



KENTWOOD

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Family and Staff
Focus Groups

Hamilton Elementary
Feedback on Opening

November 30, 2023

Agenda for today's meeting

1. Rationale for additional school
2. Excellence in learning
3. Hamilton Renderings
4. Revising attendance zones
5. Timeline for the process

ALEXANDER HAMILTON
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



Rationale

Current enrollment trends &
facilities needs in KPS

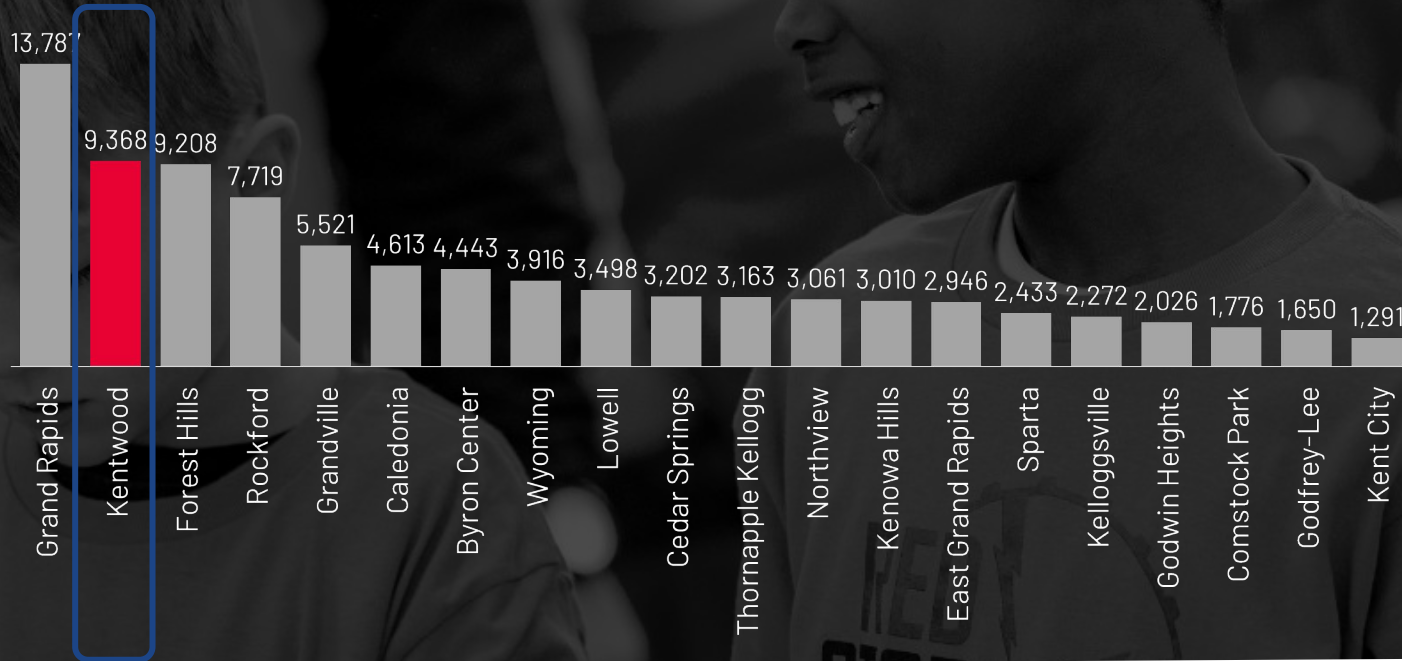


KPS second largest among Kent ISD LEA districts in 2022-23

SJ

Student Enrollment

Kent ISD Area LEA Districts (PK-12) - 2022-23



Source: CEPI Student Enrollment Counts, 2022-23

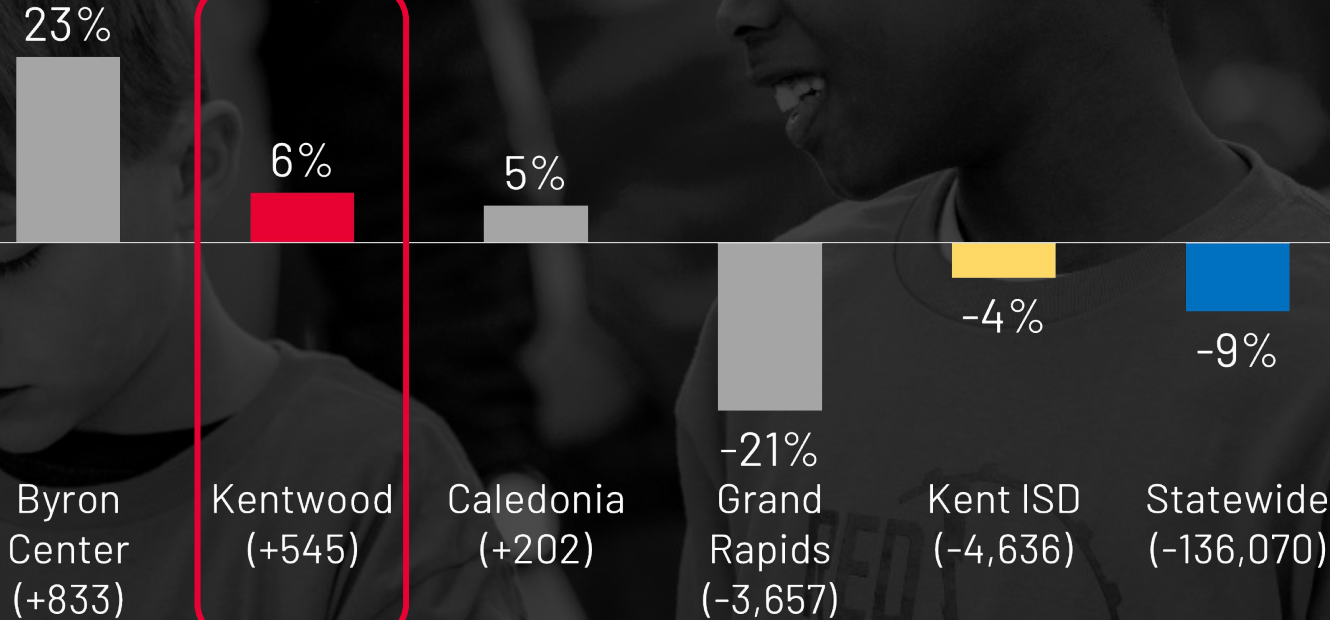
Note: Data include only LEA Districts. LEA Districts refer to traditional public school districts and excludes Public School Academies (PSA), also known as charter schools.

KPS among top growing districts in Kent ISD over past decade

SJ

Student Enrollment

Percent Change - 2012-13 to 2022-23



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 at highest enrollment since 2002-03 school year

SJ

Michigan



Kent ISD



Kentwood

SJ



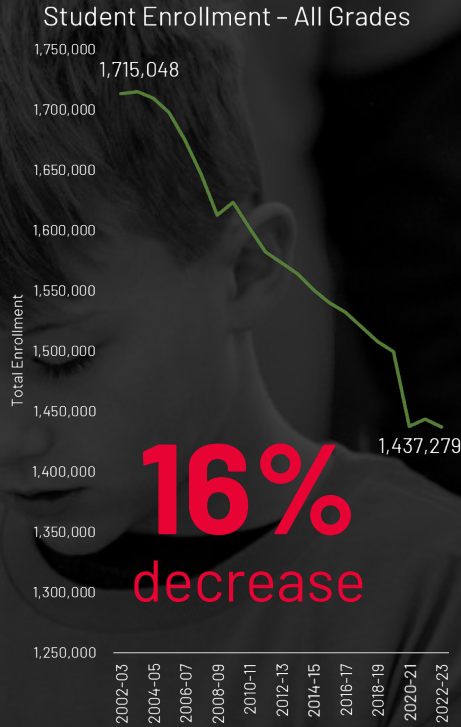
Source: CEPI Student Enrollment Counts, 2022-23

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.

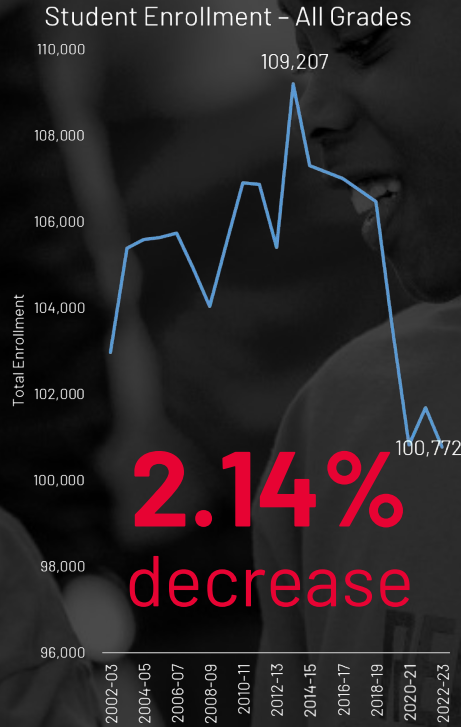
KPS at highest enrollment since 2002-03 school year

SJ

Michigan



Kent ISD



Kentwood

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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.

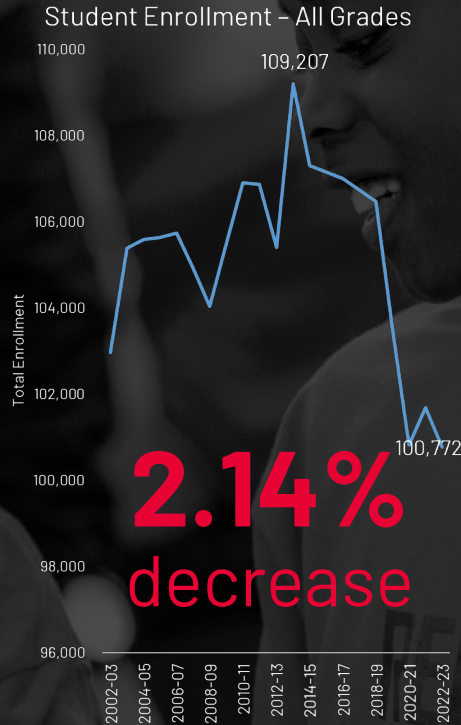
KPS at highest enrollment since 2002-03 school year

SJ

Michigan



Kent ISD



Kentwood



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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.

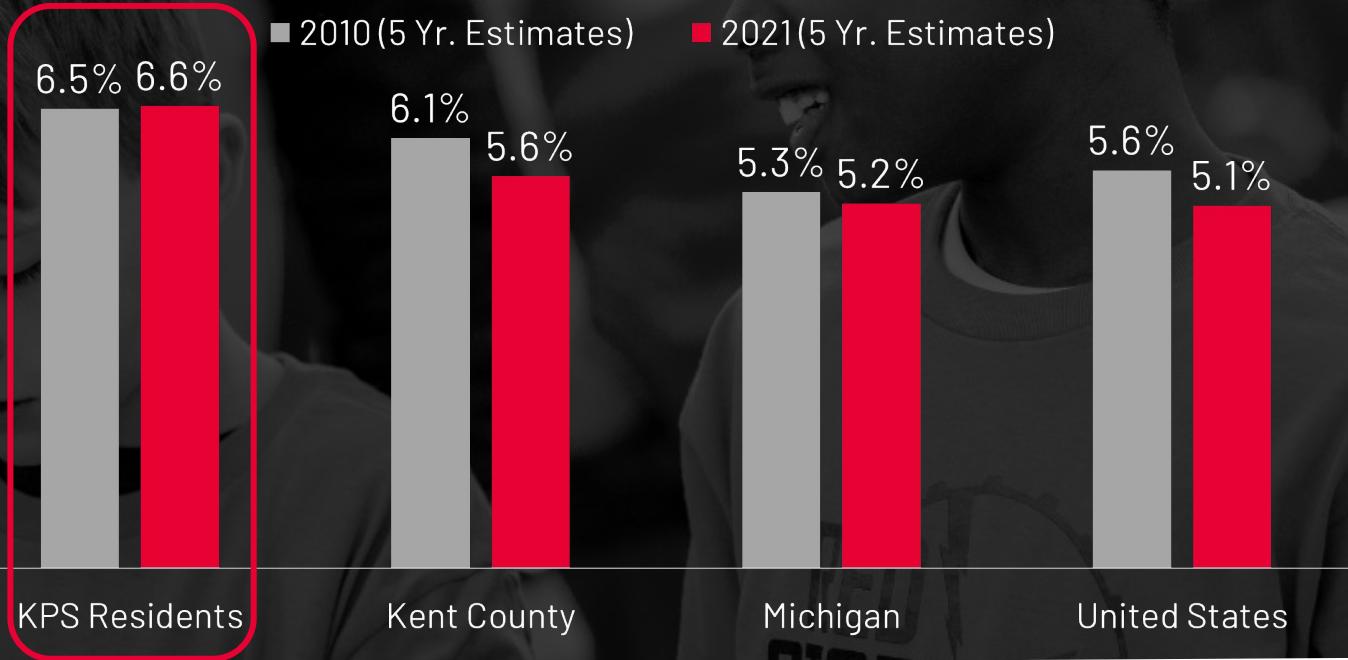
KPS birthrate outpacing Kent County, Michigan and U.S.

SJ

Births in last 12 months

Percent of women (age 15-50) giving birth

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



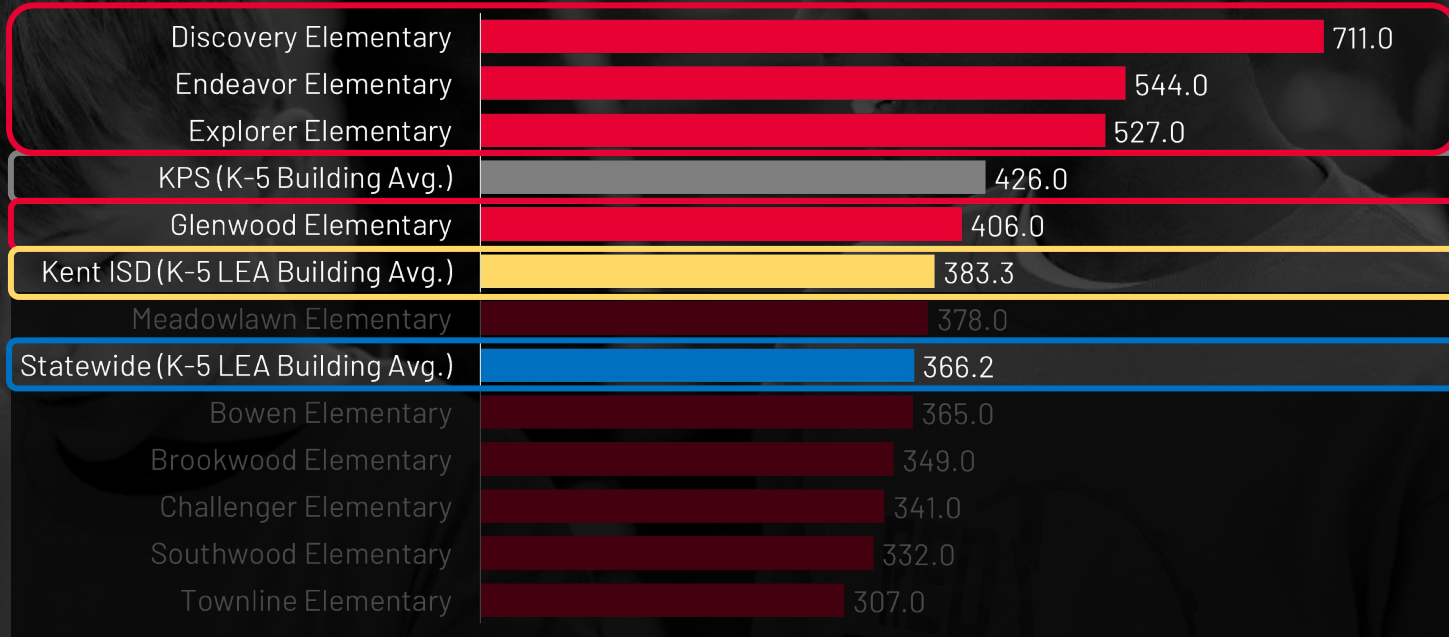
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (B13002)

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

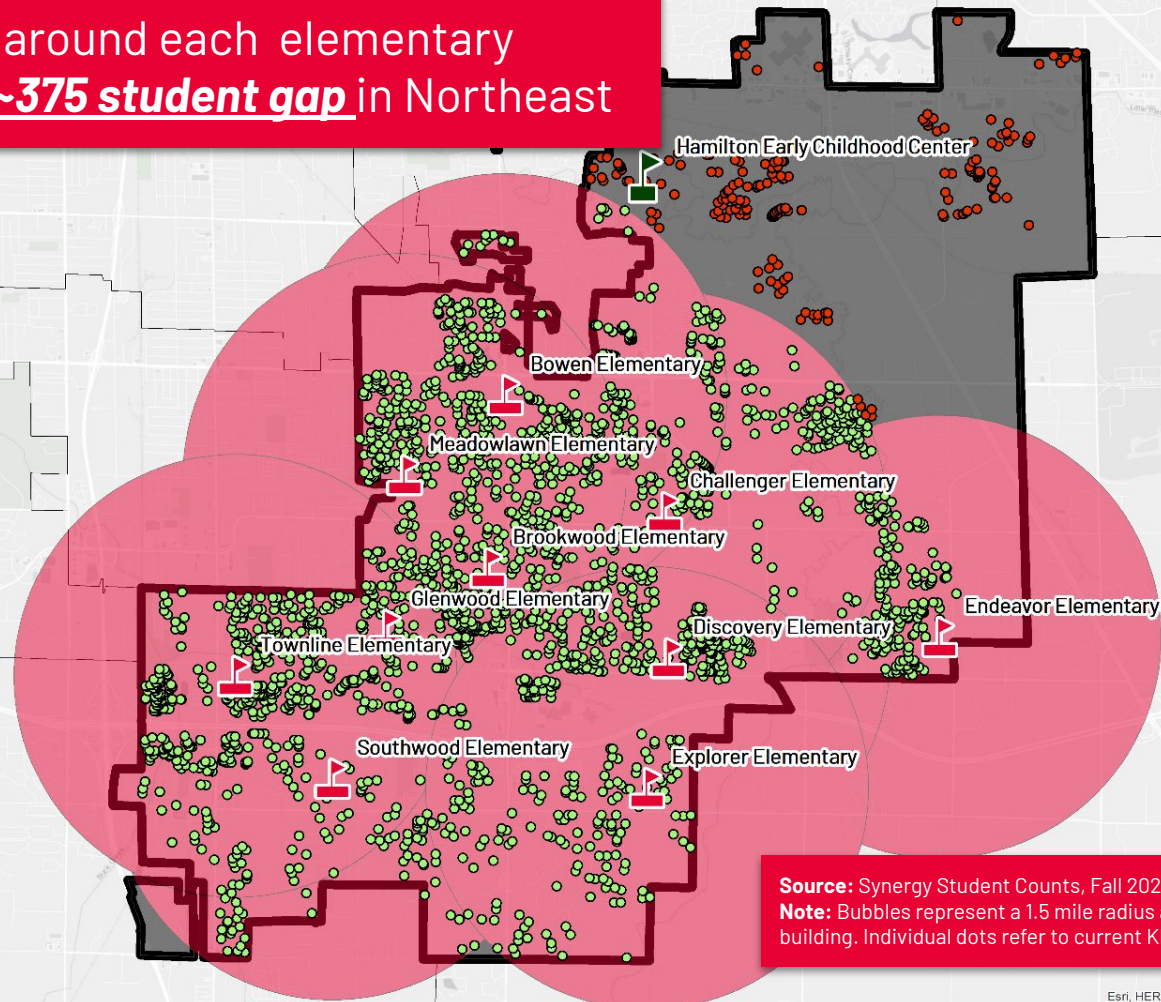
Student Enrollment by Elementary Building – 2022-23



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.

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

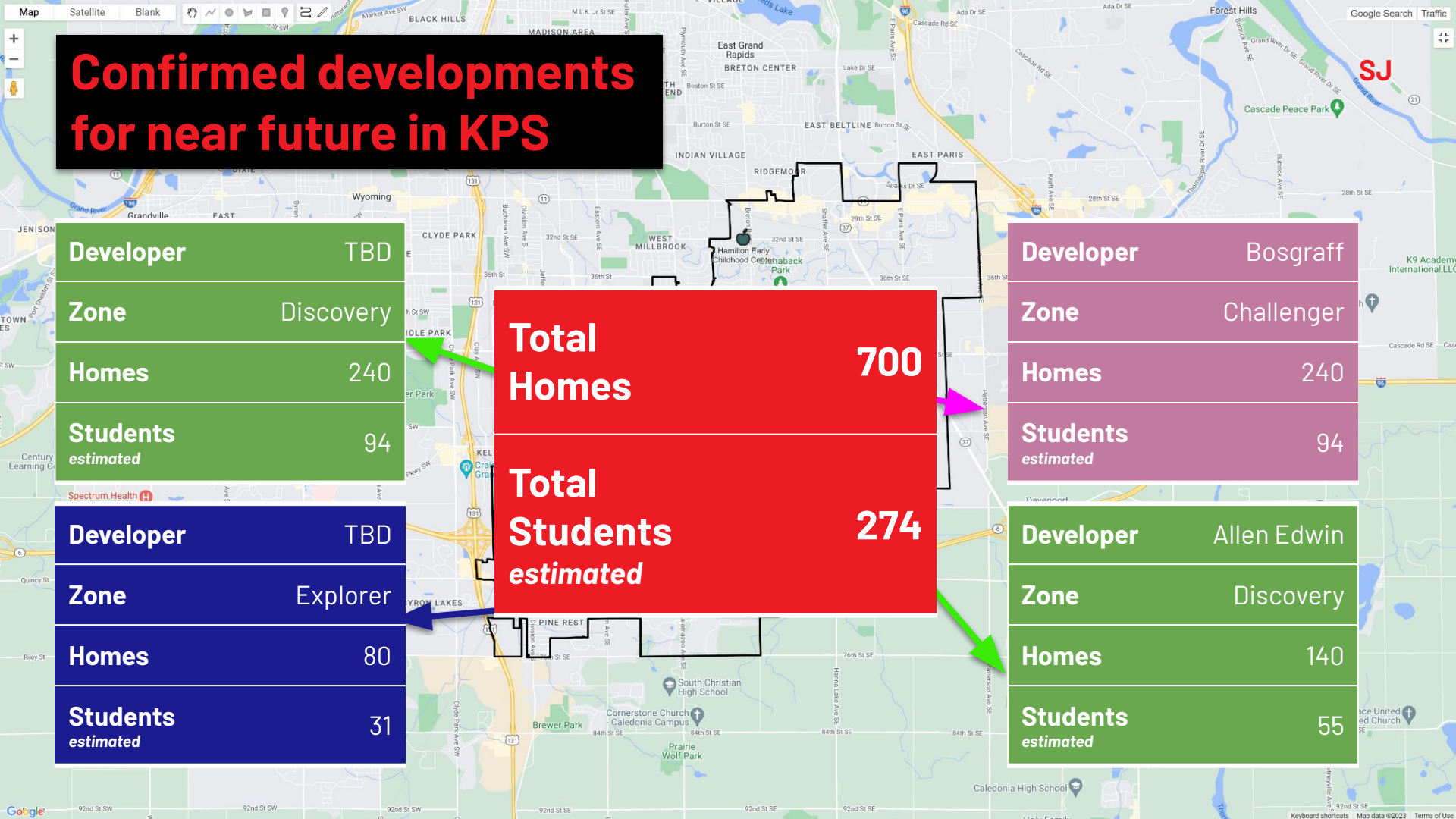
Students estimated 94

Developer Allen Edwin

Zone Discovery

Homes 140

Students estimated 55



Hamilton Elementary Opening

Highlighted in October Newsletter



IT STARTS WITH RELATIONSHIPS

Townline Elementary third grade teacher Stacey 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 49508
Phone: (616) 455-4400 Fax: (616) 455-4475

It Starts with Relationships

Continued from page 1

Just down the hall from Beck's room, students in Fatmeh Mohamed'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-time 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.

DITS

Finally, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is a system that promotes and rewards positive behavior choices by students. This, along with the other initiatives exists in meeting one of the goals of the district's strategic plan—creating whole-child

academic success, building relationships also impacts safety and security in the district. Callan Consultants, a national firm based in Grand Rapids that supports schools in safety and risk, building positive relationships plays in keeping schools safe. "One of the things that Kentwood Public Schools is the focus that is put on building strong relationships at all levels, relationships will truly prevent a lot of bad things from happening in schools."

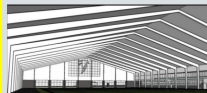
Best practices, along with hellos, high-fives, and hugs in the morning and throughout the school's warm and welcoming place for each and every student, creating whole-child success.

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 many 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 Polston. "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 to 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.

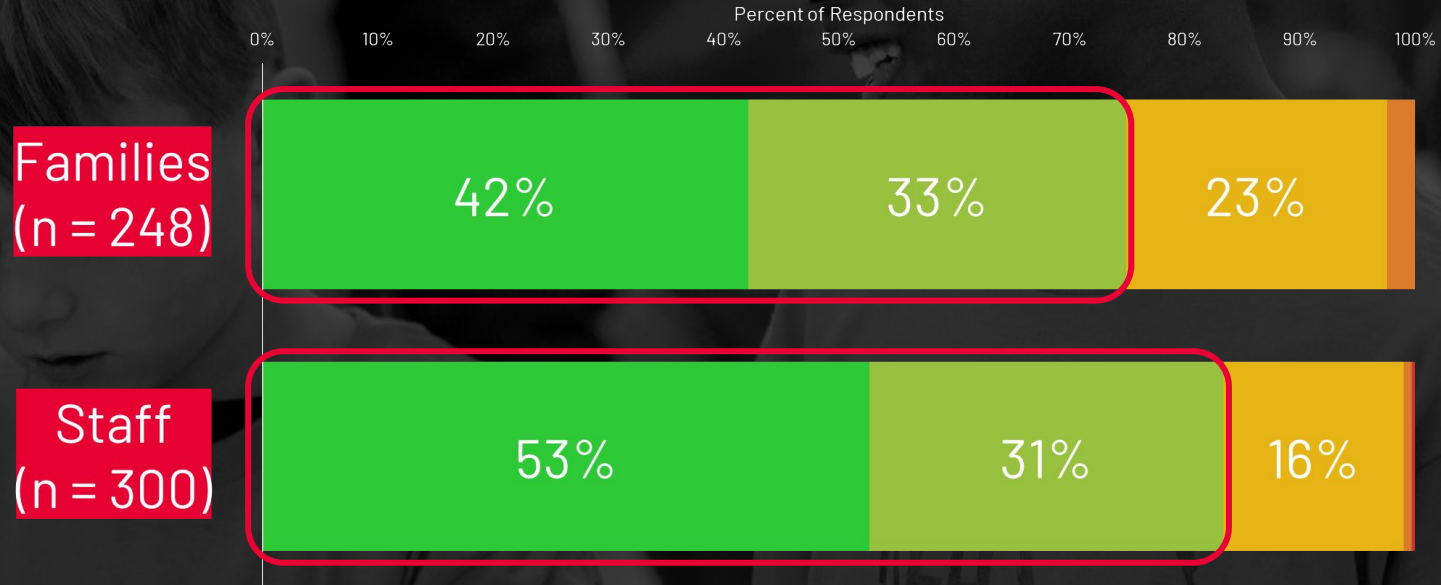
Families and staff overwhelmingly support Hamilton opening

SJ

Hamilton Elementary Opening Survey

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

Very Positive Positive Neutral Negative Very Negative



Mentimeter question

Based on the data, do you support the decision to open Hamilton as the 11th elementary in KPS?

Mentimeter question

Please explain your rationale from the previous question regarding Hamilton Elementary's opening.



Excellence in Learning

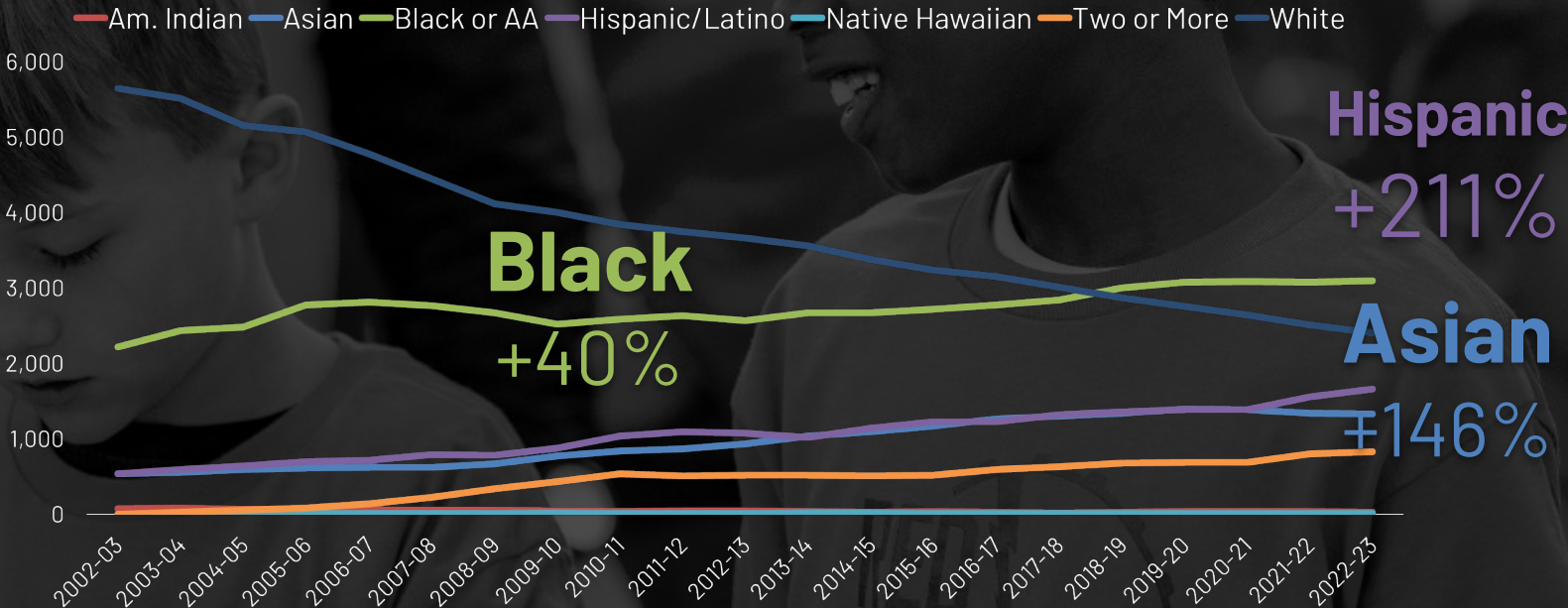
Innovative learning models
to meet the evolving needs
of our students



Diversity in KPS has grown steadily in past 20 years

KP

Student Enrollment Kentwood - by Race/Ethnicity



Source: CEPI Student Enrollment Counts, 2022-23

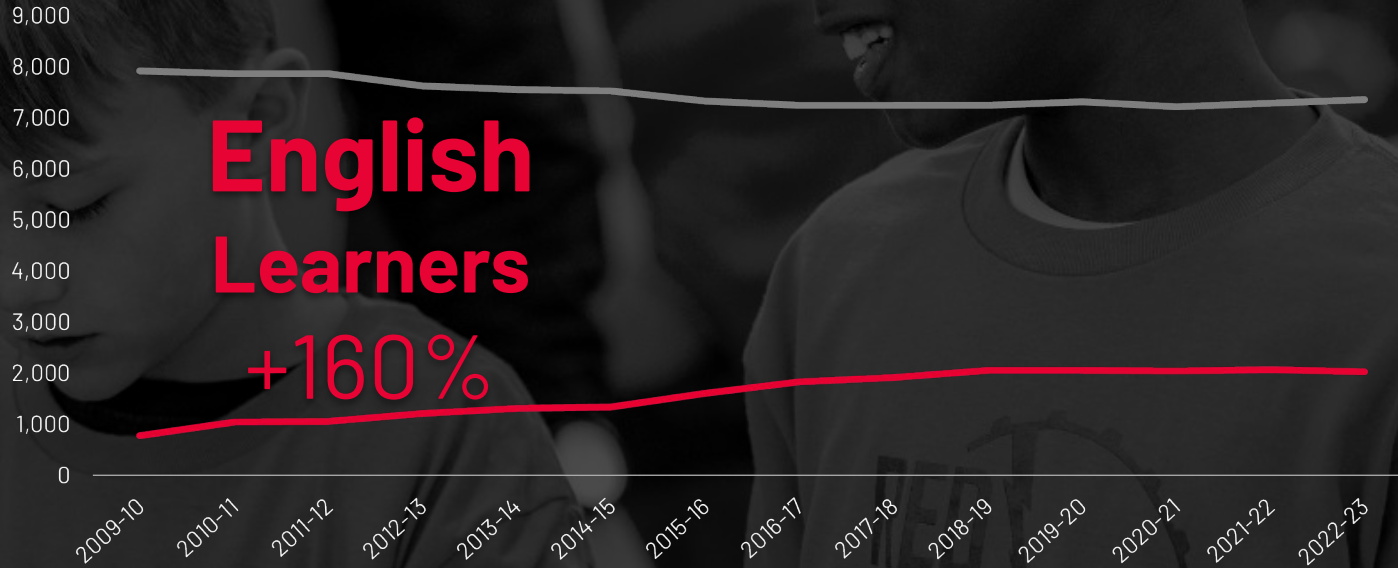
Significant increase in English Learners in KPS since '09-10

KP

Student Enrollment

Kentwood - by Language Status

— English Learners — Not English Learners



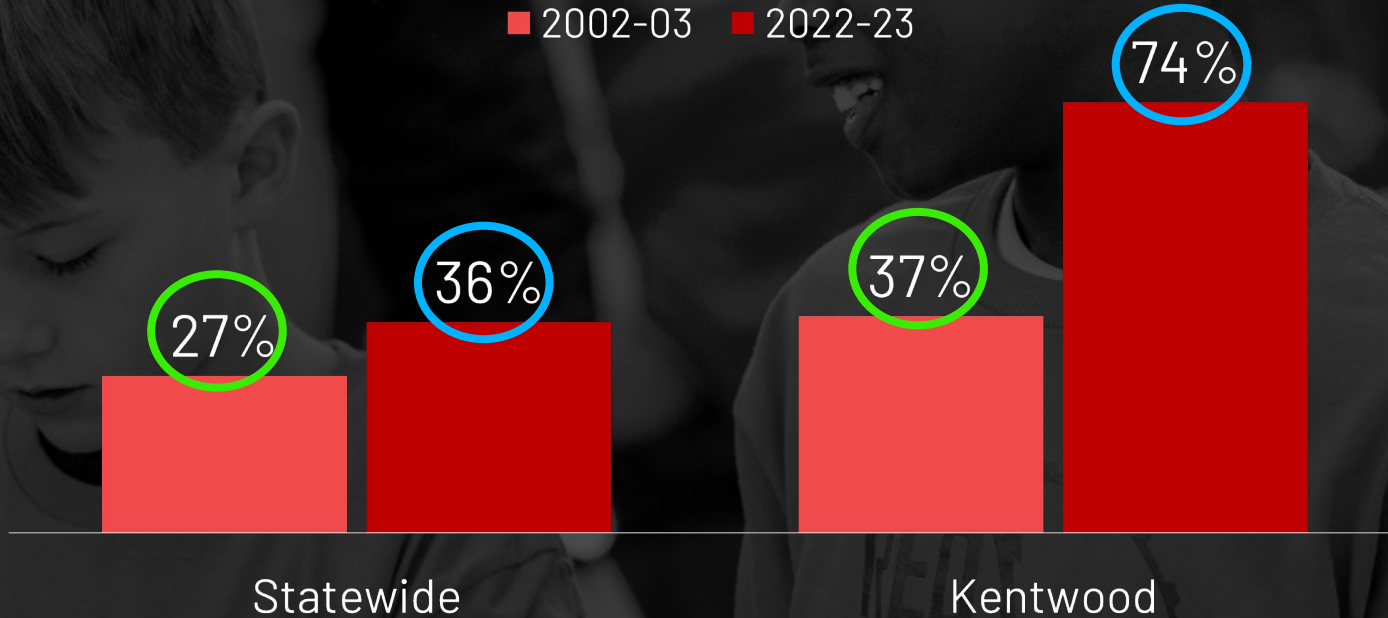
KPS with similar student demographics as state - 20 years ago

KP

Student Enrollment

Students of Color - 2002-03 to 2022-23

■ 2002-03 ■ 2022-23



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 - beyond Hamilton.**

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**.
- **Engagement:** New models **captivate** students by making learning **relevant to real-world contexts**.
- **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.

Mentimeter question

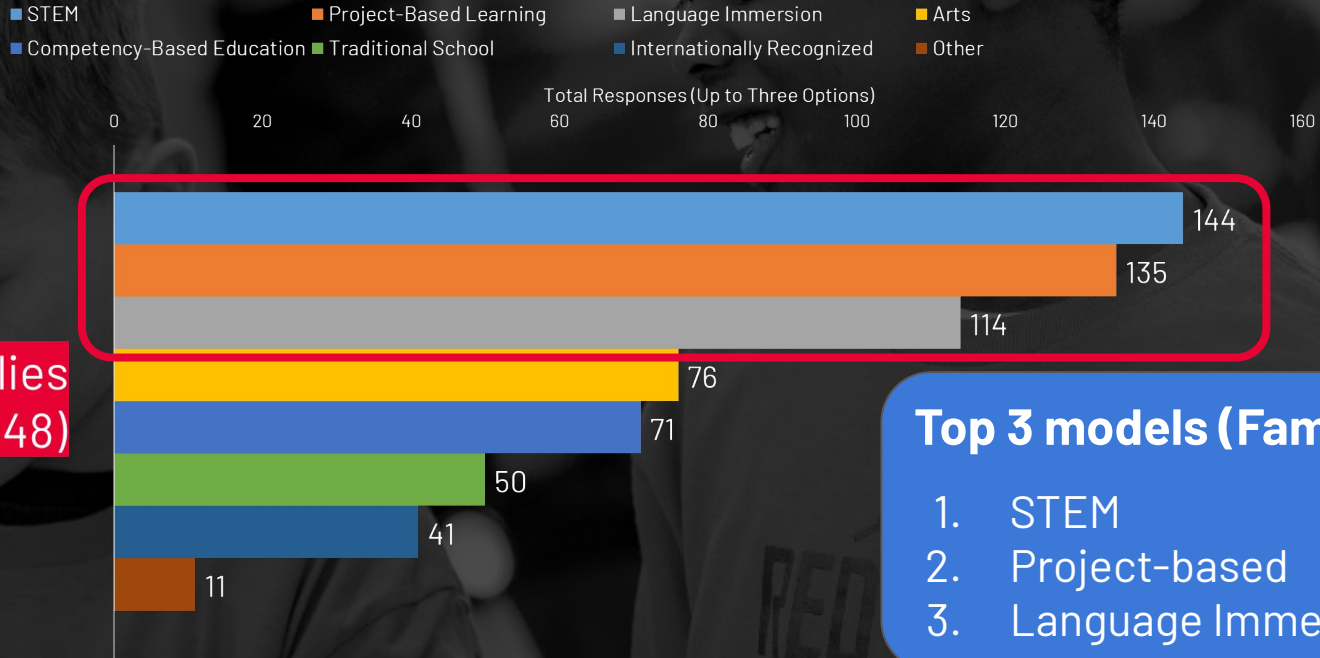
Which of these learning models resonated with you and why? Include other options if your preference wasn't listed.

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.

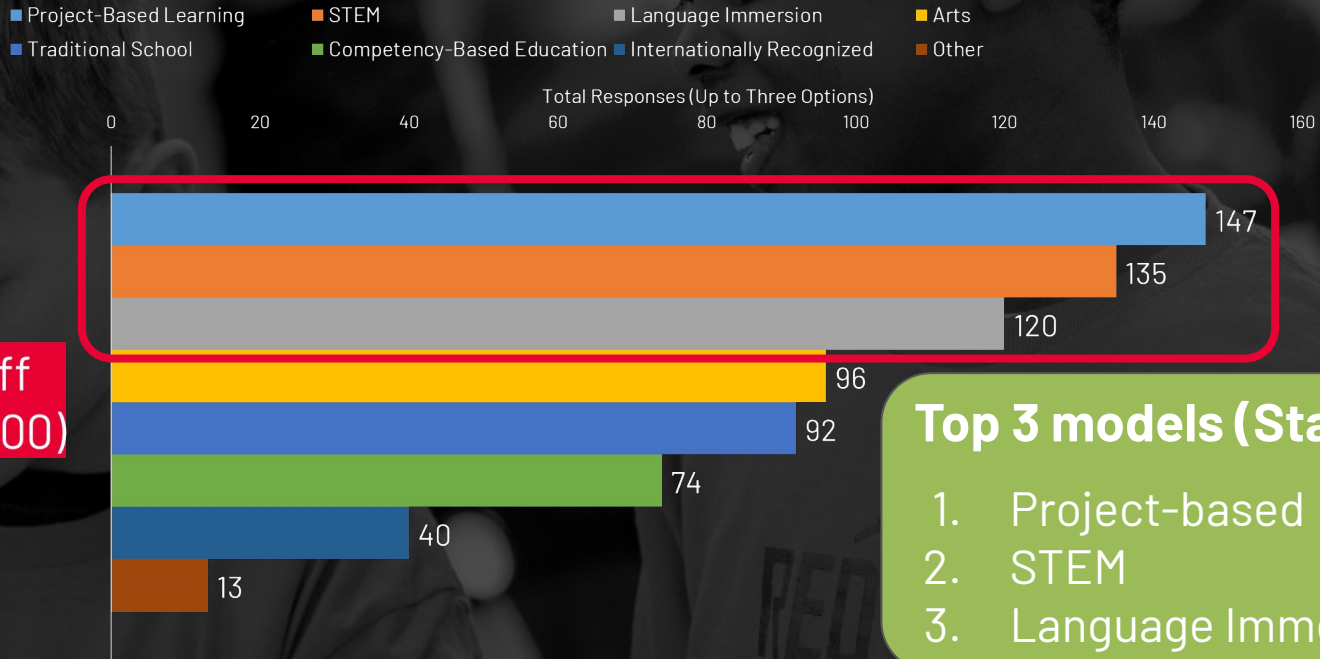


Project-based learning, STEM & Immersion models for staff

KP

Hamilton Elementary Opening Survey

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





Hamilton Elem

Initial renderings of new
Hamilton Elementary



Hamilton Elementary and Early Childhood Center

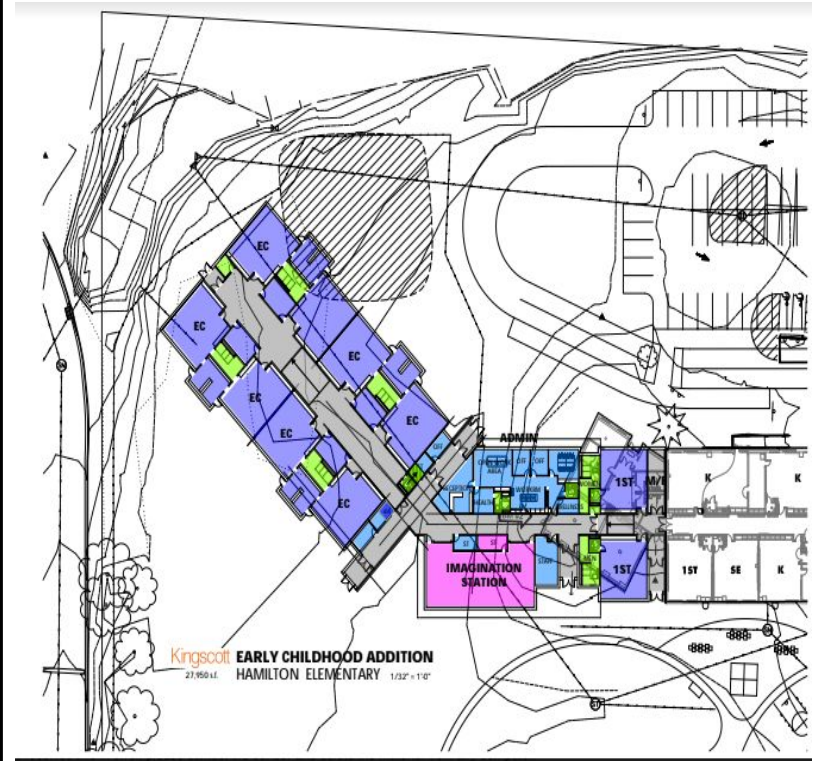


- RENOVATE EXIST GYM FINISHES; ADD CLERESTORY WINDOWS AND WINDOWS TO COURTYARD.
- NEW MENS/WOMENS RESTROOMS (CAN BE ACCESSED FROM EITHER NEW CORRIDOR OR CAFETERIA)
- NEW MEZZANINE OVER PORTION OF KITCHEN TO SERVE CAFETERIA AND EXISTING GYM
- NEW CAFETERIA (APPROXIMATE SEATING 180-200 SEATS)

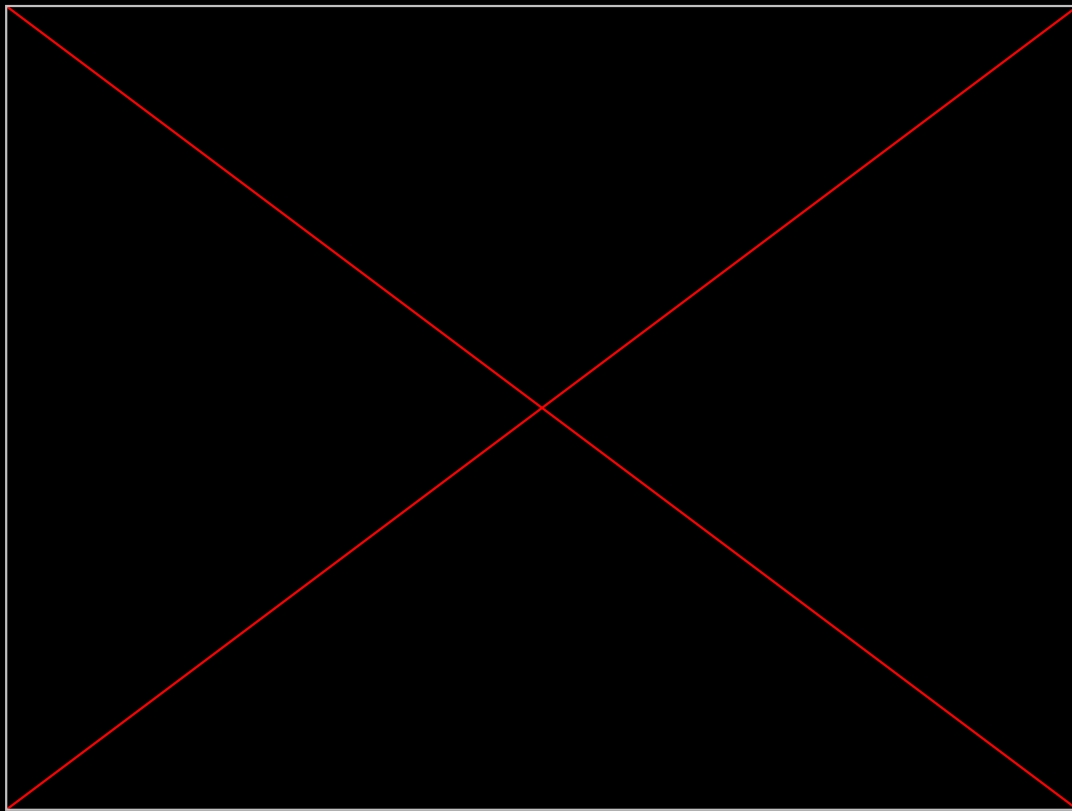
Cafeteria Addition- Selected Exterior



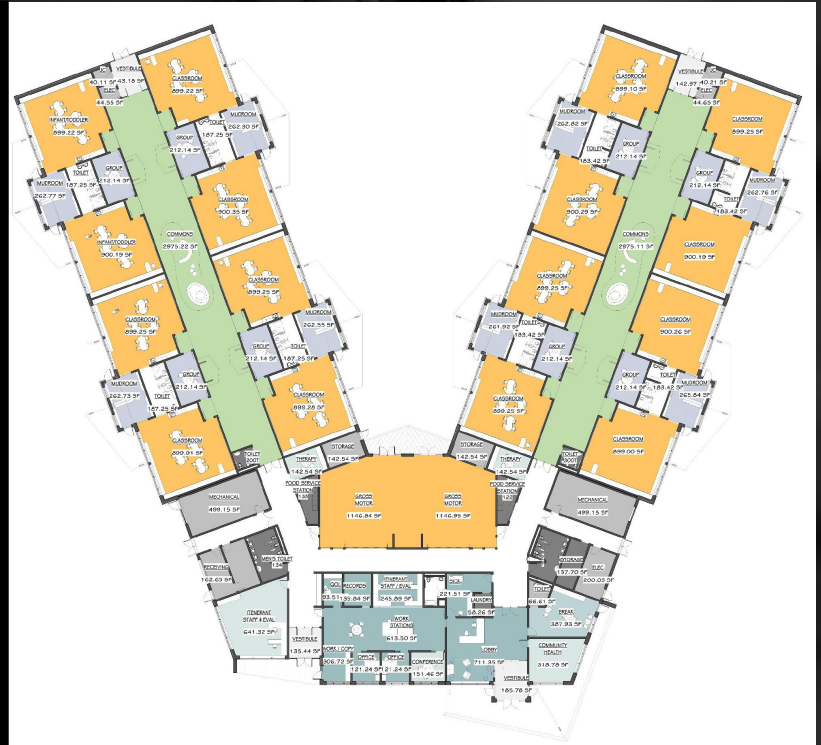
Hamilton Elementary and Early Childhood Center



Hamilton Elementary and Early Childhood Center



Townline Early Childhood Center: Opening Fall 2024





Attendance zones

Revising KPS' elementary
attendance zones

VALLEYWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

A

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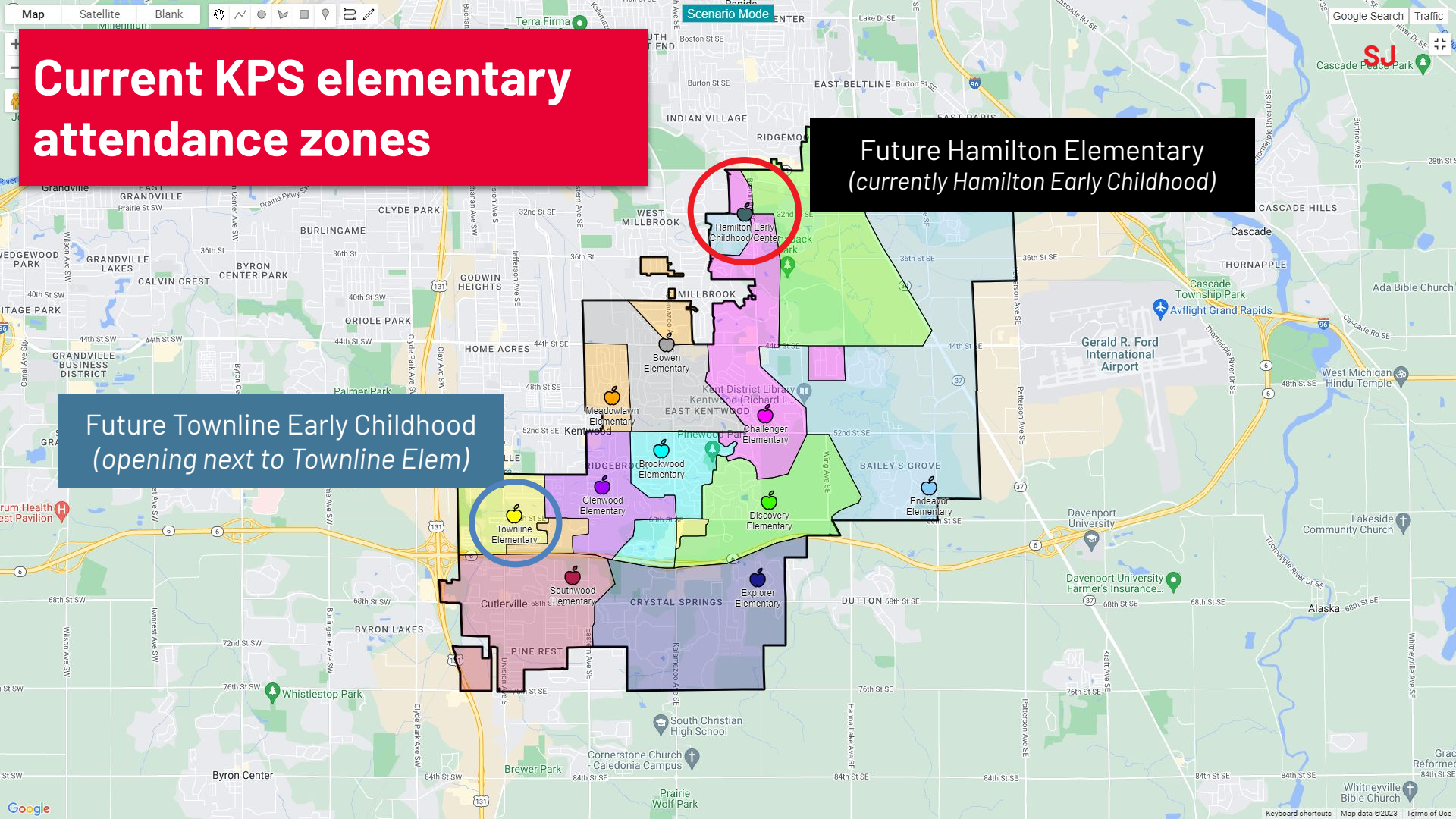
Revising attendance zones

- With the opening of **Hamilton**, we need to establish its **attendance zone**.
- The addition of our **11th school** requires **re-evaluation of zones** for the **other 10 elementary schools**.
- Your **feedback** is **essential**: We're gathering insights on the **priorities for this re-zoning process**.

Current KPS elementary attendance zones

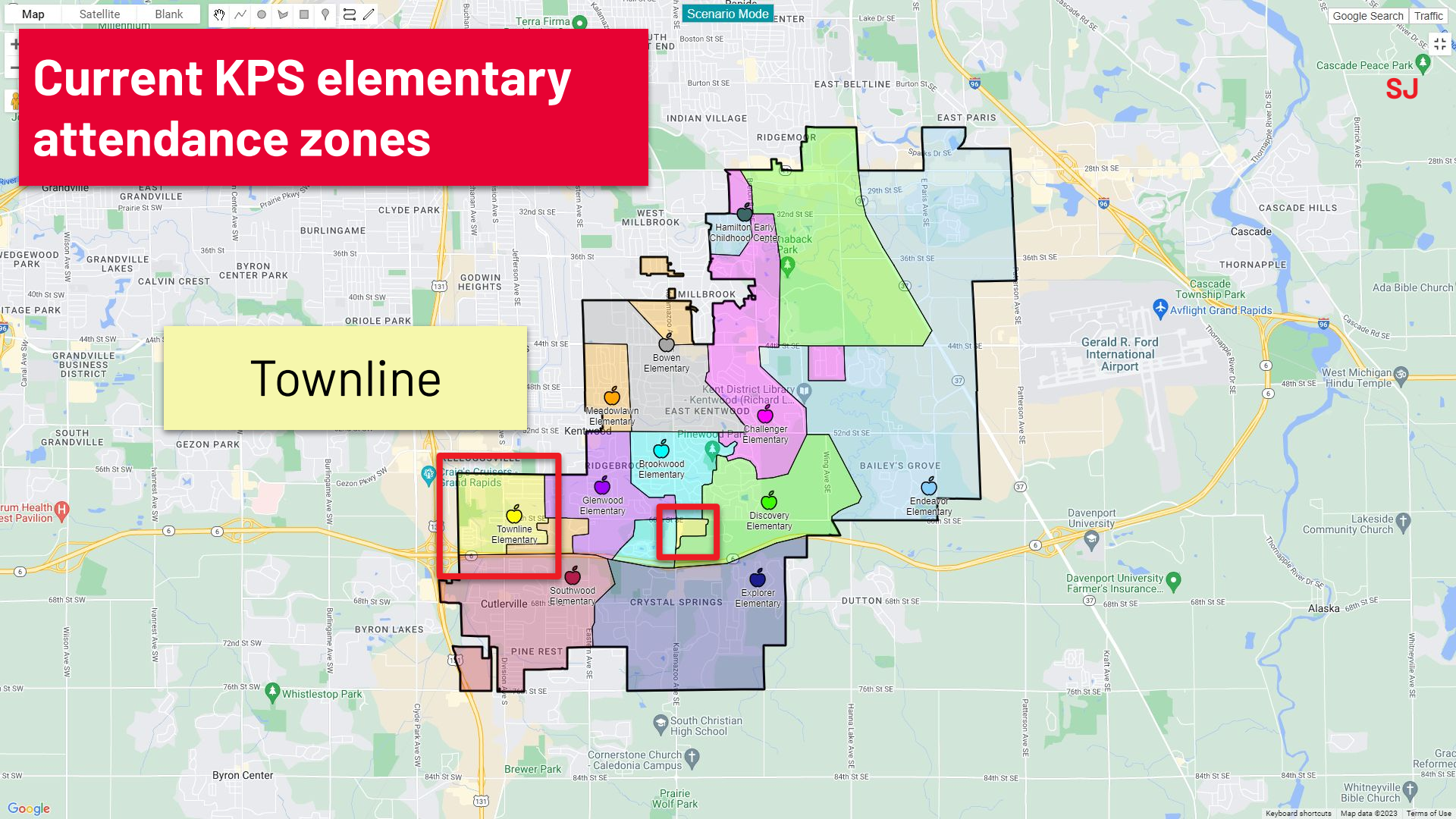
Future Hamilton Elementary
(currently Hamilton Early Childhood)

Future Townline Early Childhood
(opening next to Townline Elem)



Current KPS elementary attendance zones

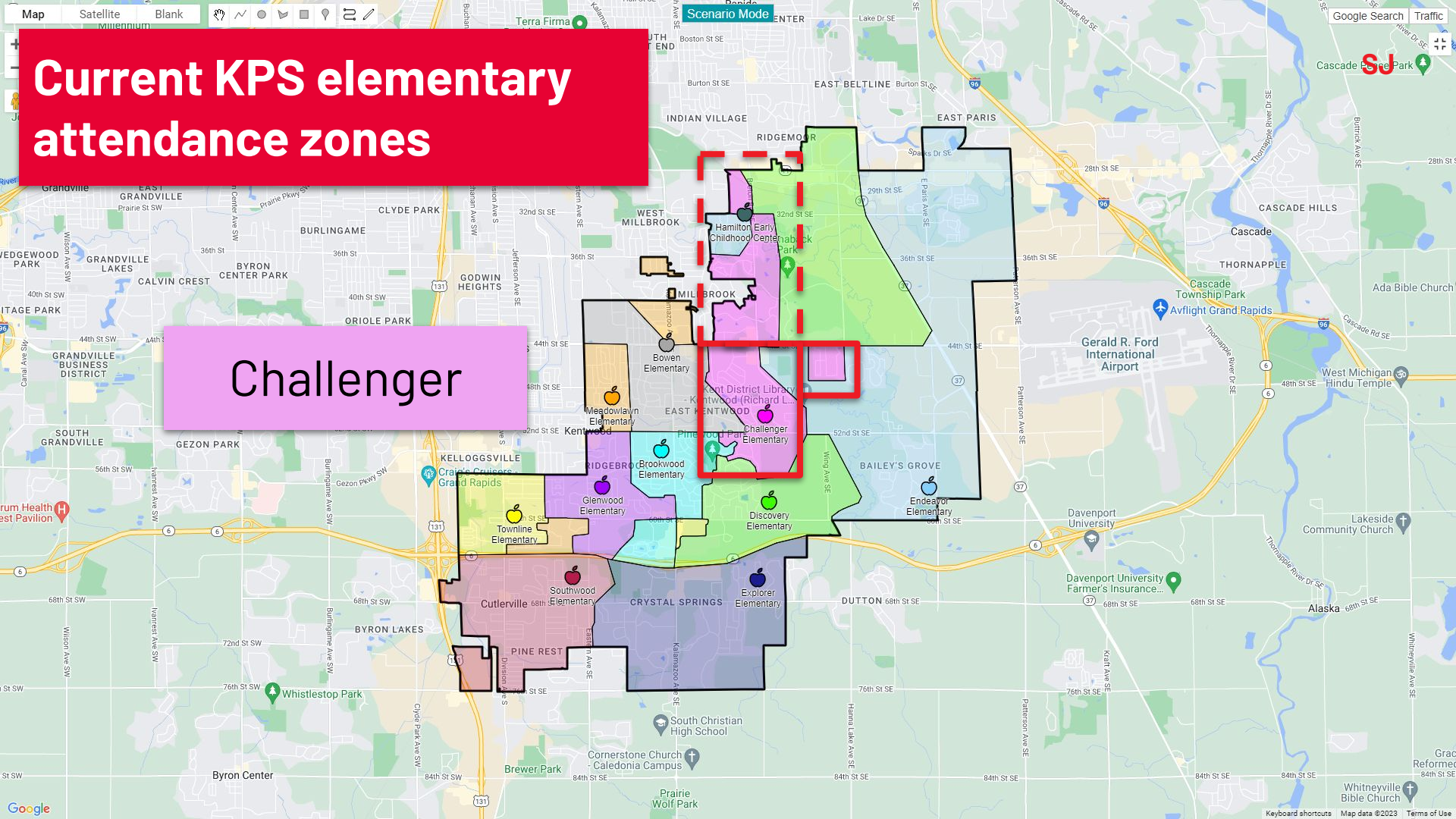
Townline



SJ

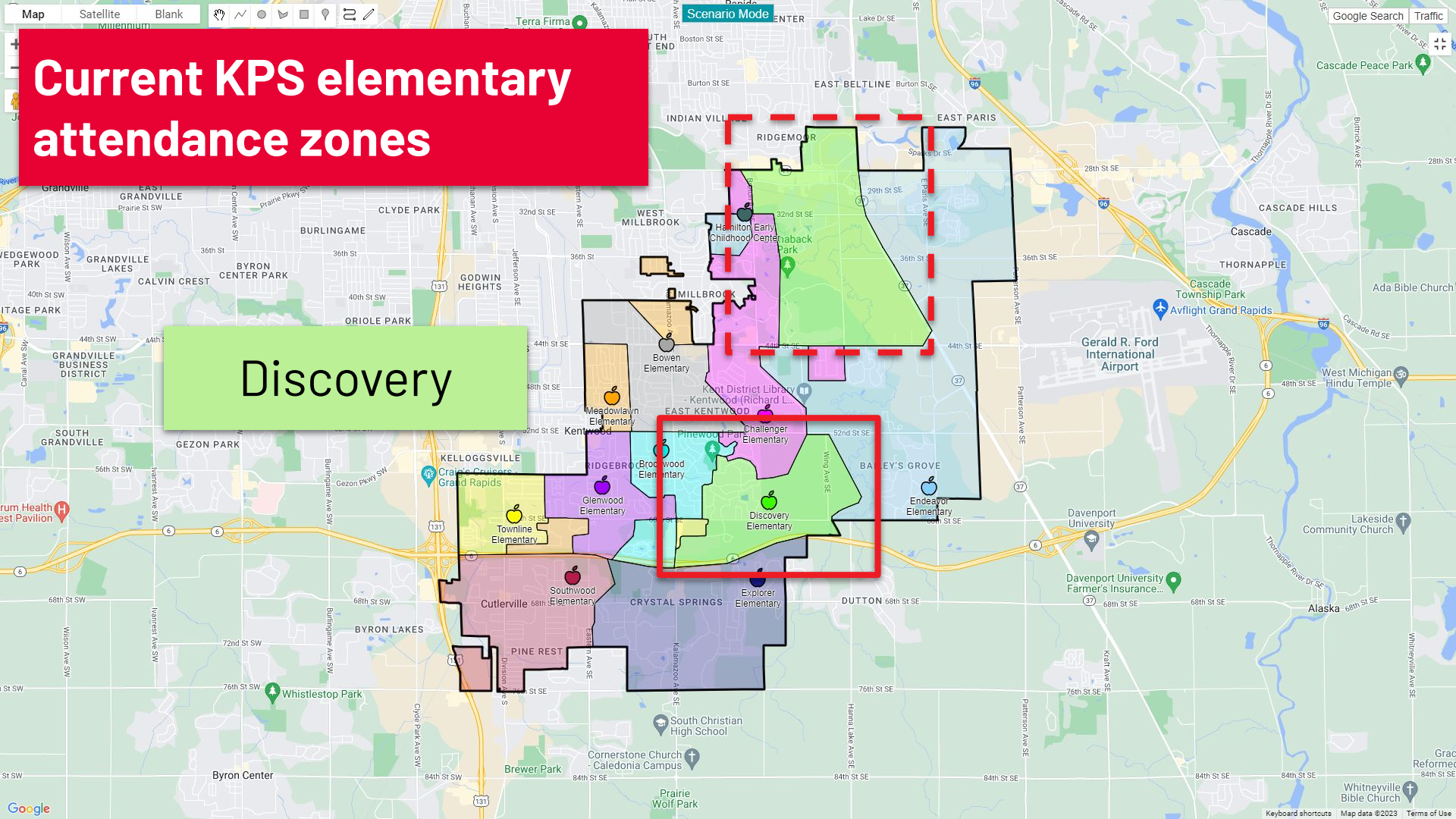
Current KPS elementary attendance zones

Challenger



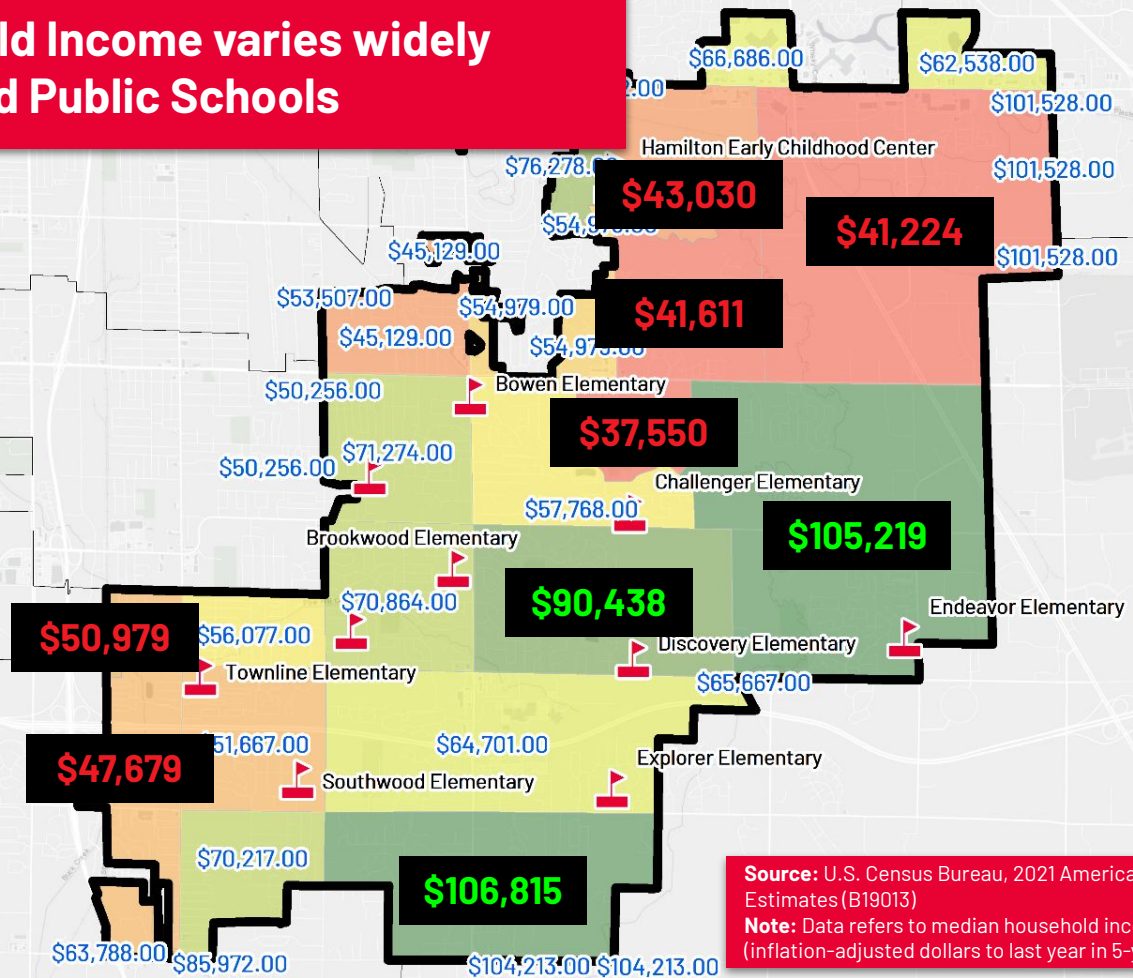
Current KPS elementary attendance zones

Discovery



Median Household Income varies widely across Kentwood Public Schools

SJ



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)

Priorities for elementary attendance zones

KP

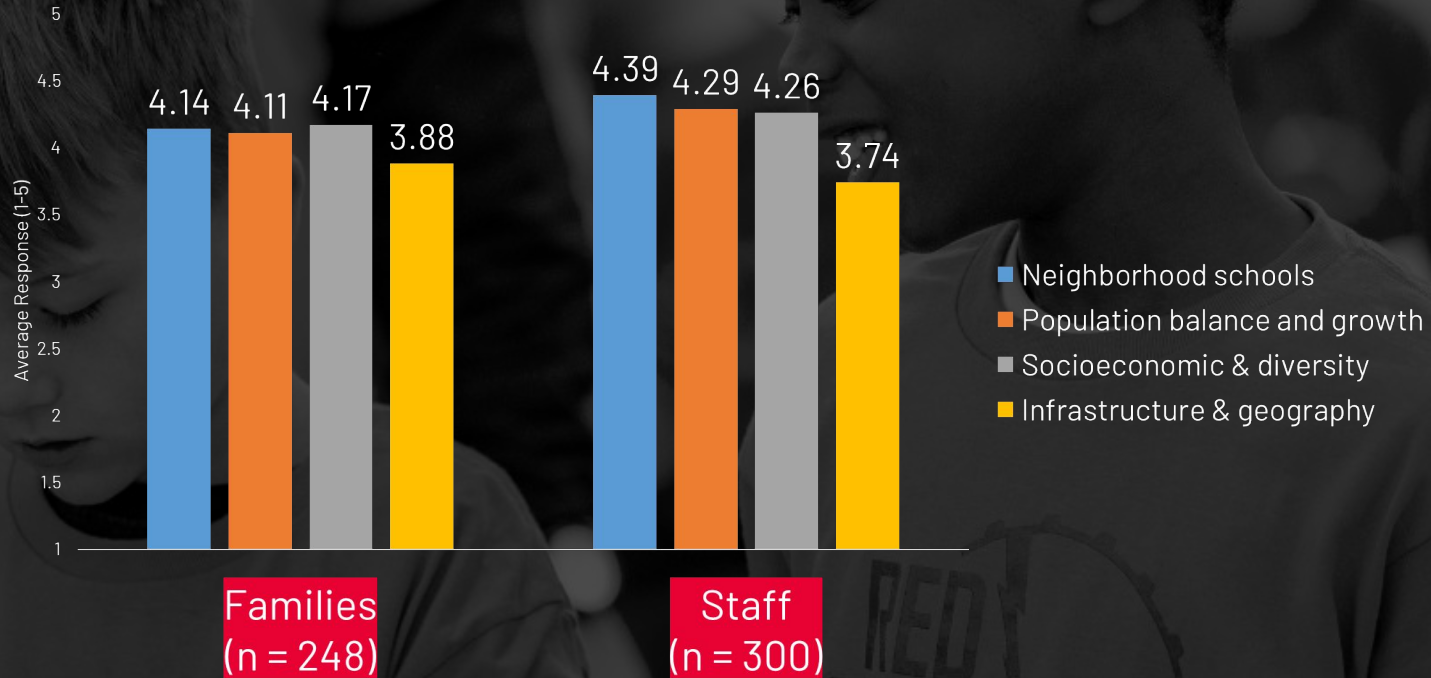
- **Neighborhood schools:** Students live close to their school.
- **Population balance and projected enrollment growth:** Balancing school size among all schools and considering future growth.
- **Socioeconomic and racial/ethnic diversity:** Ensuring diversity across each building.
- **Infrastructure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

Neighborhood schools, diversity and population top priorities

KP

Hamilton Elementary Opening Survey

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



Mentimeter question

In regards to the guiding priorities, what other feedback do you have?

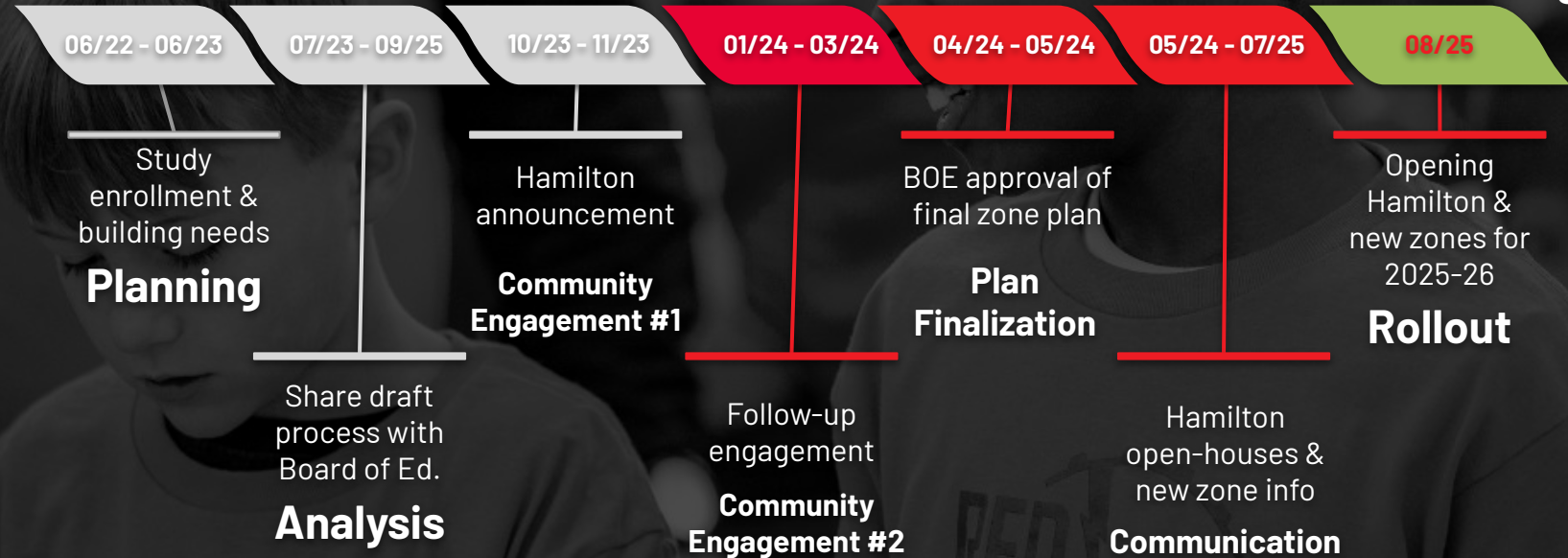


Timeline

Our process moving forward with Hamilton's opening in 2025-26

Timeline for Hamilton opening and attendance zone revisions

SJ





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 - [Facilities] - Conduct a **comprehensive study** of **physical building needs** to **accommodate KPS' growing & diverse population**.

Access the **strategic plan** at kentwoodps.org /
select "**strategic plan**" from "**our district**" menu on top

Tracking progress on Hamilton Elementary opening



KPS Webpage and FAQ document

[Our District](#)[Departments](#)[Academics](#)[Arts](#)[Athletics](#)[Our Schools](#)[Translate](#)[QUICK LINKS](#)

HAMILTON ELEMENTARY (COMING FALL 2025)

EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Welcome to the NEW Hamilton Elementary (Opening Fall 2025)

Welcome to the NEW Hamilton Elementary School, set to open for the 2025-26 school year! Hamilton Elementary will be the 11th elementary building in Kentwood Public Schools. The need for this building is pretty clear—Kentwood is a growing district. During the past 10 years, Kentwood Public Schools is one of only three districts in Kent County that has seen student enrollment increase. More students are anticipated in the years ahead as numerous new homes continue to be built in our community. We are proud that Kentwood Public Schools is a destination district for so many families. The tradition of excellence in our district is strong. The support we receive from our families and our community is robust. Kentwood Public Schools is committed to building upon this tradition and support, living up to our vision of Excellence and Equity in Education for each student, by providing an authentic caring environment where innovative learning takes place.

Located at 3303 Breton Road, SE, the Hamilton building, at one time, was an elementary school. During challenging economic times, the elementary building was closed. Currently, the building is home to the Hamilton Early Childhood Center. A new Early Childhood Center next to Townline Elementary is currently under construction, enabling the district, because of the growing student population, to return the Hamilton building to an elementary school.

An extensive renovation project will take place at Hamilton to ensure the new elementary school is at the same standard with the existing elementary buildings in our district. This will involve a new kitchen and gymnasium, updated classrooms and playground, as well as enhancements to safety at the building. In addition, a dedicated early childhood space will be created at the building, which will allow the new school to maintain an early childhood center to serve families in the area.

We plan to update the details on this page as the process to open the new Hamilton Elementary progresses in the coming months. For more information, please see these [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and the design drawings for the new building below.



Hamilton Elementary (Coming Fall 2025) Video



Copy link

Hamilton Elementary (Coming Fall 2025)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)[Hamilton Elementary Video](#)[Townhalls & Focus Groups](#)

Access the
webpage
kentwoodps.org/
select "our schools"
from menu on top

Final

Mentimeter question

What are some other considerations we need to address with the process?