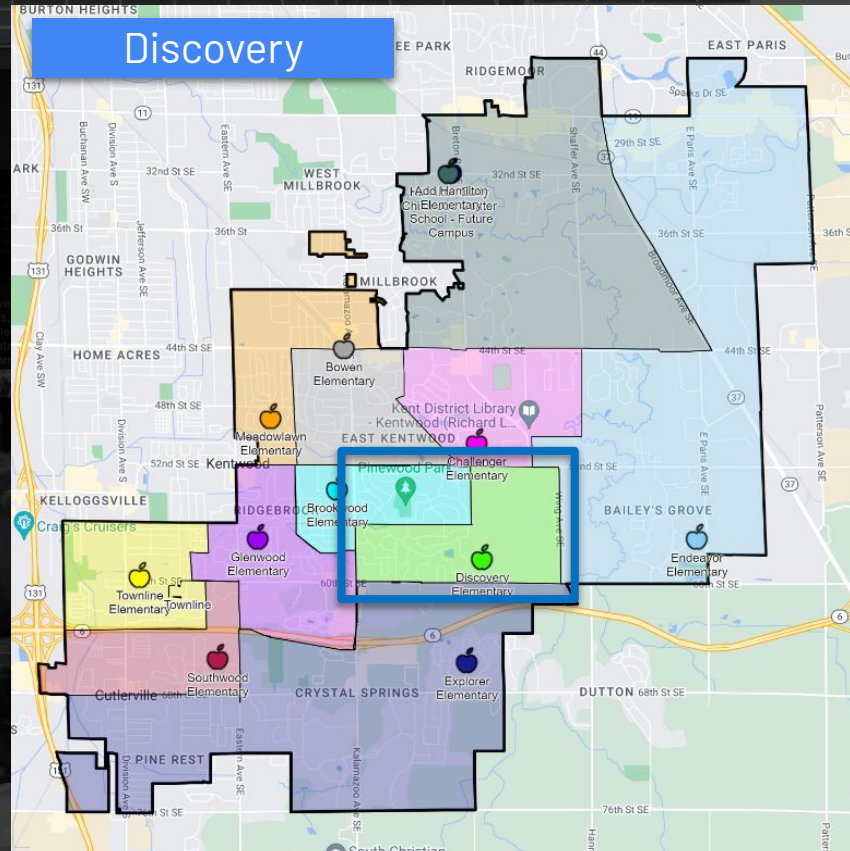
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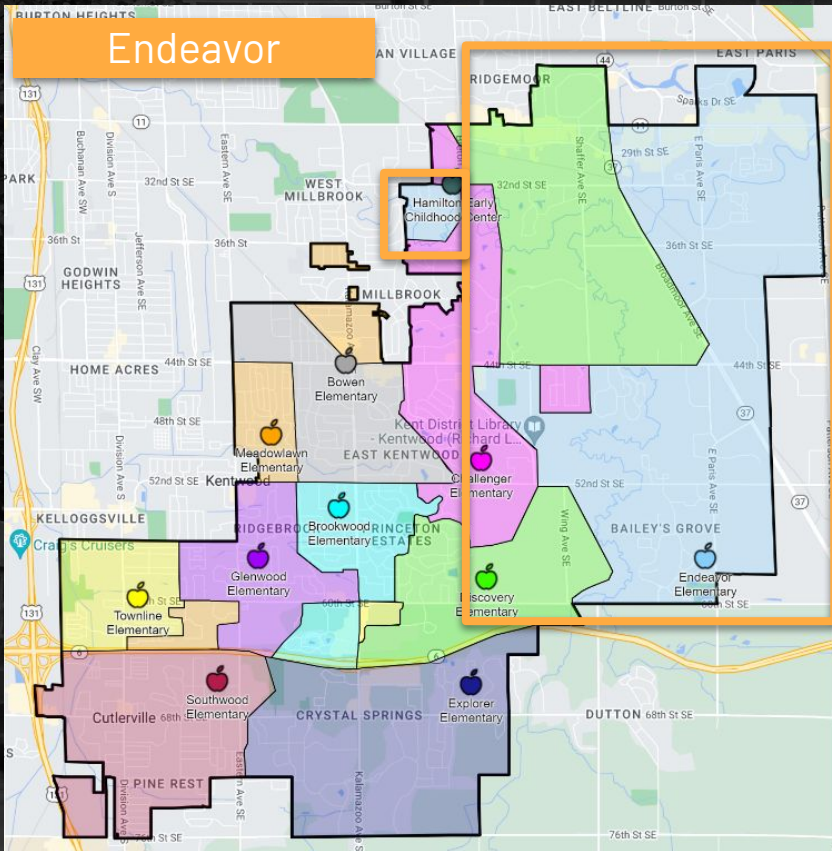
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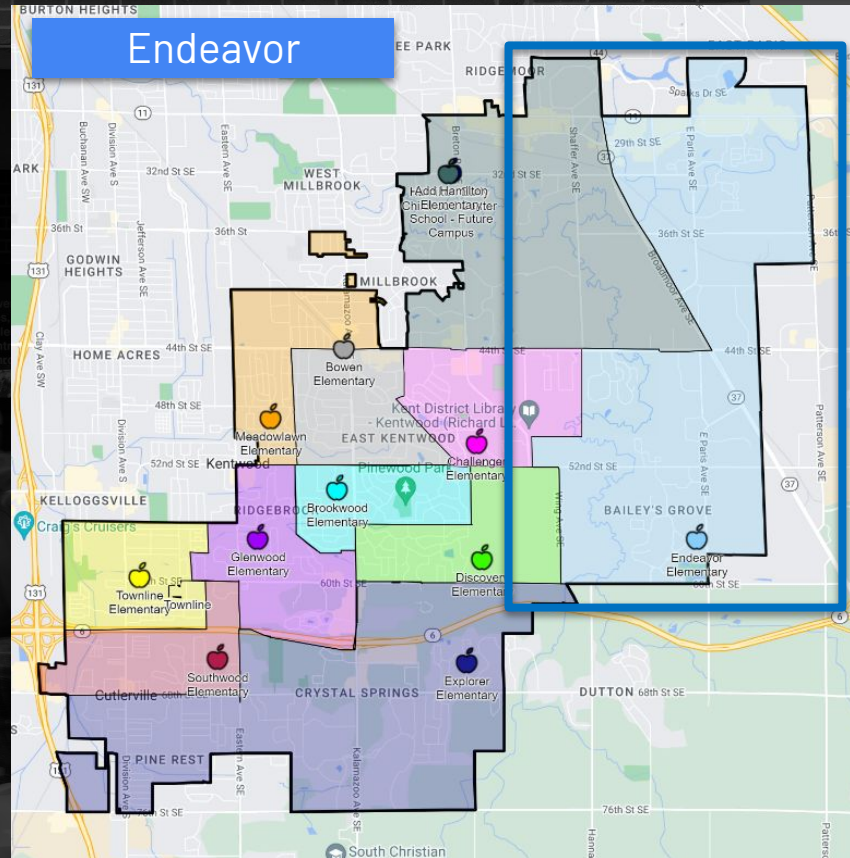
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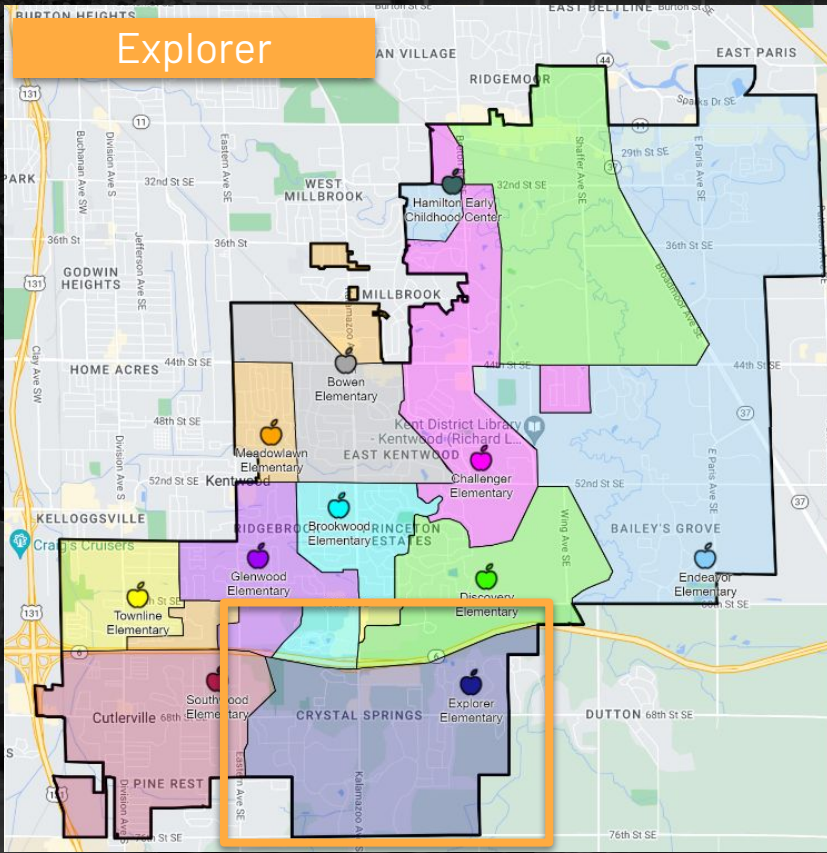
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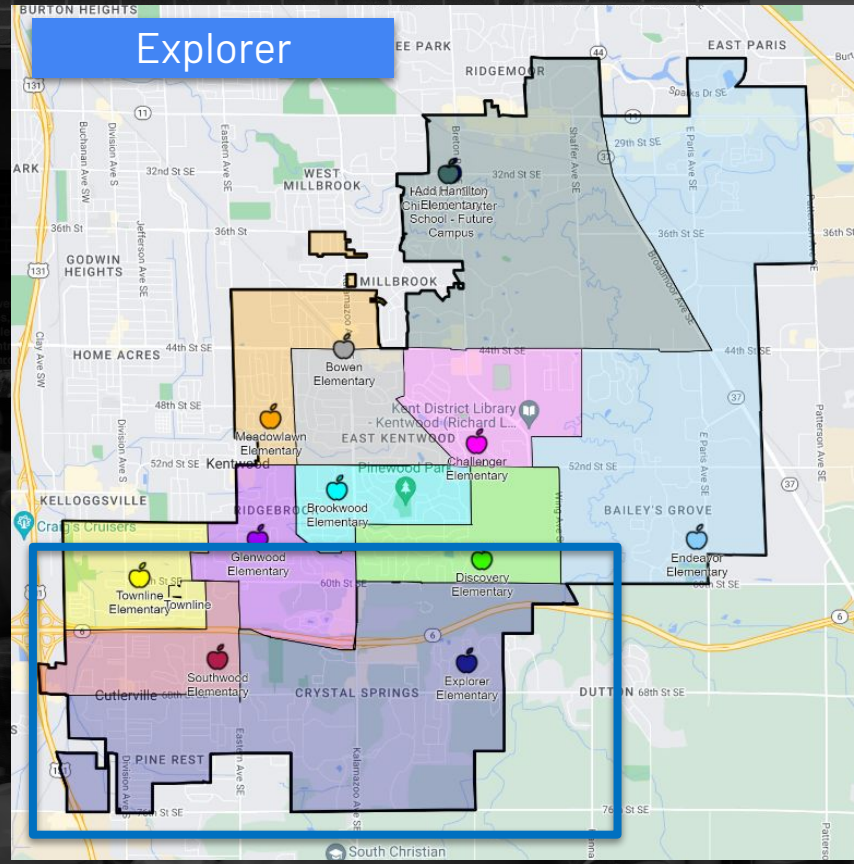
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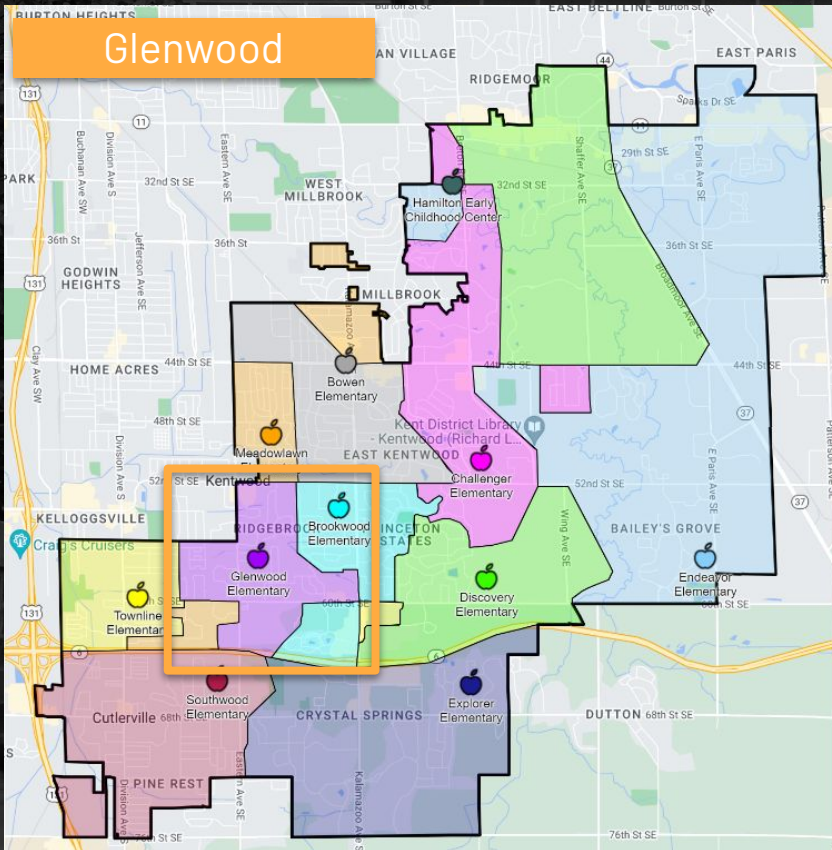
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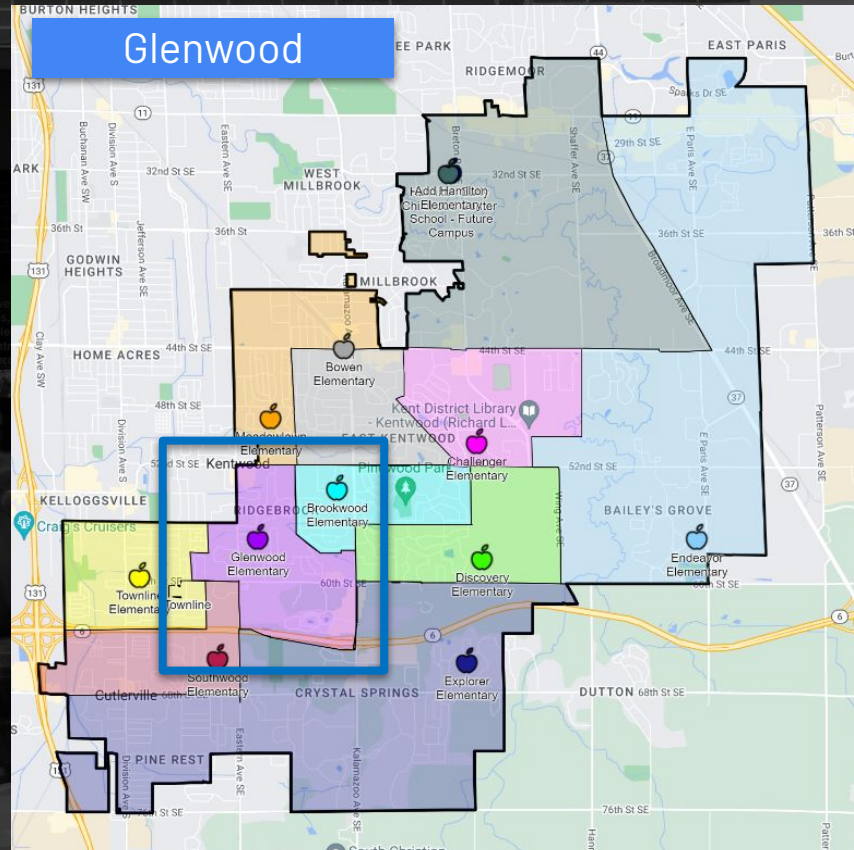
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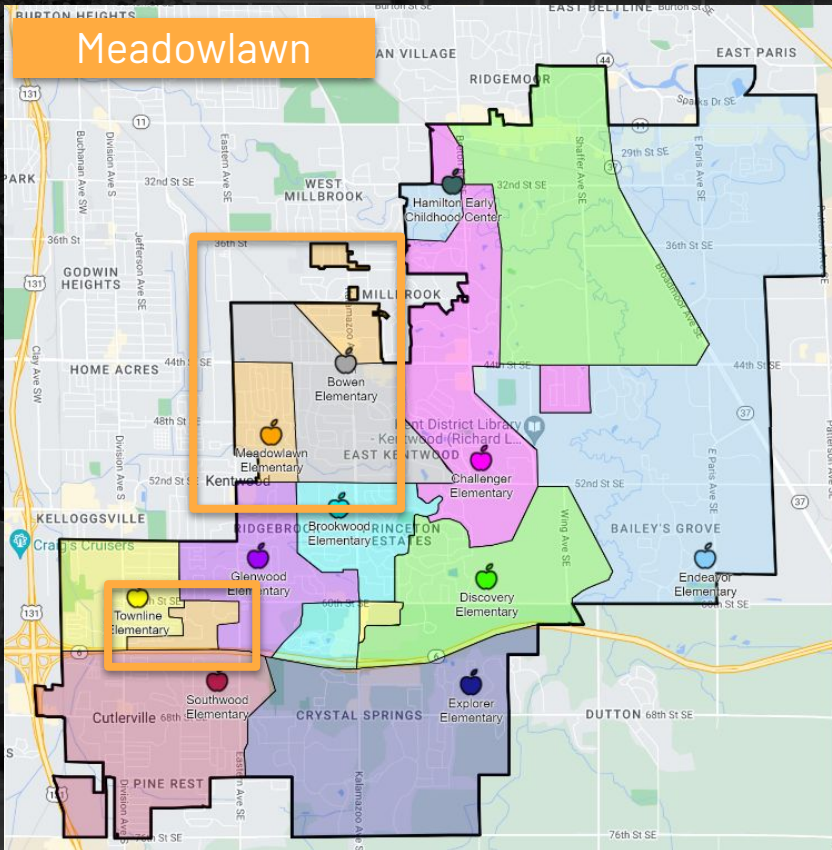
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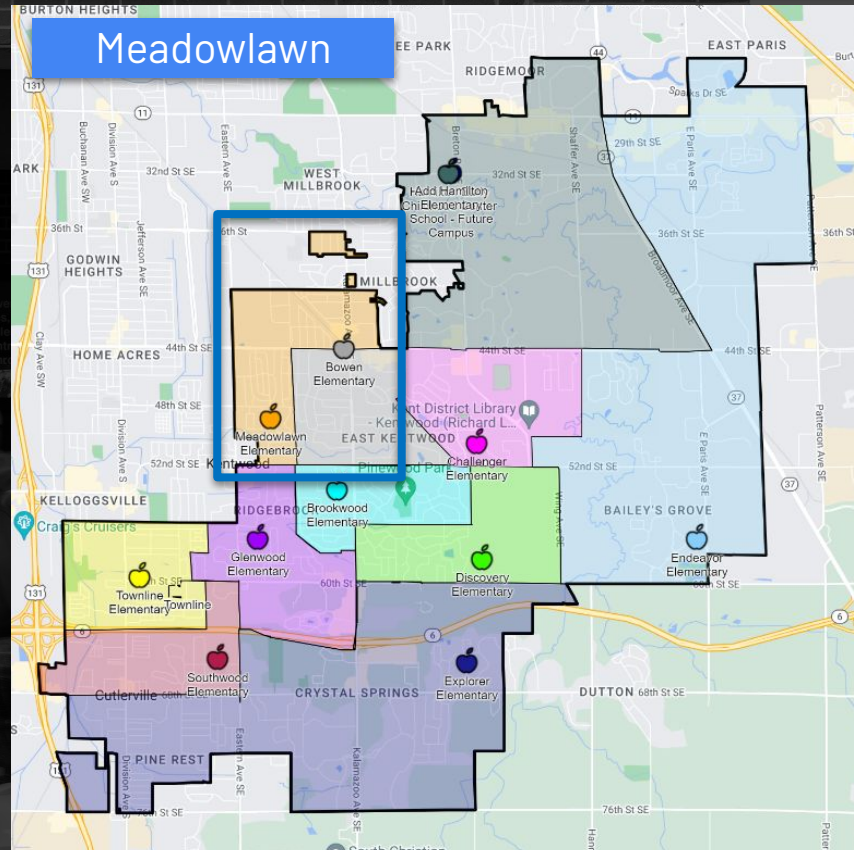
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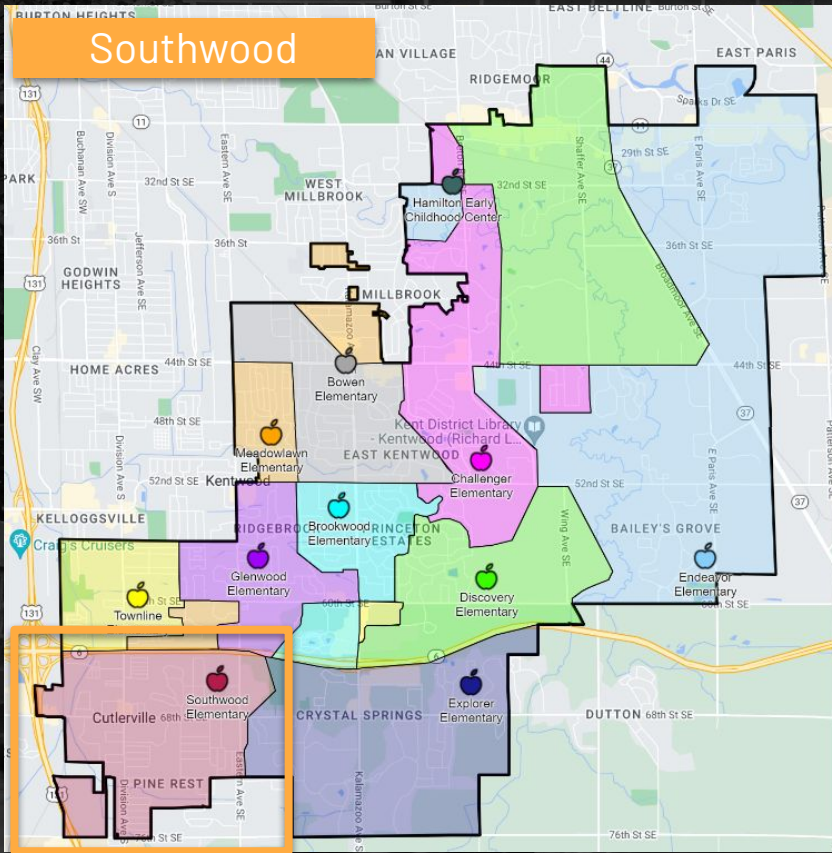
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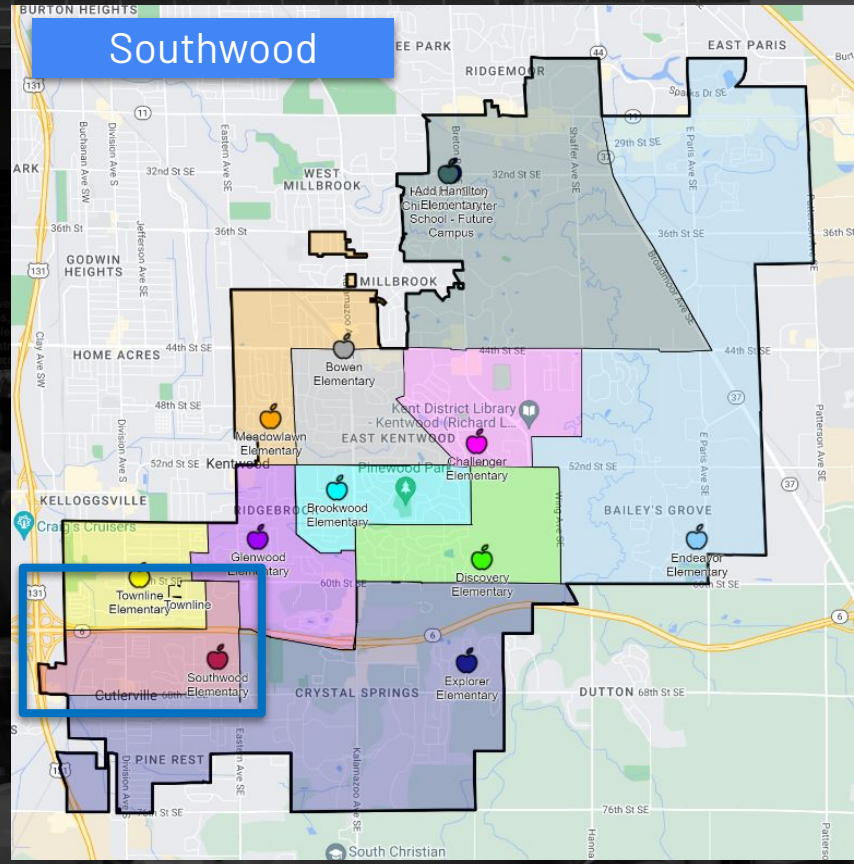
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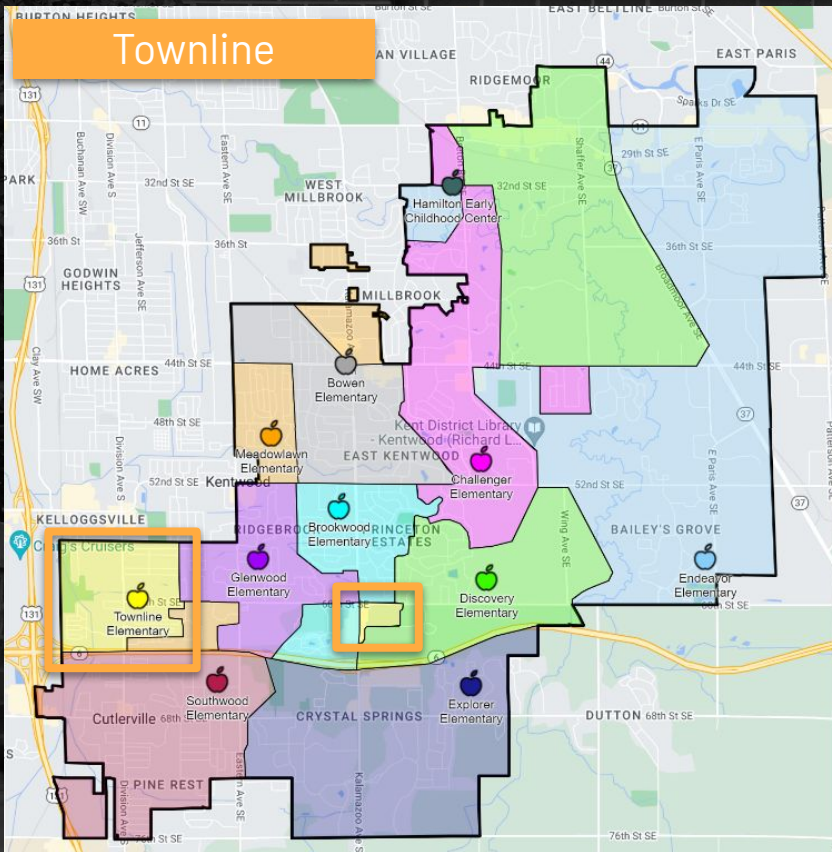


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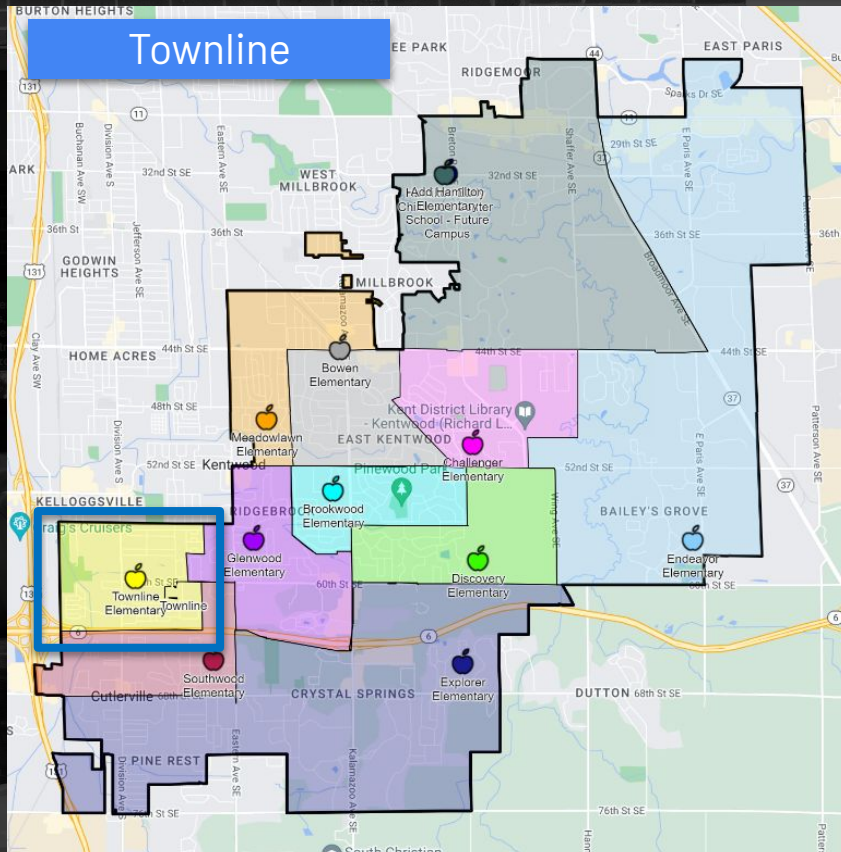




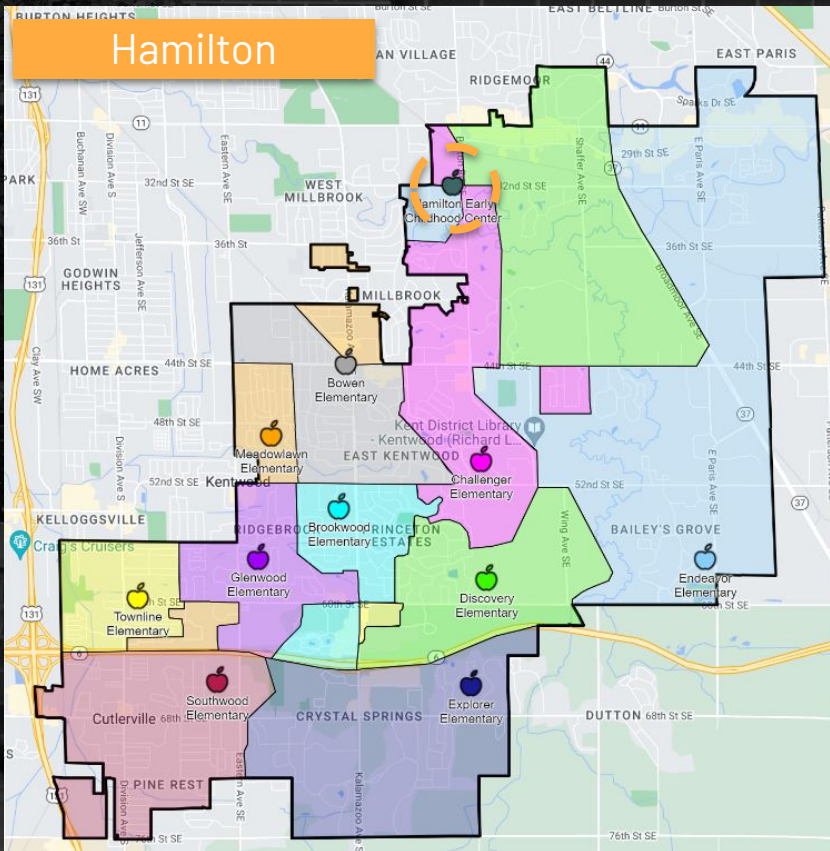
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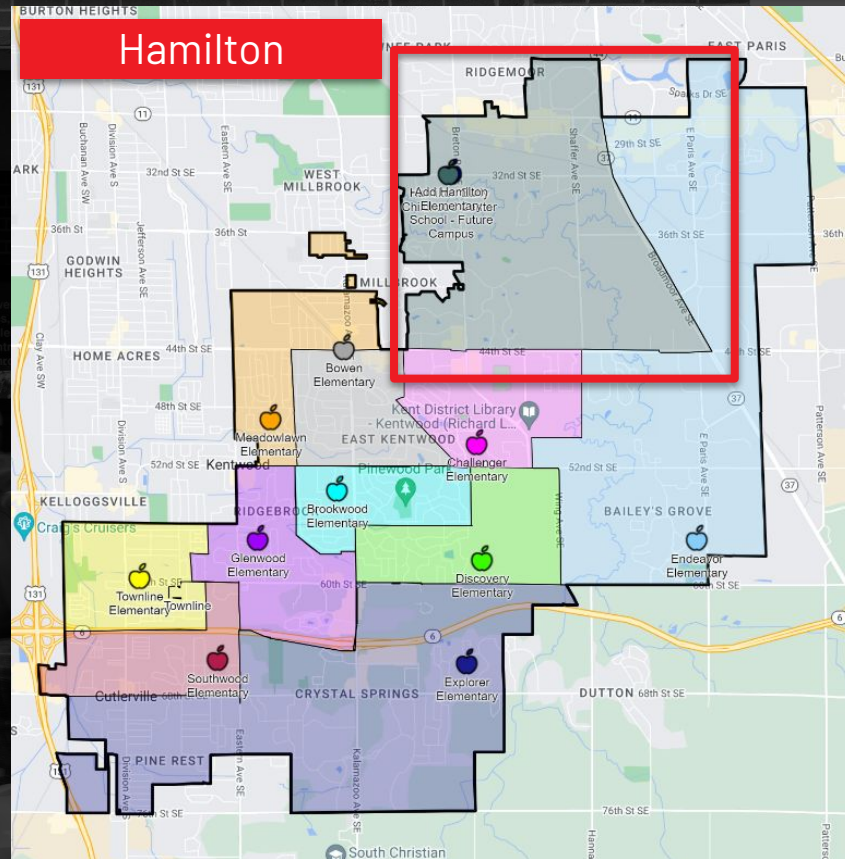
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## Discussion

- With your **knowledge** of the **KPS community** – what **questions** do you have regarding the **draft boundaries**?



# Considerations

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How we move forward on  
Hamilton and Redistricting

VALLEYWOOD  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

A

Considerations in **how** we move forward...

- Revising attendance zones is **not** as **easy** as **coloring** in a **map**.
- In addition to the **factors** outlined previously – there are other **considerations** that must be accounted for in revising our zones.

## Considerations in **how** we move forward...

1. **Legacy students** - allowing certain students to finish their elementary experience.
2. **Student transfer policies** - addressing Within District Transfers (WDT) and Schools of Choice (SoC) policies.
3. **Special programming locations** - reviewing self-contained special education classrooms and PEAKS (Advanced Learning) locations.

## Discussion

- What **feedback** do you have regarding **the three areas of consideration**?



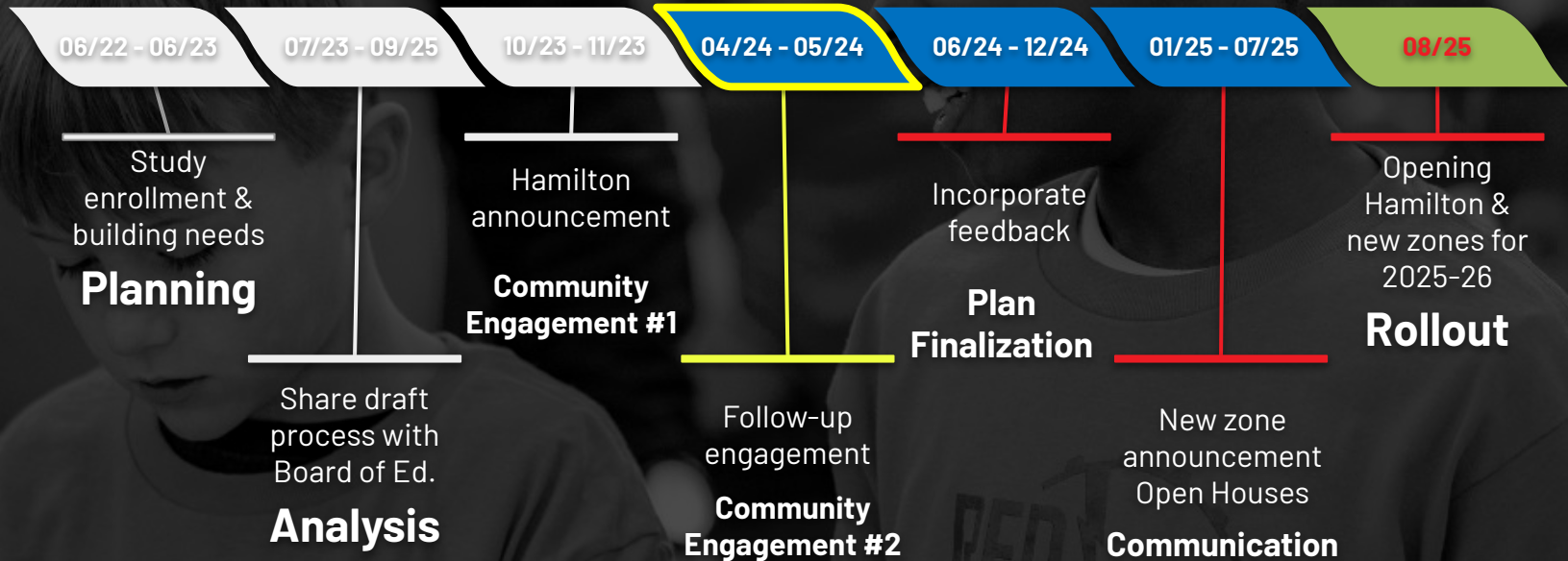
# Wrapping up

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Moving forward on  
Hamilton and Redistricting



# Timeline for Hamilton opening and attendance zone revisions



## Key takeaways

- Kentwood's **growing population & current building capacities** call for **additional space** - which necessitates **new attendance zones**.
- Several factors must be **considered** in **determining** these **zones**.
- A new school is also an important **opportunity** to **innovate** through **new learning models**.
- Remember - these zones are **draft** - and **stakeholder feedback will** **inform** the **final decision**.