



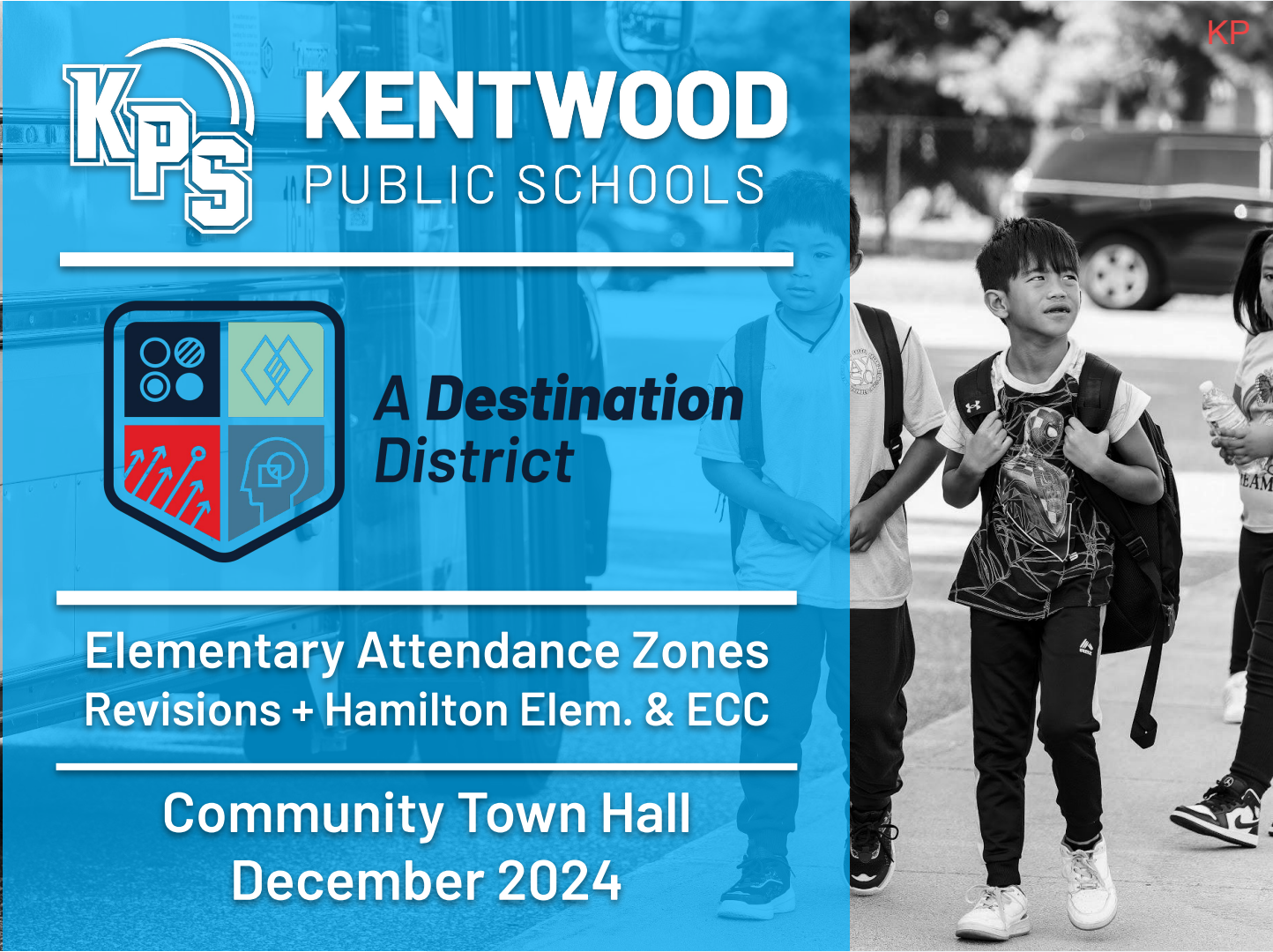
**KENTWOOD**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



***A Destination  
District***

**Elementary Attendance Zones  
Revisions + Hamilton Elem. & ECC**

**Community Town Hall  
December 2024**





# Strategic Plan

Connecting our work to our  
district vision

# 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.



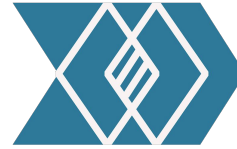
## HIGH-IMPACT DIVERSE STAFF

**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

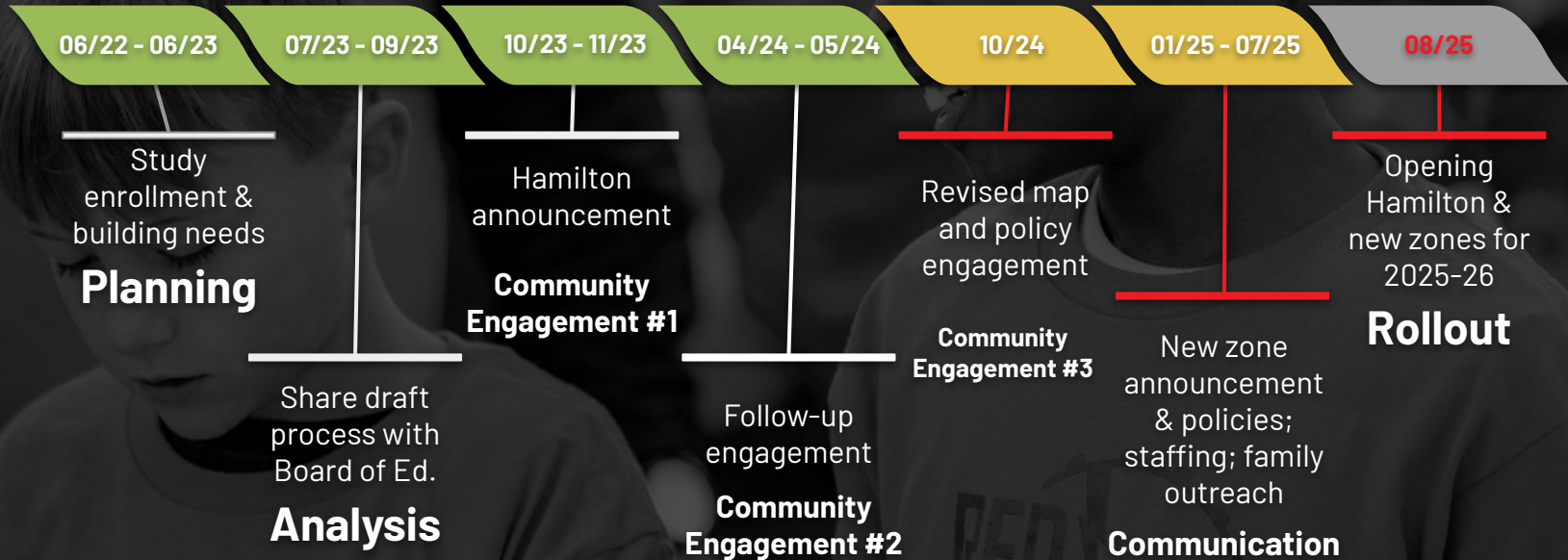


EQUITABLE  
OPPORTUNITIES  
& OUTCOMES

**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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Why KPS is moving down  
this path



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# Enrollment Growth

*Increase in student  
enrollments and births*



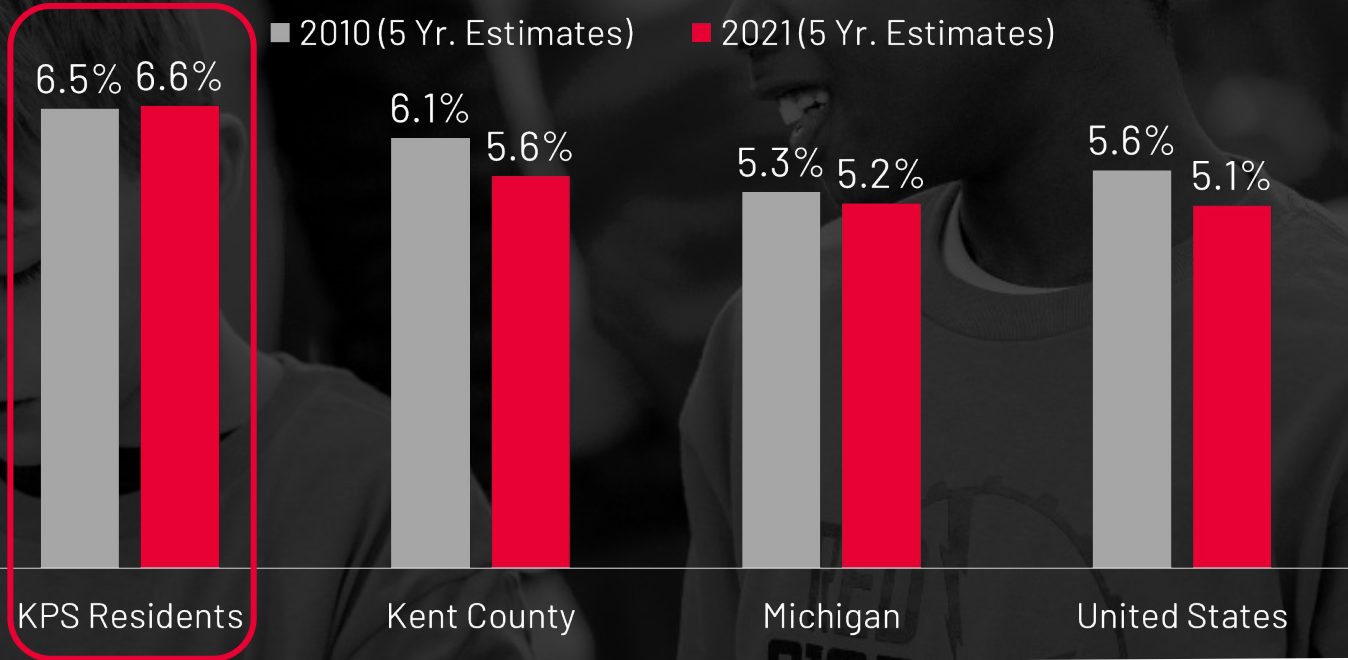
# KPS birthrate outpacing Kent County, Michigan and U.S.

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.

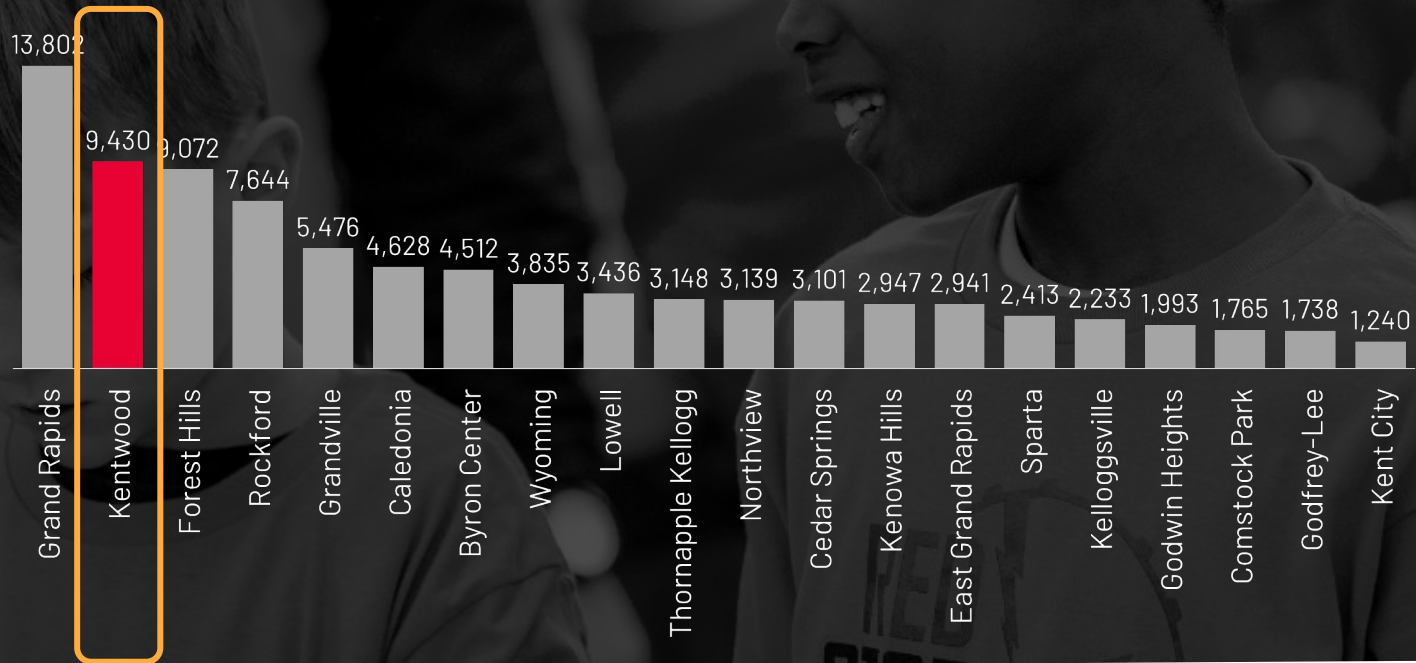


# KPS second largest among Kent ISD LEA districts

SJ

## Student Enrollment

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



Source: CEPI Student Enrollment Counts, 2022-23

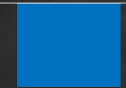
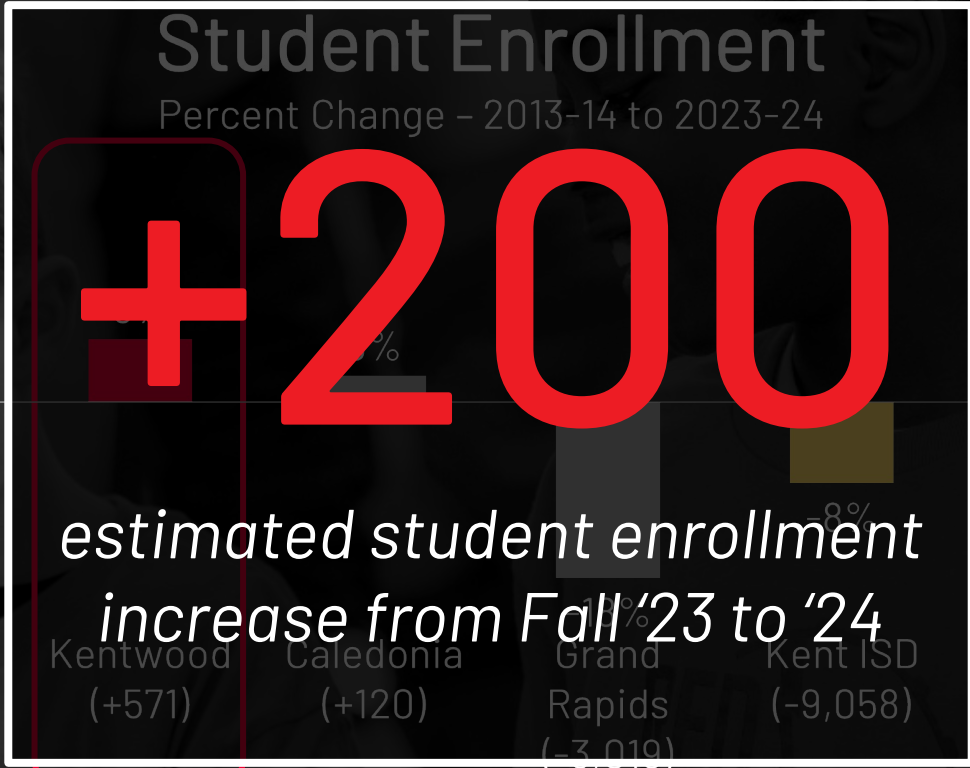
Note: Data include only LEA Districts. LEA Districts refer to traditional public school districts and excludes Public School Academies (PSA), also known as charter schools.

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

SJ



Byron Center  
(+761)



Statewide  
(-134,219)

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.



# Population Balance

*Student enrollment by  
location and building*

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

SJ

SJ

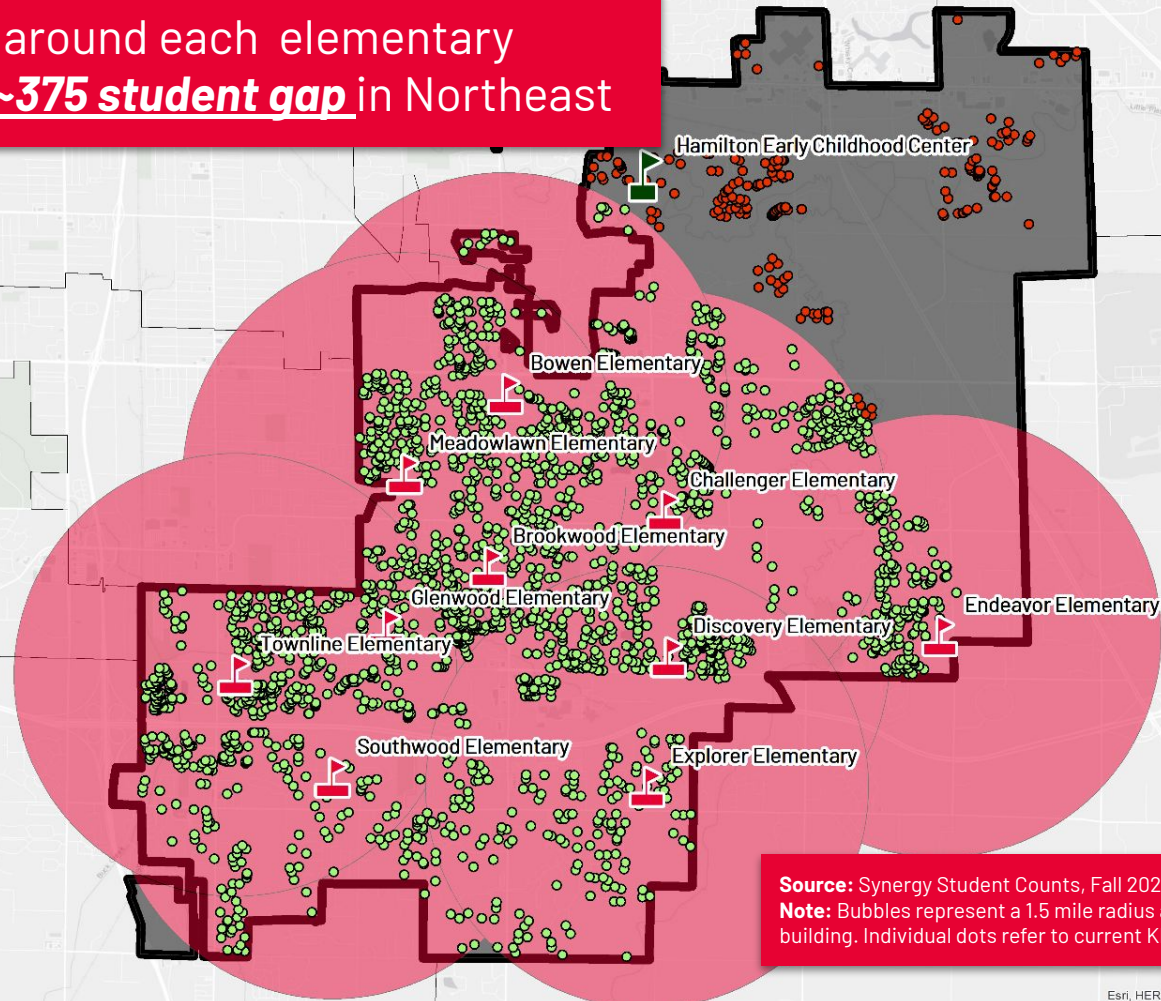
## Student Enrollment by Elementary Building - 2023-24



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.



# Developments

*Increase in new housing  
construction across KPS*

A black and white photograph of children in traditional Chinese clothing, likely at a cultural performance or event. The children are wearing dark, long-sleeved jackets with intricate white dragon or cloud patterns. One child in the foreground is holding a small white object on a stick. The background shows other children and a plain wall with framed pictures.

New developments as of  
September 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

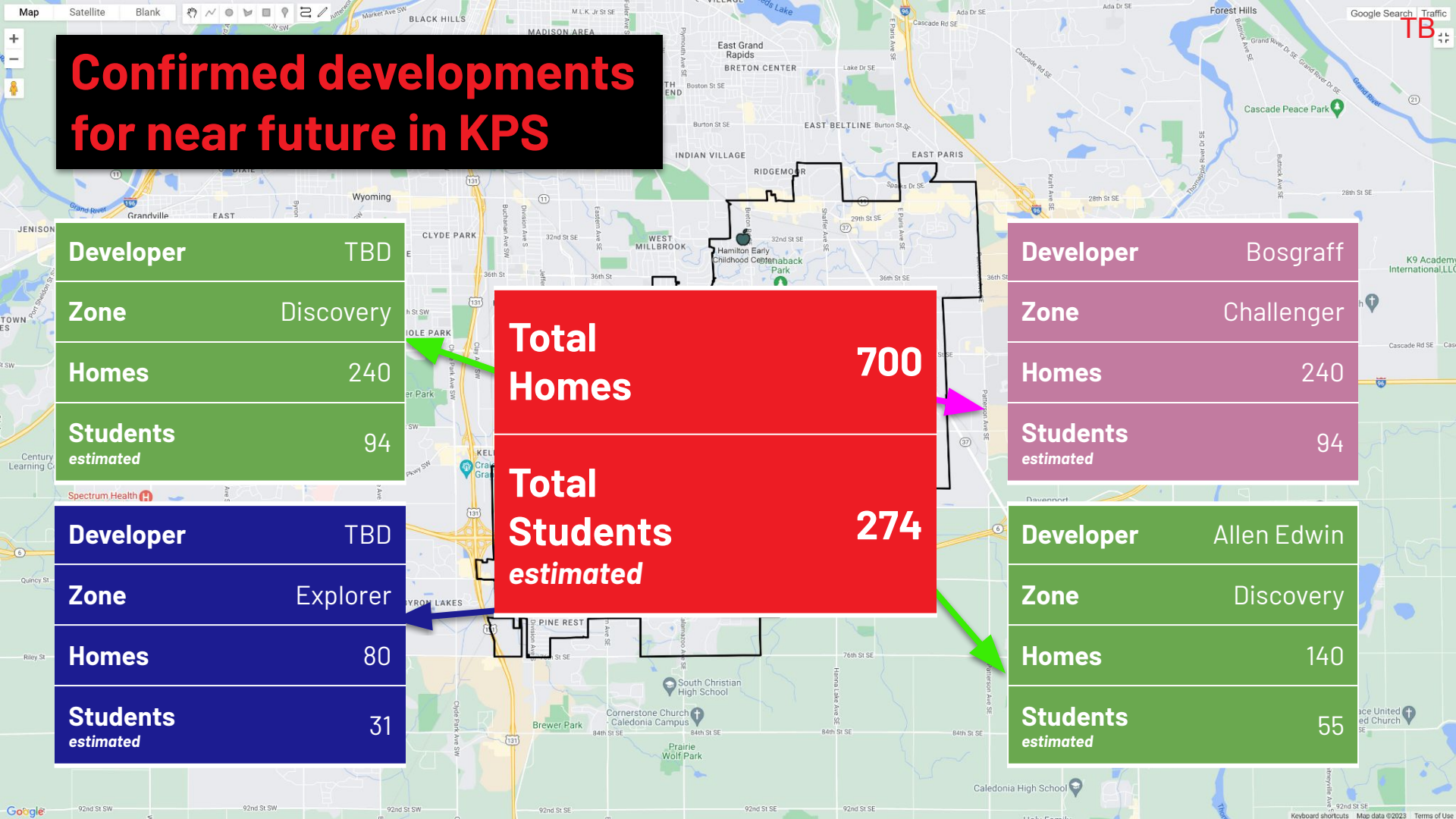
**Students estimated** 94

**Developer** Allen Edwin

**Zone** Discovery

**Homes** 140

**Students estimated** 55







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 in Kentwood

Rachel Watson - January 31, 2024

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.

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

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

Woodlake Dr SE Woodlake Dr SE

274 units over three phases

Site plan showing building footprints, landscaping, and site details.

ORION

Google

Imagery ©2024 Google, Imagery ©2024 Airbus, CNES / Airbus, Keri County, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2024 United States, Terms, Privacy, Sold Product, 100 ft

New developments as of  
**October 2024**



## CRAIN'S GRAND RAPIDS BUSINESS

NEWS ▾ REAL ESTATE HEALTH CARE MANUFACTURING NEWSLETTERS AWARDS ▾ PEOPLE/COMPANY MOVES



Real Estate

### Commercial developer eyes 152-acre Kentwood farm for mixed-use project

Kate Carlson - October 10, 2024



Bloomfield Hills developer Lormax Stern is proposing to redevelop the 151.5-acre Patterson Farm in Kentwood into a mixed-use project. The property has frontage on 28th Street and Patterson Avenue. Credit: Kent County property records



Bloomfield Hills developer Lormax Stern is proposing to redevelop the 151.5-acre Patterson Farm in Kentwood into a mixed-use project. The property has frontage on 28th Street and Patterson Avenue. Credit: Kent County property records

# Hamilton Elementary Opening

## Highlighted in October '23 Newsletter

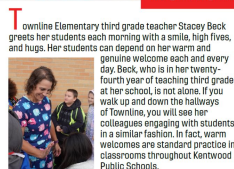


### KENTWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

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

#### Kentwood School News



#### 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."

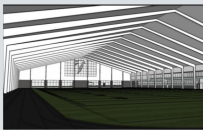
This intentional focus on relationships best practices, along with hellos, high-fives, and hugs in the morning and throughout the day, help to make Kentwood Public Schools a warm and welcoming place for each and every student, creating whole-child environments so crucial for student success.

#### 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.

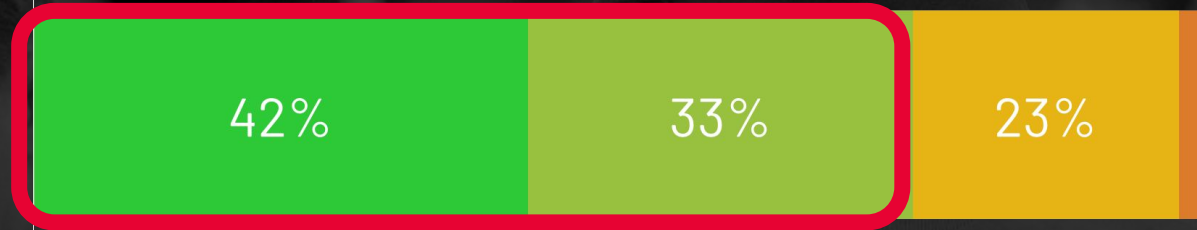
# Families and staff overwhelmingly support Hamilton opening <sup>SJ</sup>

## Hamilton Opening Survey – Fall '23

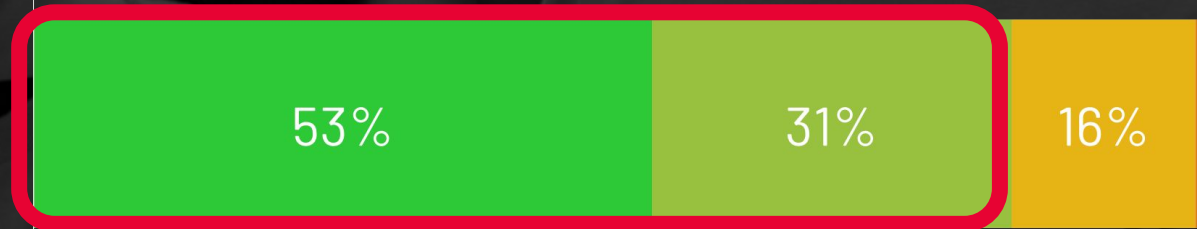
How do you feel about the decision to open Hamilton Elementary School?

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

Families  
(n = 248)



Staff  
(n = 300)







# Hamilton

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Initial renderings and  
construction progress

# Hamilton Elementary and Early Childhood Center

**\$20 million**  
renovation

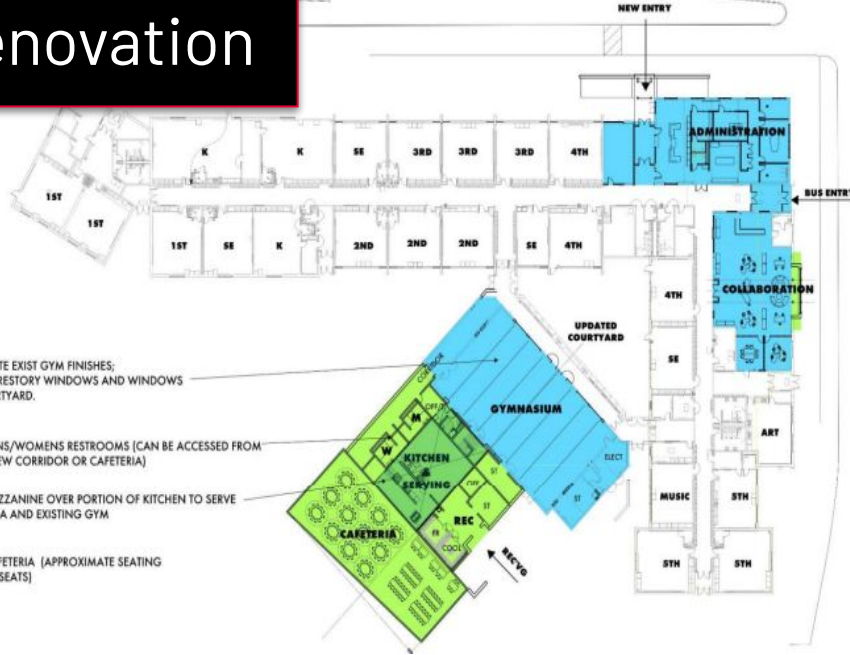
renovation

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)

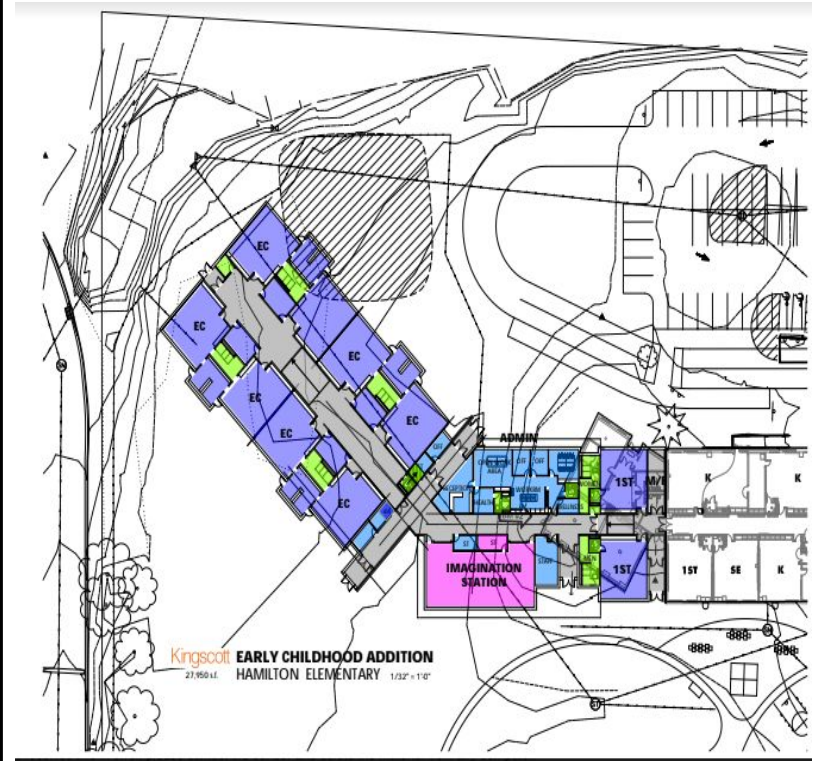


## Cafeteria Addition- Selected Exterior

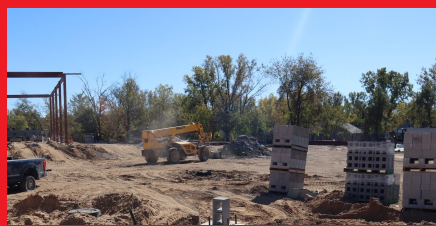


# Hamilton Elementary and Early Childhood Center

**\$20 million**  
renovation



# Hamilton Elementary & ECC Construction Progress...



**\$20 million**  
renovation

# Hamilton Elementary & ECC Construction Progress...

TB





# Innovation

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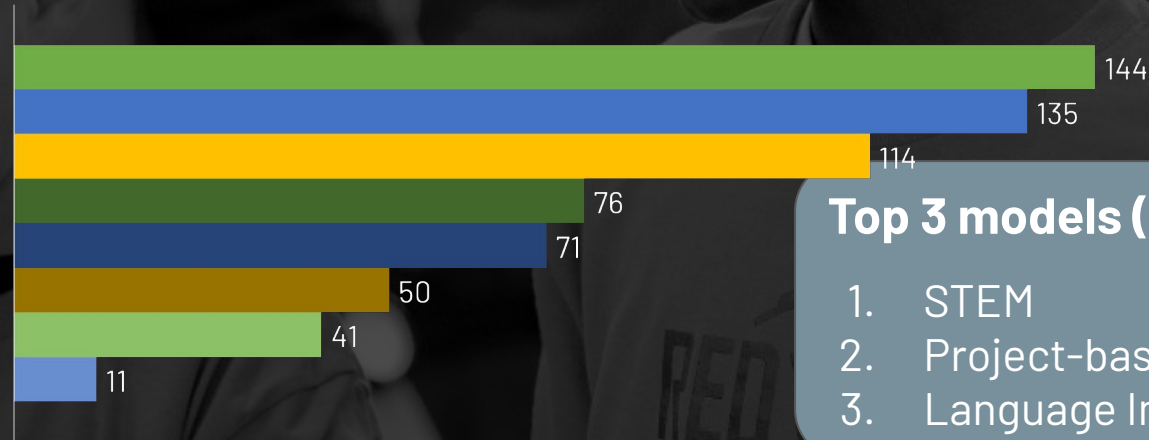
Innovative learning models  
to support student success  
at Hamilton Elem. & ECC

## Hamilton Opening Survey – Fall '23

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

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

Families  
(n = 248)



### Top 3 models (Families):

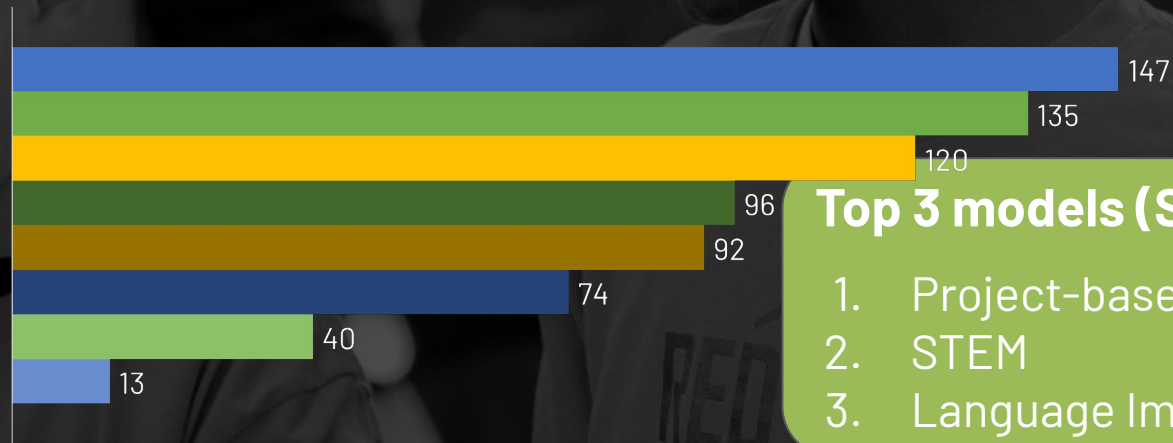
1. STEM
2. Project-based
3. Language Immersion

## Hamilton Opening Survey – Fall '23

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



# Exploring International Baccalaureate (IB)

- **International Baccalaureate (IB)** first founded in **Switzerland** in 1968.
- IB exists in **160 countries** - serving **2 million children** worldwide.
- IB nurtures **internationally-minded students** who celebrate our shared **humanity** and believe that education can foster a **better, more peaceful world**.



# 10 Reasons

**ib** Primary Years Programme

why the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) is ideal for students to become active, lifelong learners



1



**It encourages students to inquire**

The PYP fosters natural curiosity and learning in creative, supportive and collaborative environments.

2



**Understanding a complex and interdependent world**

PYP students create meaning for themselves and build understanding through exploring real-world issues.

3



**PYP students are confident communicators**

PYP students learn to communicate in a variety of ways and in more than one language.

4



**Learning how to learn**

PYP students work collaboratively with teachers and other students to plan, present and assess their own learning.

5



**It encourages international-mindedness**

Collaboration and understanding of their own and other cultures are an important focus of the PYP – students learn how to be respectful and open-minded.

6



**Seeing things from different perspectives**

PYP students use critical and creative thinking to develop knowledge, understanding and skills within and across subject areas.

7



**Students take action**

PYP students believe they are able to grow and succeed. They make appropriate choices and take responsibility for their actions.

10



**Caring and responsible citizens**

Students can express ideas and opinions, and they can propose solutions that make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

8



**Thinking about issues**

Creative learning gives students the agility and imagination to respond to new and unexpected challenges and opportunities in an increasingly globalized and uncertain world.

9



**It involves the whole school learning community**

Together we celebrate our common humanity and the belief that education can help to build a better and more peaceful world.



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Based on IB research. [www.ibo.org/research](http://www.ibo.org/research)

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# Map revisions

KPS' priorities in revising  
attendance zones

## 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 '23 community engagement** asked stakeholders what **priorities** we should consider in **revising** our **attendance zones**.

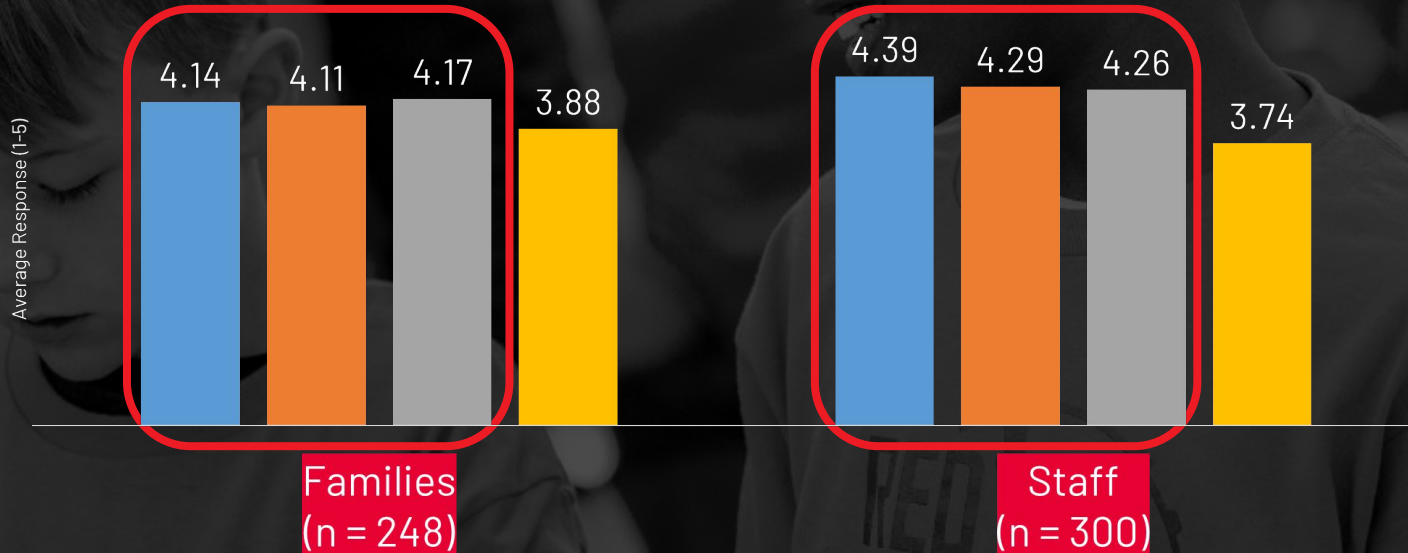
# Neighborhood schools, diversity and population top priorities

## Hamilton Opening Survey – Fall '23

SJ

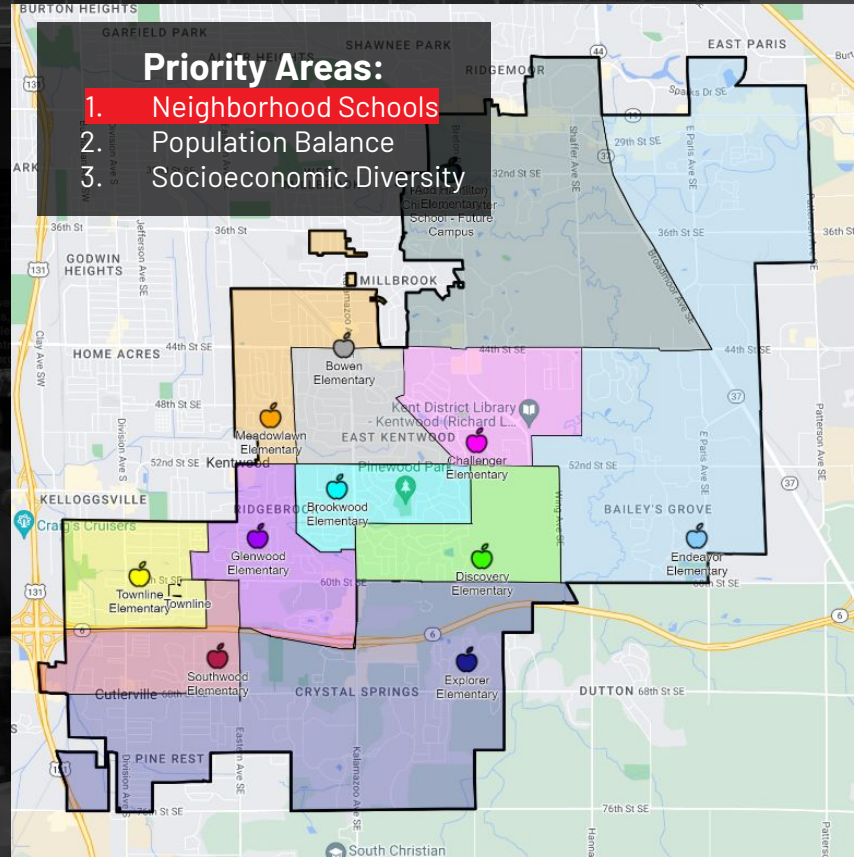
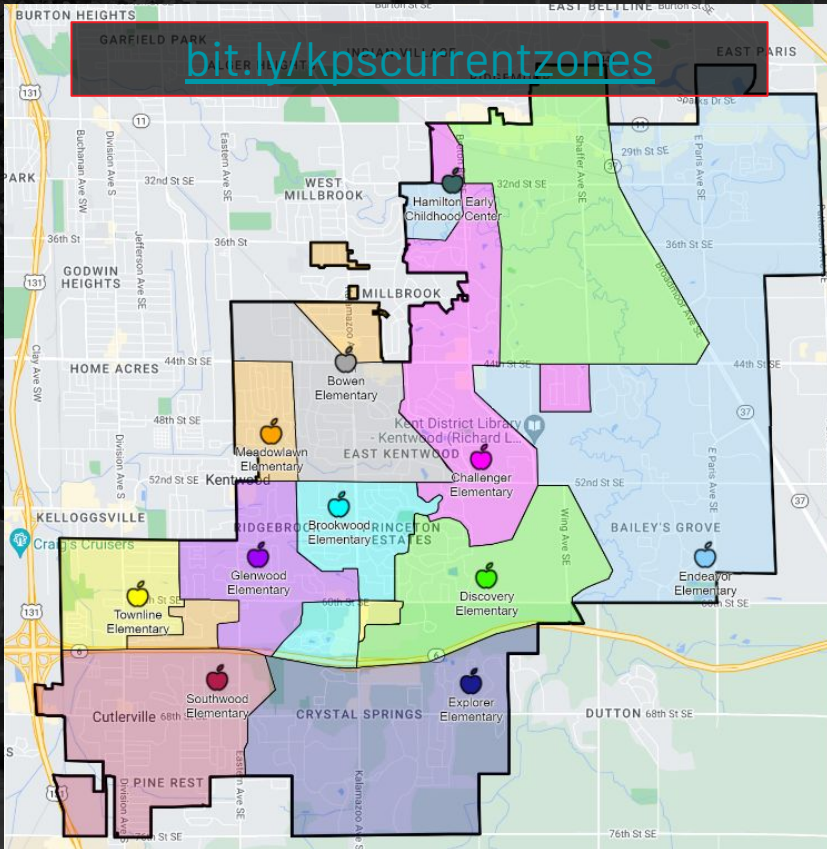
How important are the following factors in determining the new boundaries for elem. Schools?

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



# Current (2023-24)

# Draft 1 (Spring '24)

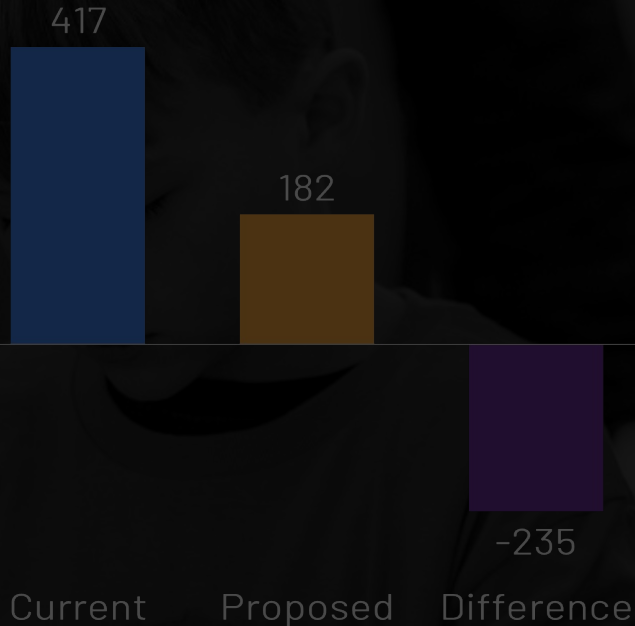


# Current vs. Proposed Elem. Attendance Zones

Range between Schools (Gap between Highest & Lowest Buildings)

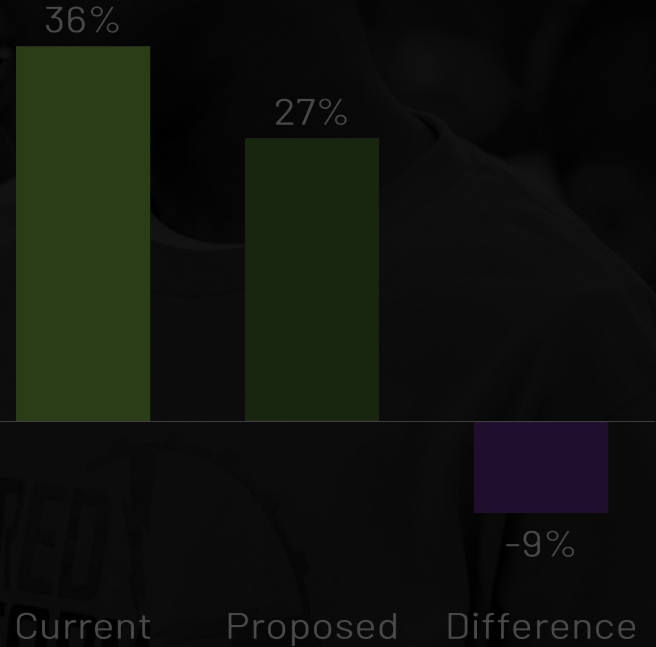
## Priority #2 - Population Balance

Student Counts (Gr. Y5 - 5)



## Priority #3 - Socioeconomic Diversity

Percent Low Income (Gr. Y5 - 5)





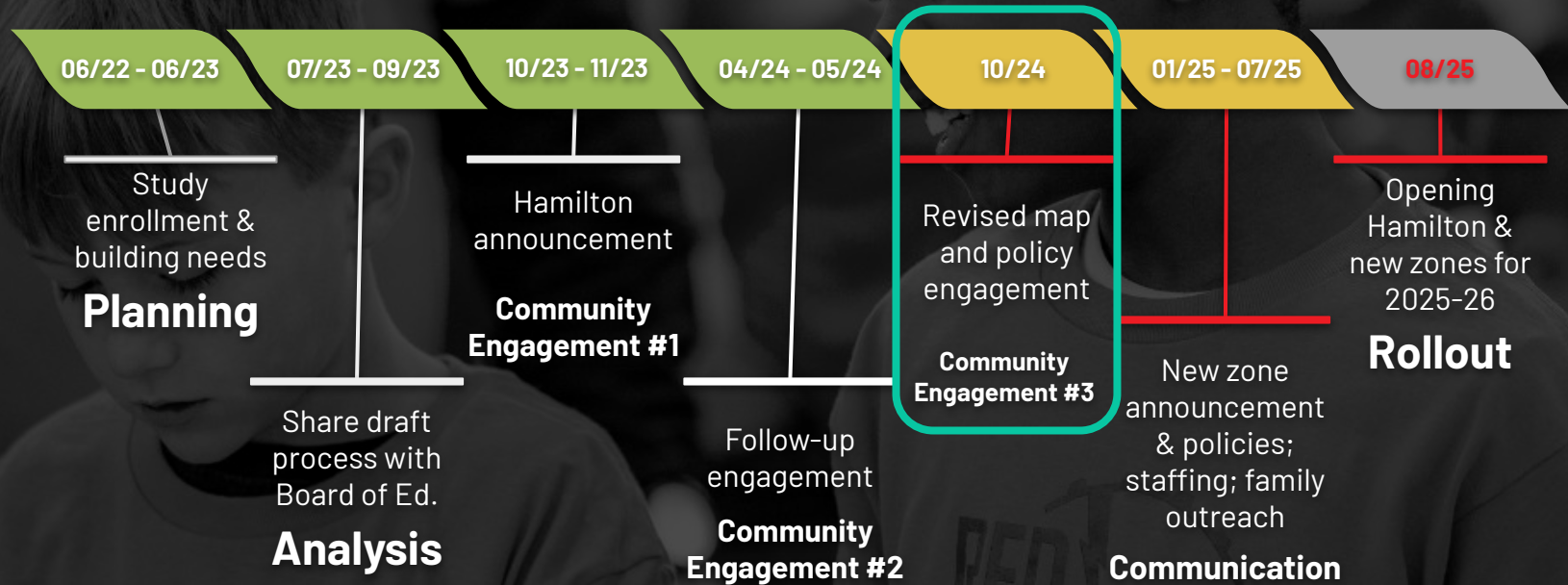
# Community Input

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Round #3 of stakeholder  
engagement with families  
and KPS staff



# Timeline for Hamilton opening and attendance zone revisions



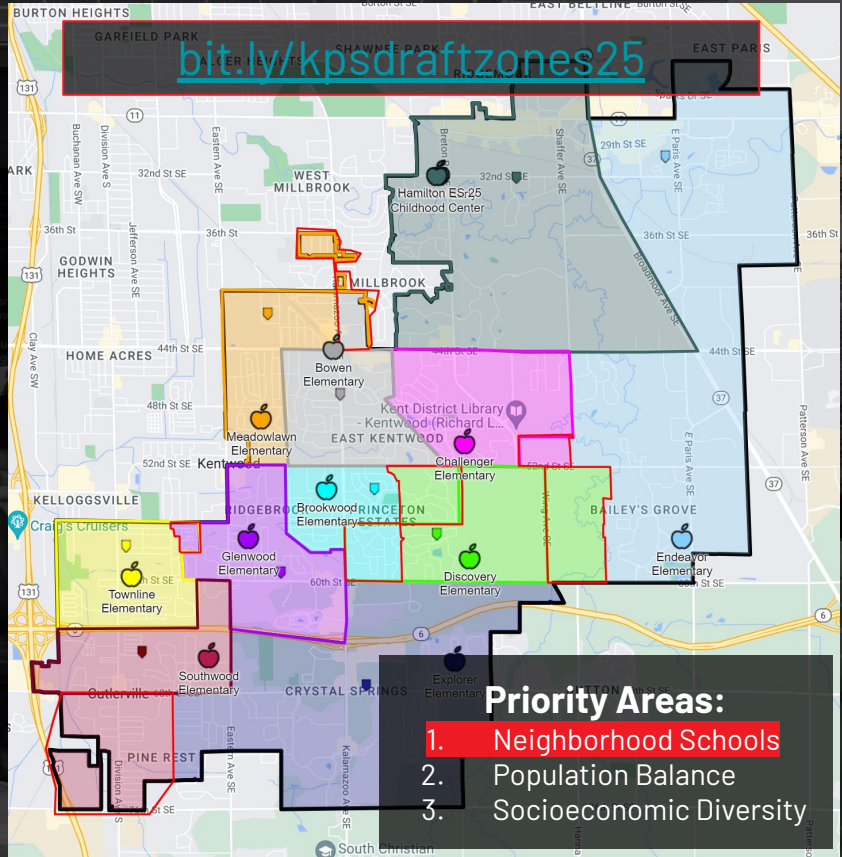
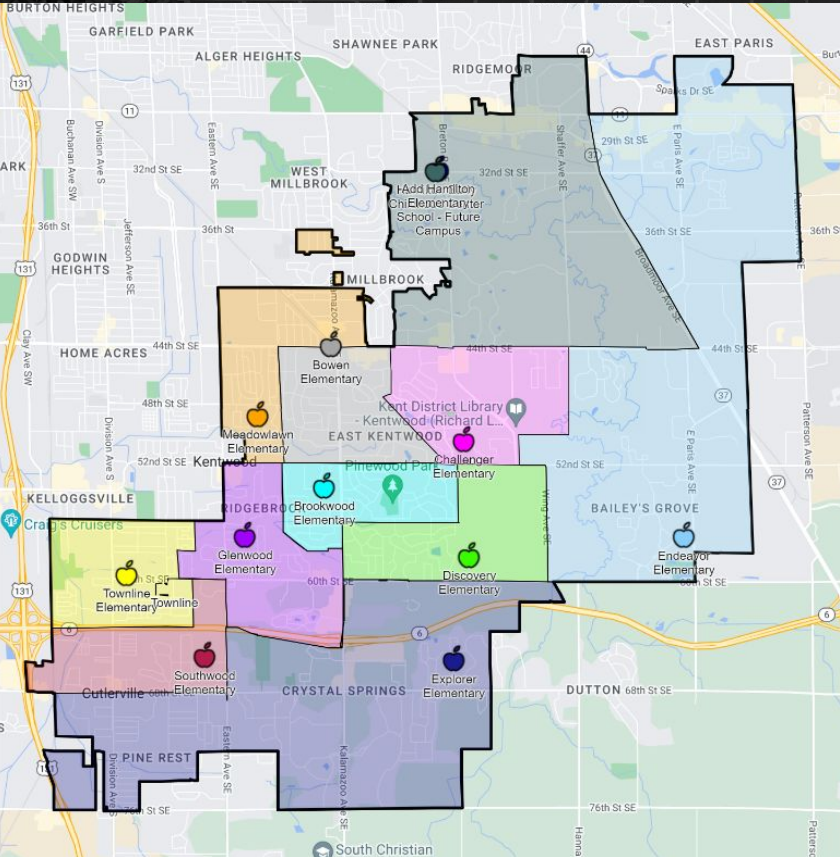


# 1. Map Updates

*Updates from Spring '24  
stakeholder feedback*

# Draft 1 (Spring '24)

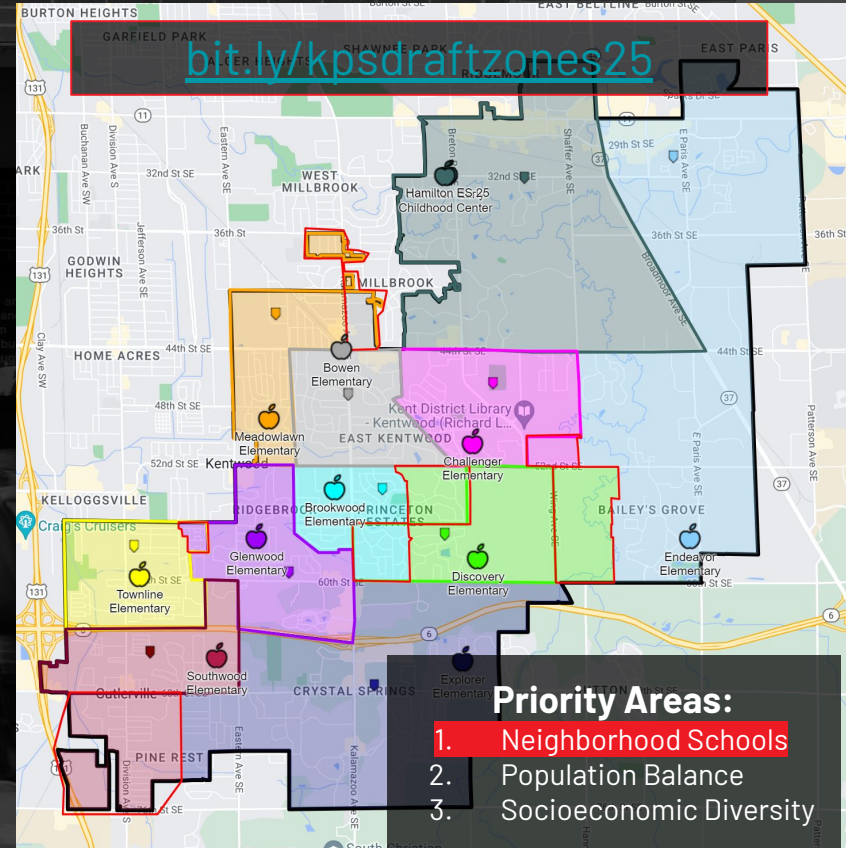
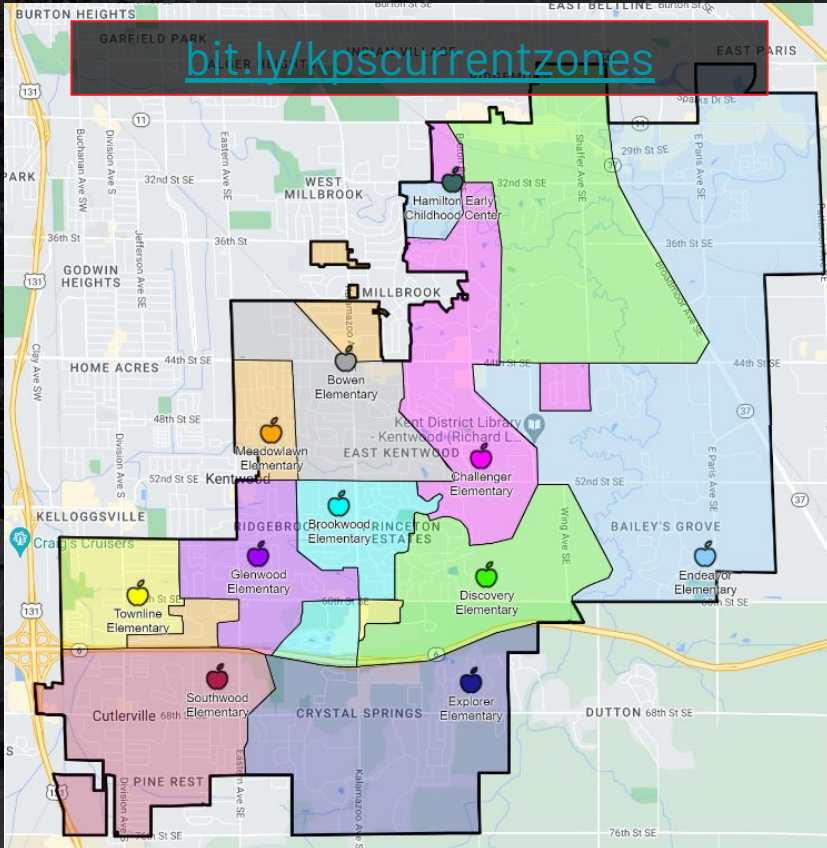
# Proposed (2025-26)



- Priority Areas:**
1. Neighborhood Schools
  2. Population Balance
  3. Socioeconomic Diversity

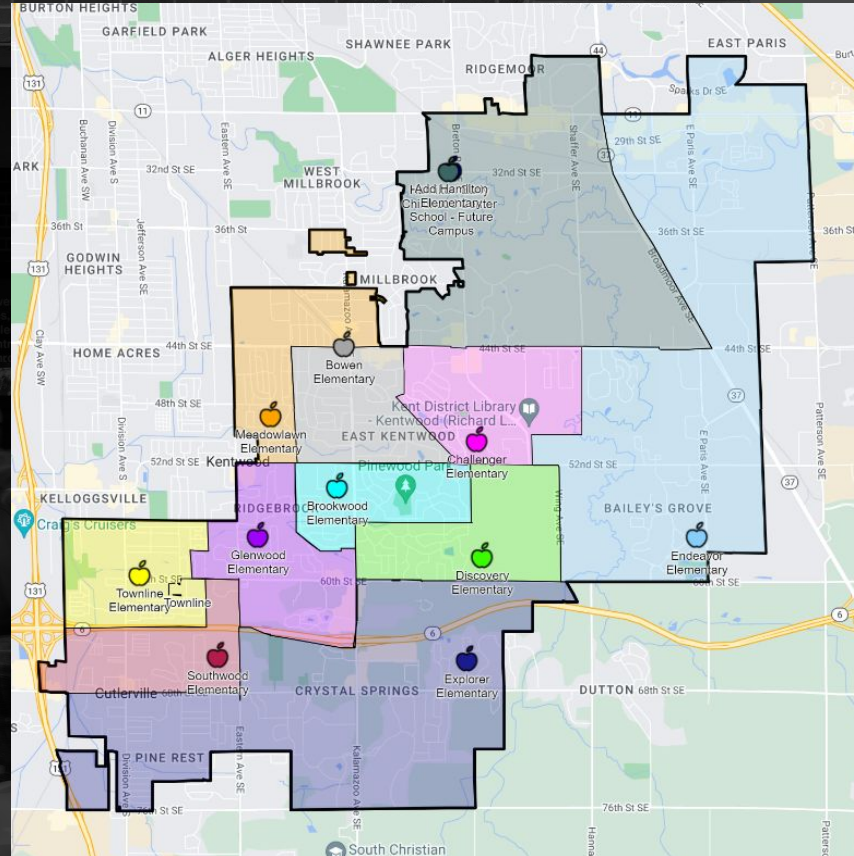
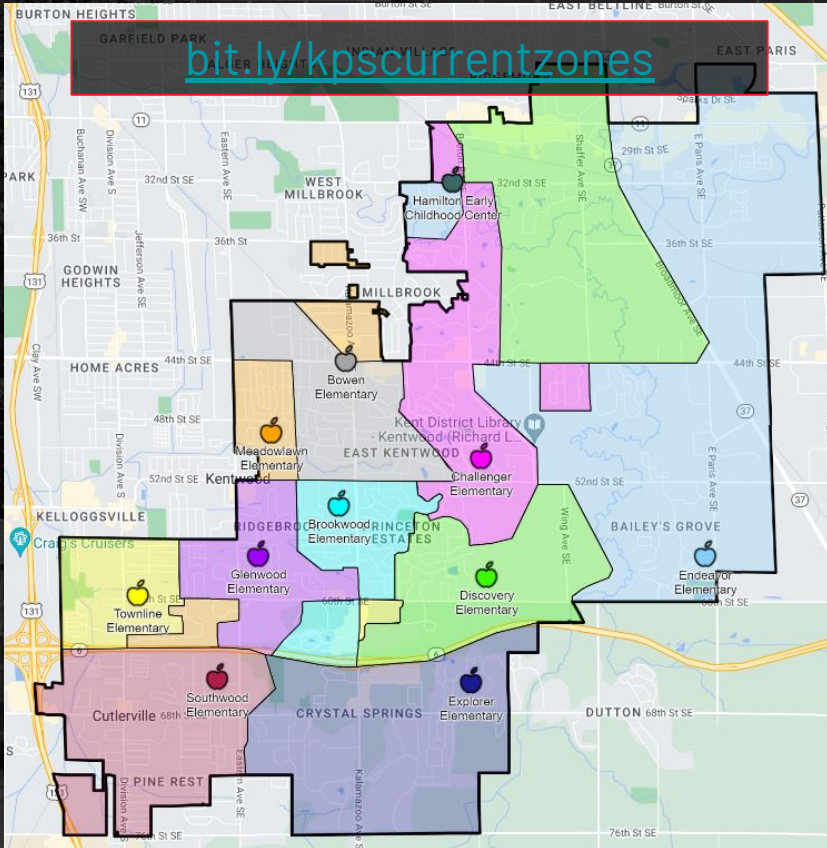
# Current (2023-24)

# Proposed (2025-26)



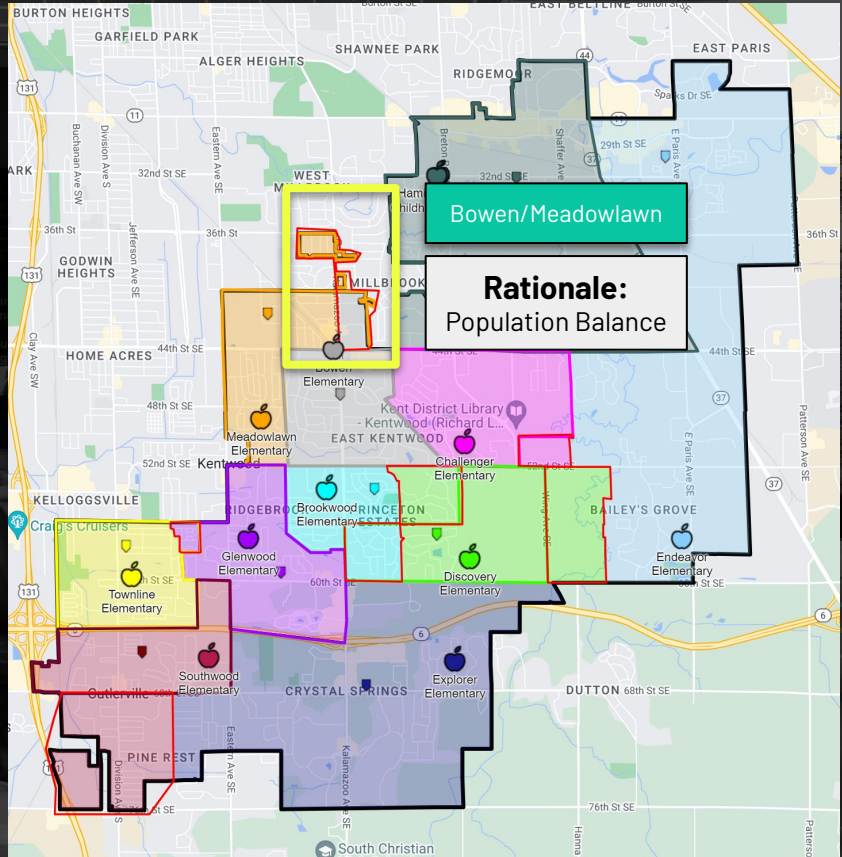
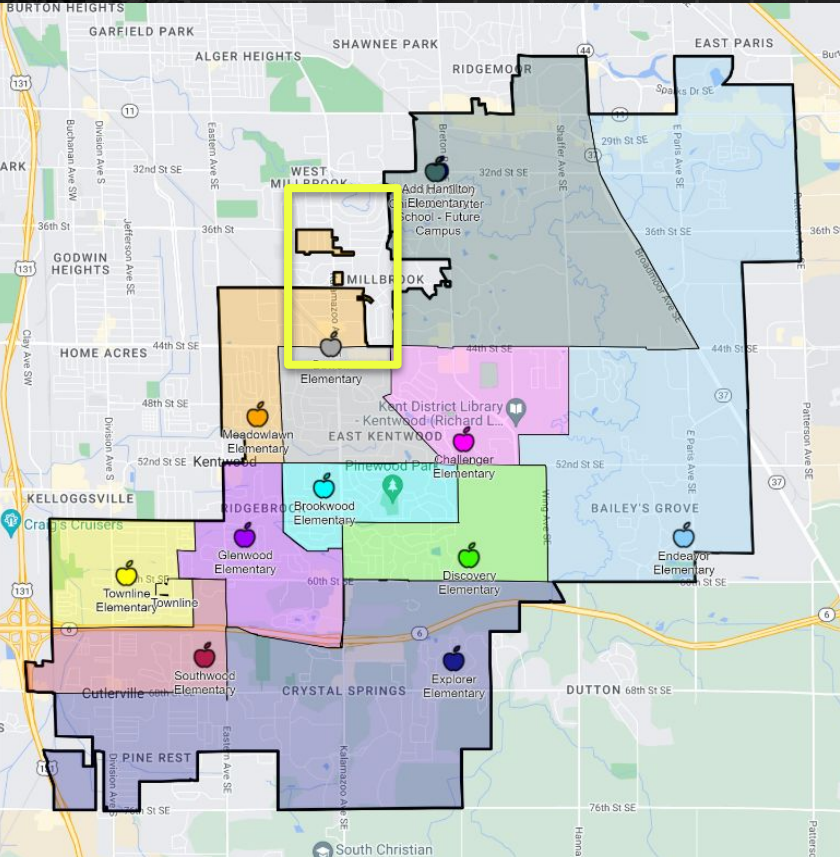
# Current (2023-24)

# Draft 1 (Spring '24)



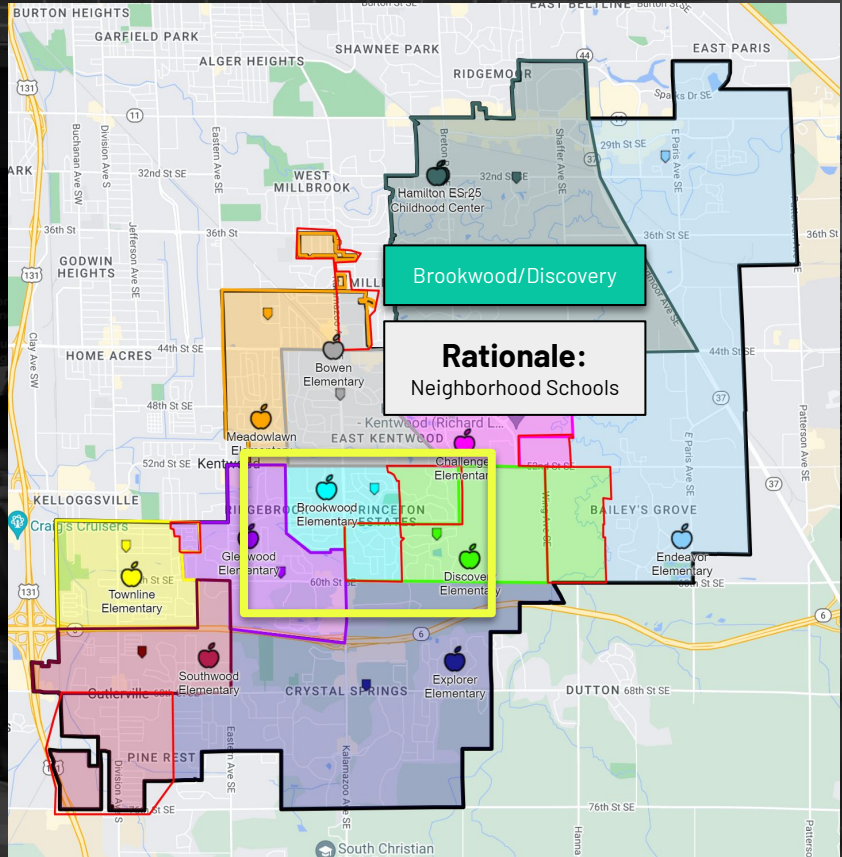
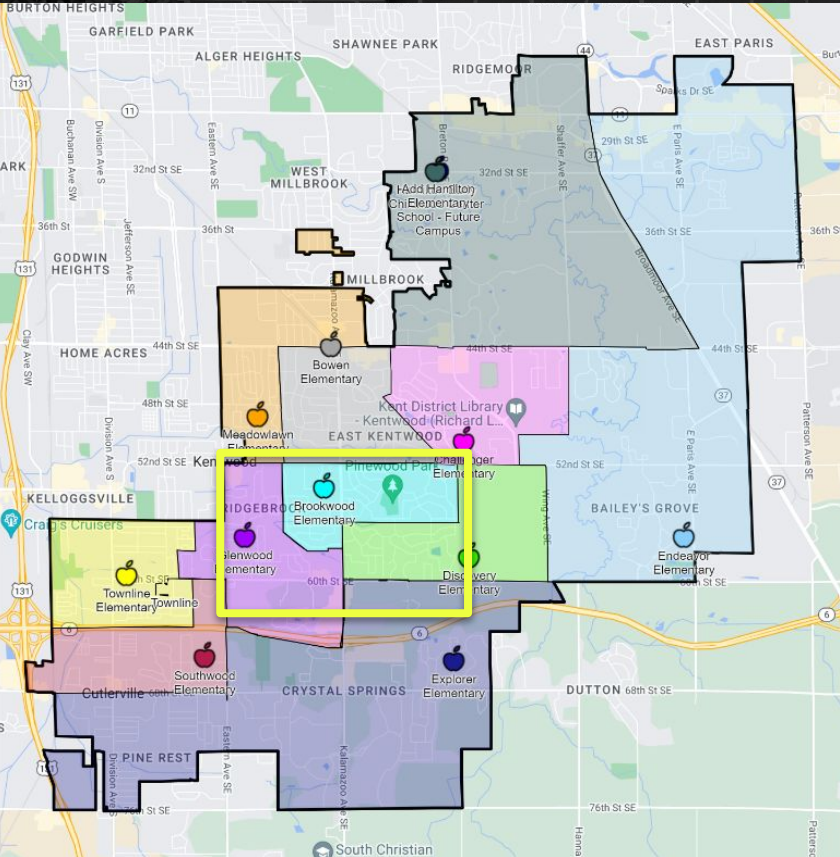
# Draft 1 (Spring '24)

# Proposed (2025-26)



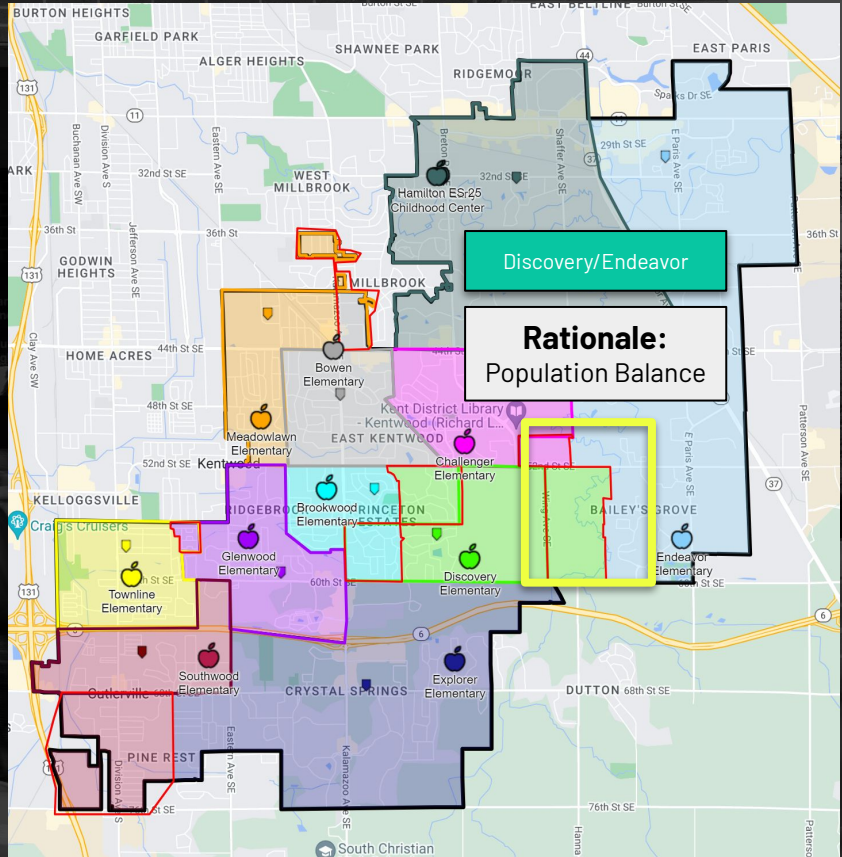
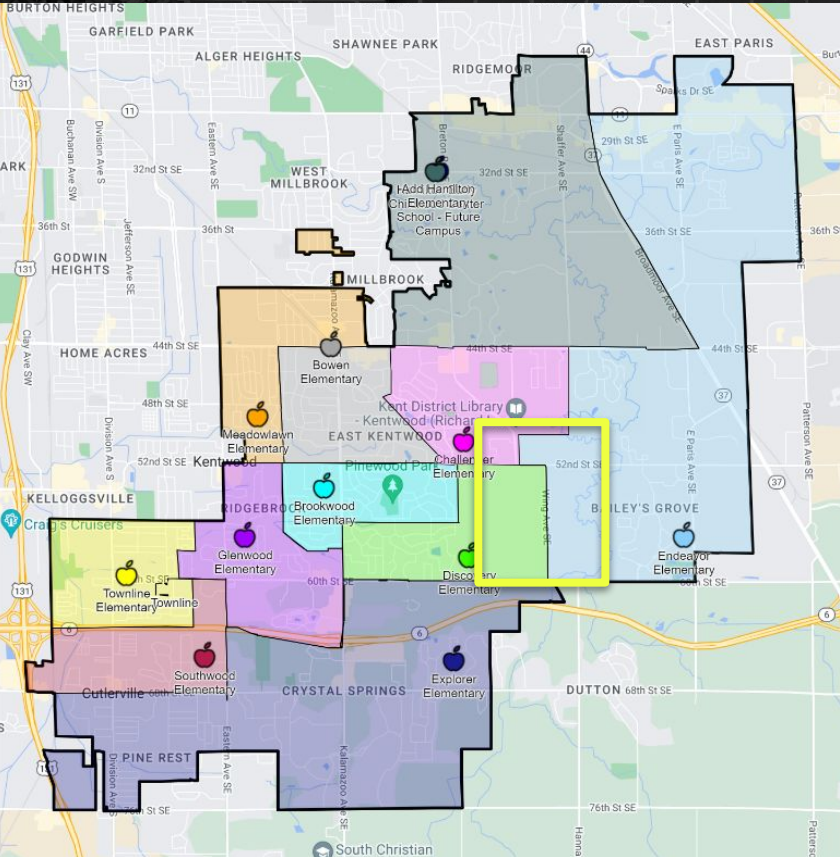
# Draft 1 (Spring '24)

# Proposed (2025-26)



# Draft 1 (Spring '24)

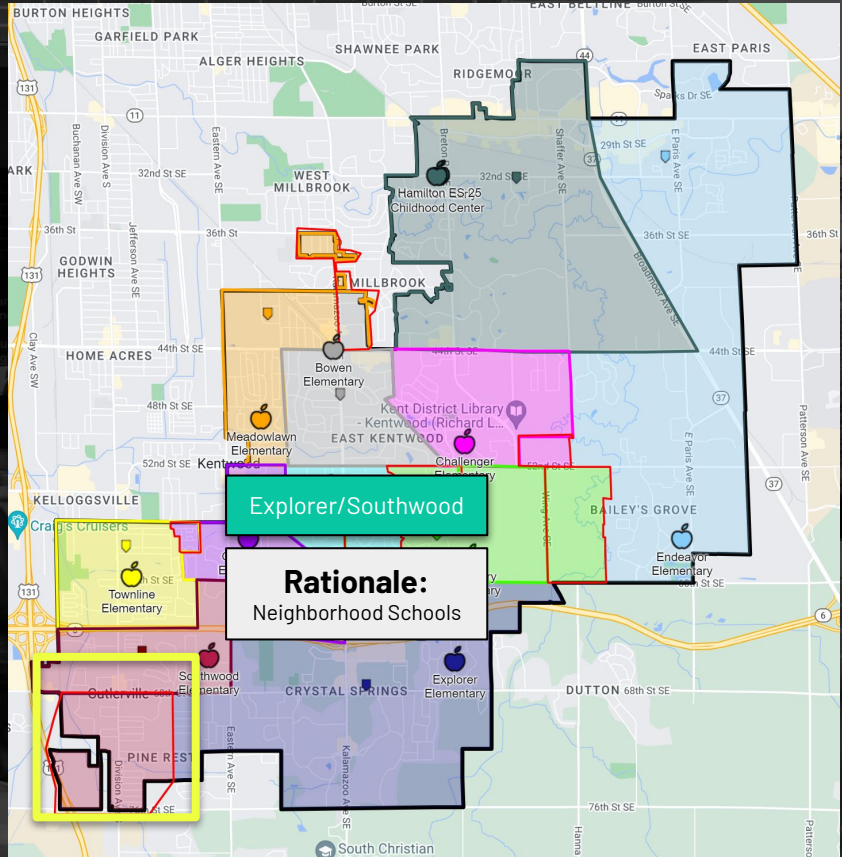
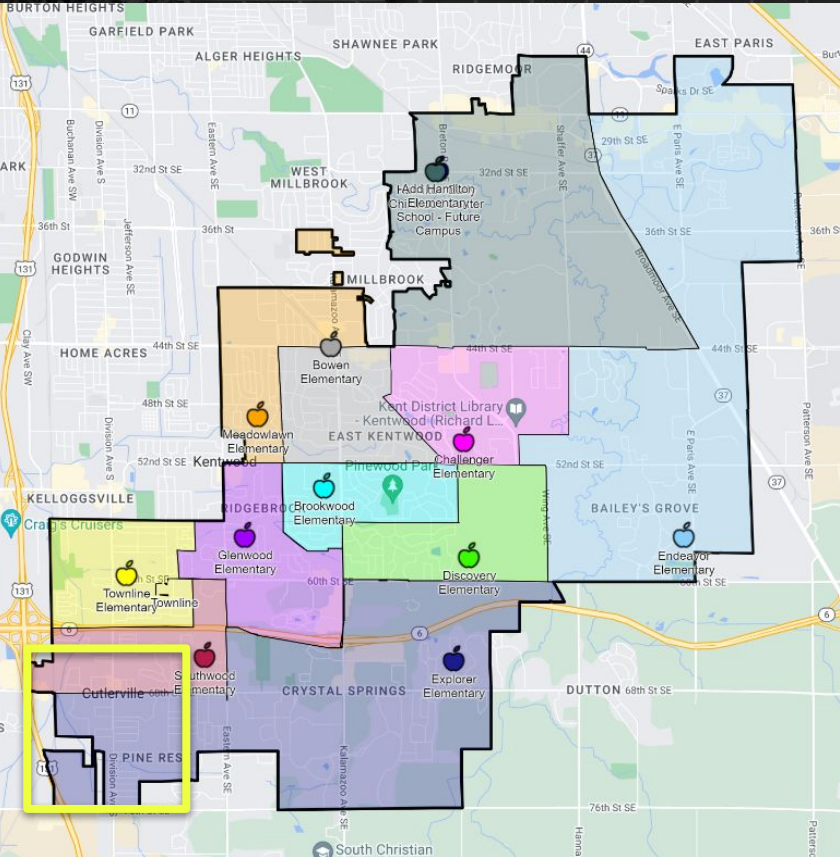
# Proposed (2025-26)





# Draft 1 (Spring '24)

# Proposed (2025-26)





## 2. Enrollment Policy decisions

*Stakeholder feedback on  
student transfer policies*

## Proposed enrollment policy & transfer decisions

- **All students attend resident / home building** - Exception for special program students (special education or PEAKS) & out-of-district transfers.
- **Student transfers / legacy students** - Resident students may continue to apply for a **within-district transfer (WDT)**.
  - **Rising fifth graders** (legacy) will be given **top priority** for **WDTs**.
  - **Transportation for transfers must** be provided by **families** - in line with **current school transfer policies**.

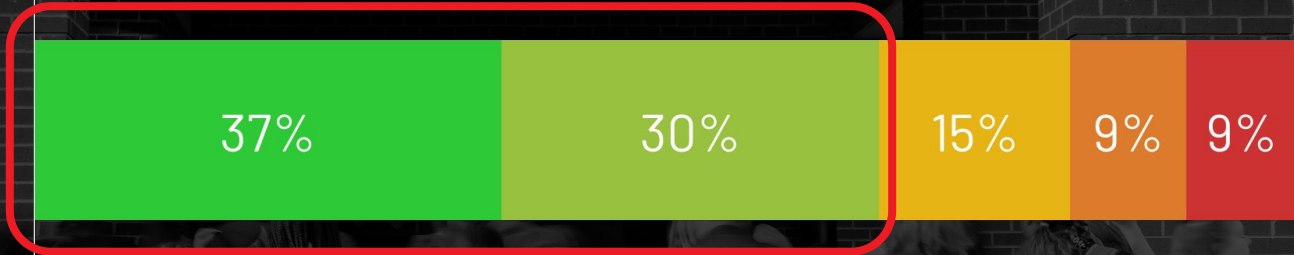
# Majority agree with student enrollment & transfer policies

## Changes to Elem. Student Assigned Schools Survey – Fall '24

To what extent do you agree with the proposed student enrollment & transfer policies?

■ Strongly agree  
 ■ Agree  
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
 ■ Disagree  
 ■ Strongly Disagree

**Families**  
(n = 284)



**Staff**  
(n = 124)



# VALLEYWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

# A

KP

## Small group discussion

- What **feedback** do you have on the **proposed enrollment** and **transfer policies**?

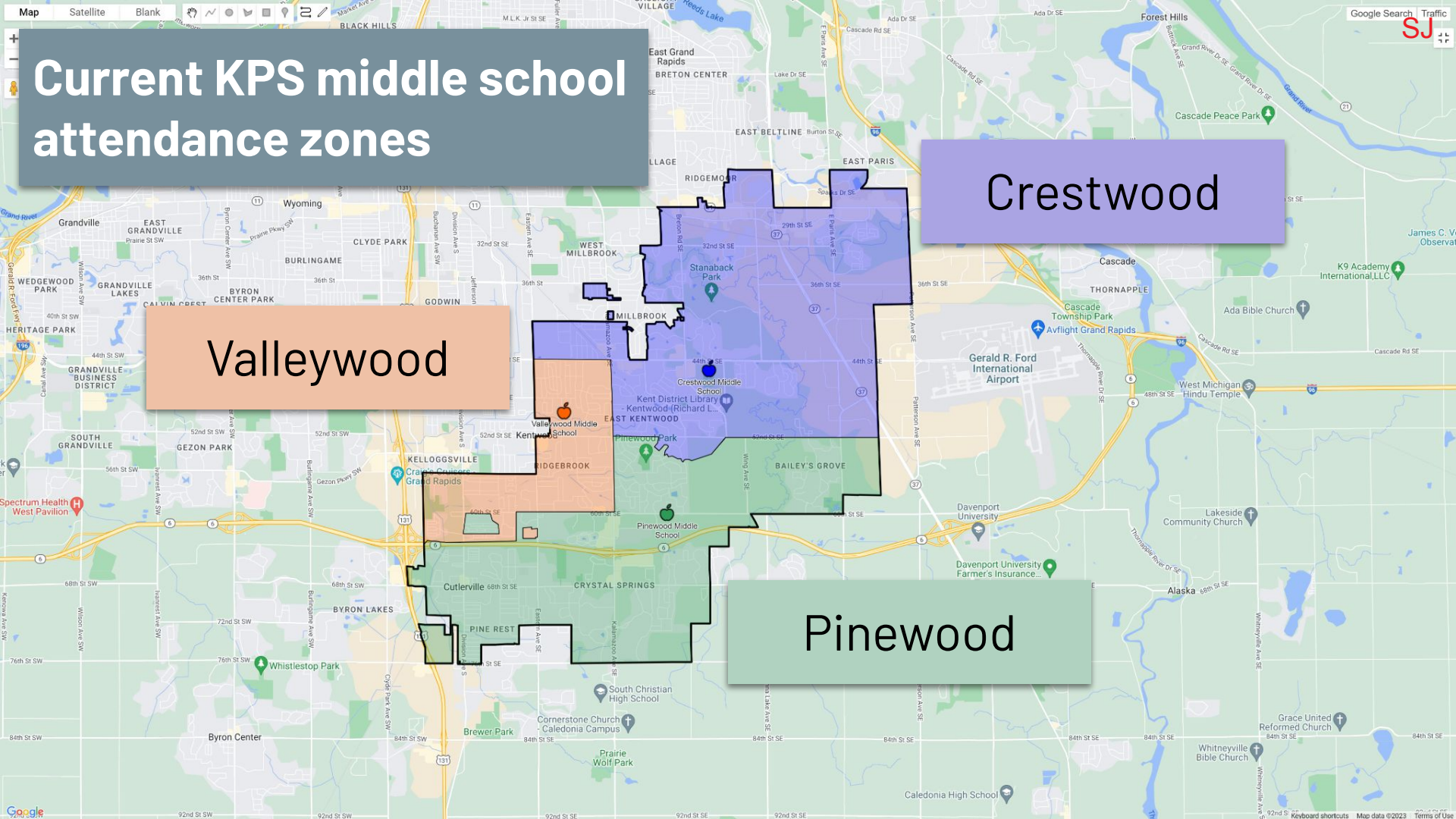
## Future considerations

- **Self-contained special education and PEAKS locations** (*Spring '25*).
- **Staffing decisions** (*Spring '25*).
- **Middle school attendance revisions** (2026-27).



### 3. Middle School

*Changes to middle school  
enrollment policies for **2026-27***



# Current KPS middle school attendance zones

Crestwood

Valleywood

Pinewood

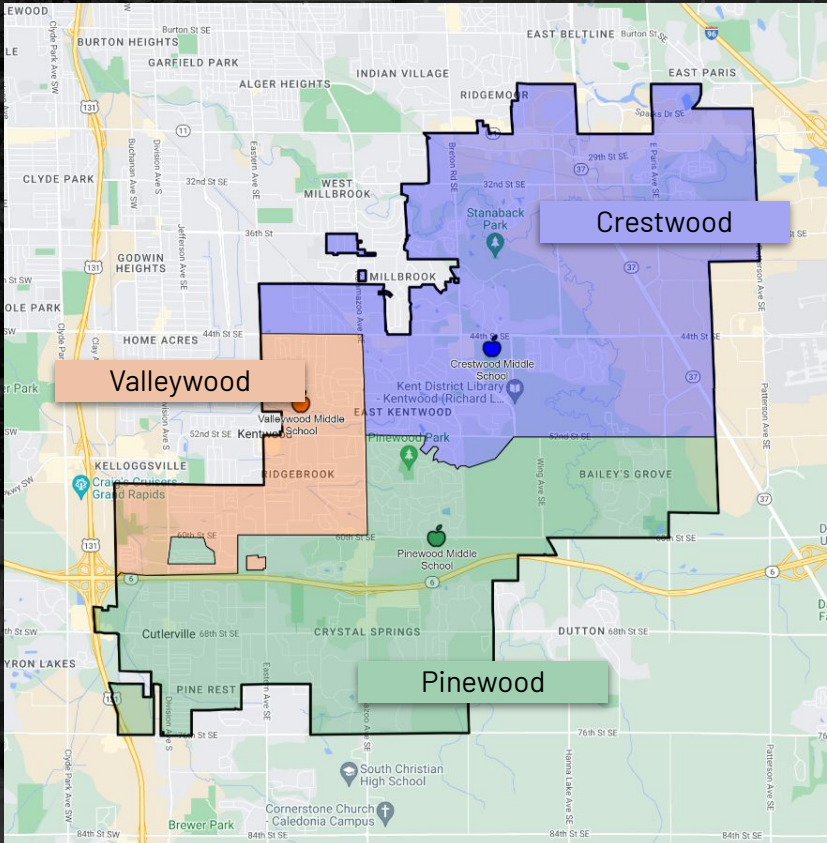


## Middle School Enrollment Proposal for 2026-27

- **Current:** Middle school enrollment by **geographic** location **inevitably splits elementary students.**
- **Proposal: Elementary schools** would be **assigned to middle schools - a feeder school model.**
  - **Assignment** would follow the **three priority areas:**
    - **Neighborhood** schools
    - **Population balance** and growth
    - **Socioeconomic** diversity

# Current (2023-24)

# Proposal (2026-27)



Elementary School

Middle School

Elementary A

Middle School 1

Elementary B

Middle School 2

Elementary C

Middle School 3

Elementary D

Middle School 1

Elementary E

Middle School 2

Elementary F

Middle School 3

# Large variation in student enrollment by KPS middle school

## Priority Area #1: Population Balance

## Student Enrollment

by KPS Middle School Building - 2023-24

Crestwood MS

678

Pinewood MS

831

Valleywood MS

528

**Priority Area #2:**  
Neighborhood Schools

# VALLEYWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

# A

## Middle School Enrollment by Elementary School

	Crestwood MS	Pinewood MS	Valleywood MS
Bowen	✓		✓
Brookwood		✓	✓
Challenger	✓		✓
Discovery	✓	✓	
Endeavor	✓	✓	✓

	Crestwood MS	Pinewood MS	Valleywood MS
Explorer		✓	
Glenwood		✓	✓
Meadowlawn	✓		✓
Southwood		✓	
Townline		✓	✓

# Valleywood MS with larger low-income population than peers

## Priority Area #3: Socio-economic diversity

### Student Enrollment

by KPS Middle School - Income Status - 2023-24

■ Economically Disadvantaged ■ Not Economically Disadvantaged

Crestwood MS

74%

26%

n = 678

Pinewood MS

70%

30%

n = 831

Valleywood MS

81%

19%

n = 528

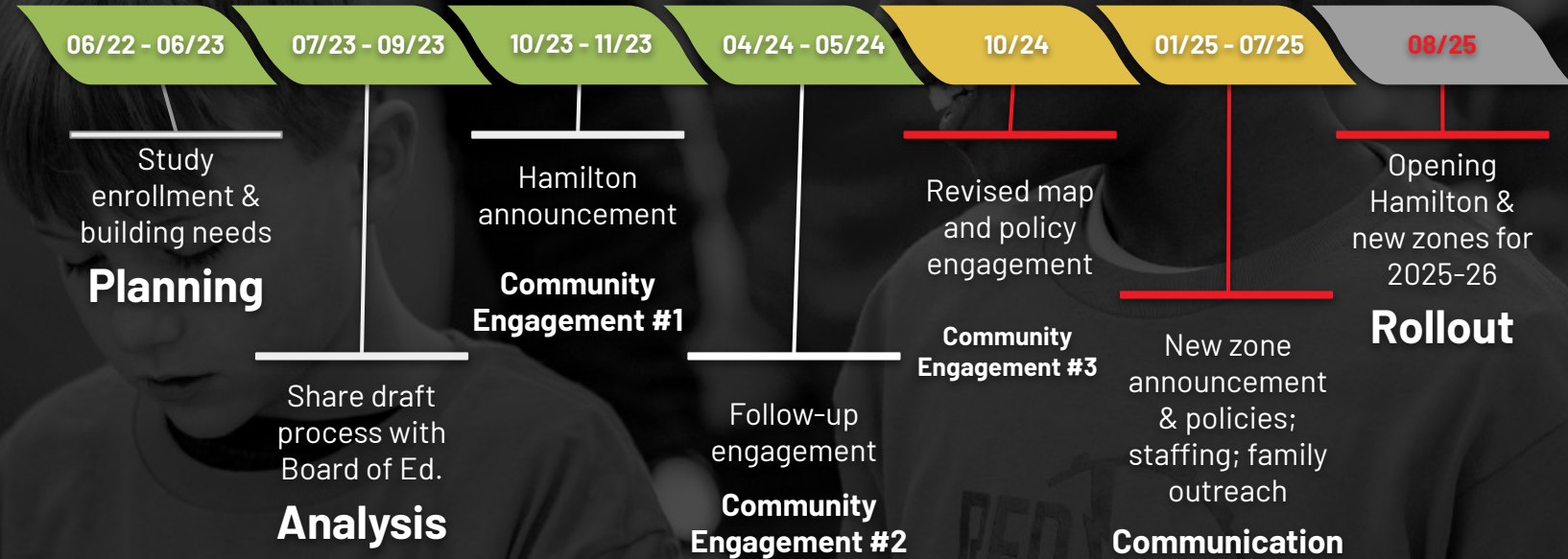


# Wrapping Up

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Resources, exit feedback &  
questions/answers

# Timeline for Hamilton opening and attendance zone revisions



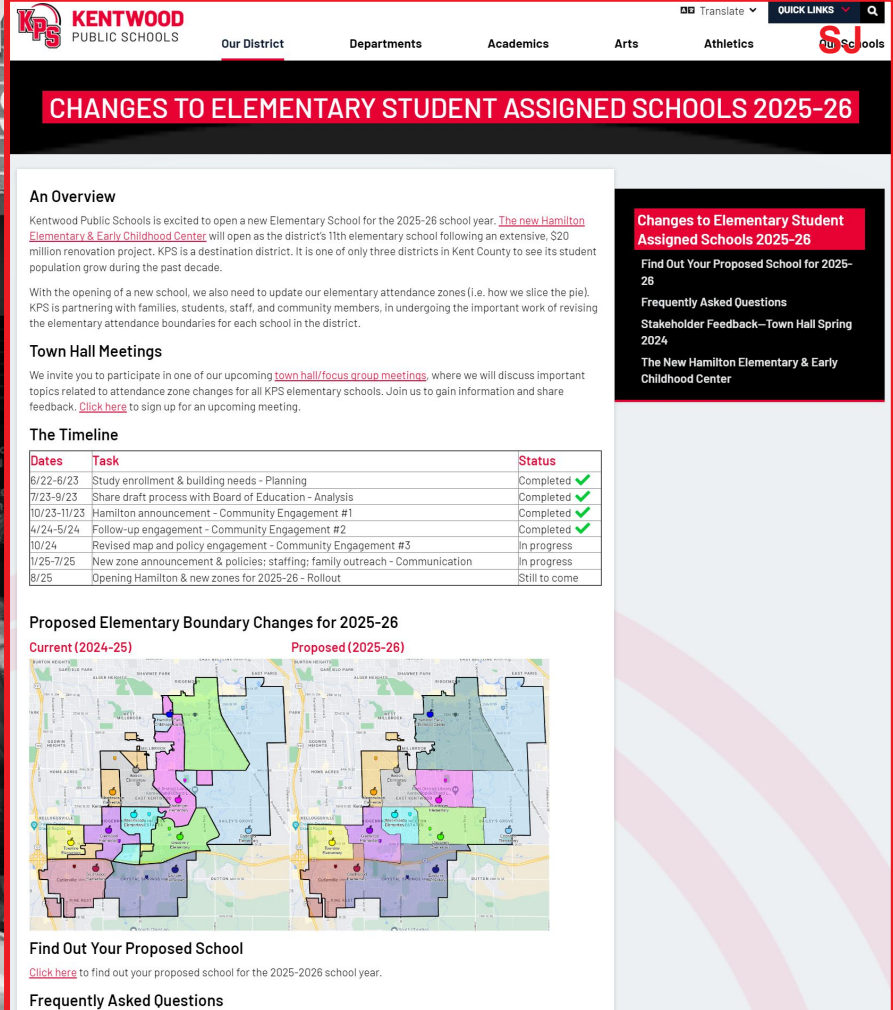
# Webpage Resources

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



bitly

[attendancezones25@kentwoodps.org](mailto:attendancezones25@kentwoodps.org)



**KENTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS** Our District Departments Academics Arts Athletics

## CHANGES TO ELEMENTARY STUDENT ASSIGNED SCHOOLS 2025-26

### An Overview

Kentwood Public Schools is excited to open a new Elementary School for the 2025-26 school year. [The new Hamilton Elementary & Early Childhood Center](#) will open as the district's 11th elementary school following an extensive, \$20 million renovation project. KPS is a destination district. It is one of only three districts in Kent County to see its student population grow during the past decade.

With the opening of a new school, we also need to update our elementary attendance zones (i.e. how we slice the pie). KPS is partnering with families, students, staff, and community members, in undergoing the important work of revising the elementary attendance boundaries for each school in the district.

### Town Hall Meetings

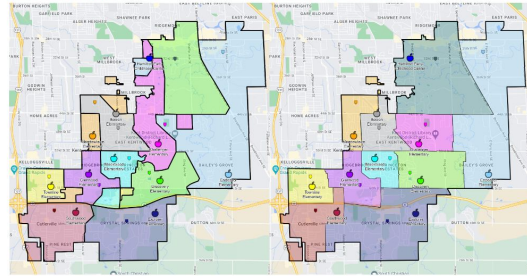
We invite you to participate in one of our upcoming [town hall/focus group meetings](#), where we will discuss important topics related to attendance zone changes for all KPS elementary schools. Join us to gain information and share feedback. [Click here](#) to sign up for an upcoming meeting.

### The Timeline

Dates	Task	Status
6/22-6/23	Study enrollment & building needs - Planning	Completed ✓
7/23-9/23	Share draft process with Board of Education - Analysis	Completed ✓
10/23-11/23	Hamilton announcement - Community Engagement #1	Completed ✓
4/24-5/24	Follow-up engagement - Community Engagement #2	Completed ✓
10/24	Revised map and policy engagement - Community Engagement #3	In progress
1/25-7/25	New zone announcement & policies; staffing; family outreach - Communication	In progress
8/25	Opening Hamilton & new zones for 2025-26 - Rollout	Still to come

### Proposed Elementary Boundary Changes for 2025-26

**Current (2024-25)** **Proposed (2025-26)**



### Find Out Your Proposed School

[Click here](#) to find out your proposed school for the 2025-2026 school year.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Changes to Elementary Student Assigned Schools 2025-26

- Find Out Your Proposed School for 2025-26
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Stakeholder Feedback—Town Hall Spring 2024
- The New Hamilton Elementary & Early Childhood Center