



Supporting Thriving Schools *in a Period of Declining Enrollment*

Northglenn City Council - June 8, 2026

Adams 12 
Five Star Schools

What are we going to cover?

- Background on declining enrollment
- District-specific trends and overall impacts
- Our path forward, ensuring thriving and fiscally responsible school environments through consolidations

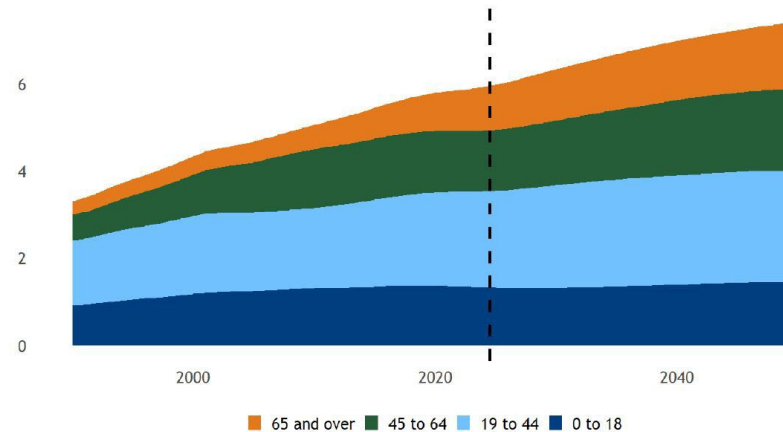


Declining Enrollment - Background and Causes

- Low birth rates - **indicate low or declining population growth**
- Reduced state and national migration
- Aging population
- High cost of living
- Housing market challenges, aging in place

Population Growth By Age

Population in Millions



- Population 65+ fastest growing population in Colorado
- Population less than 18 currently declining in size
- Younger working age population steadily increasing
- Older working age population fluctuating



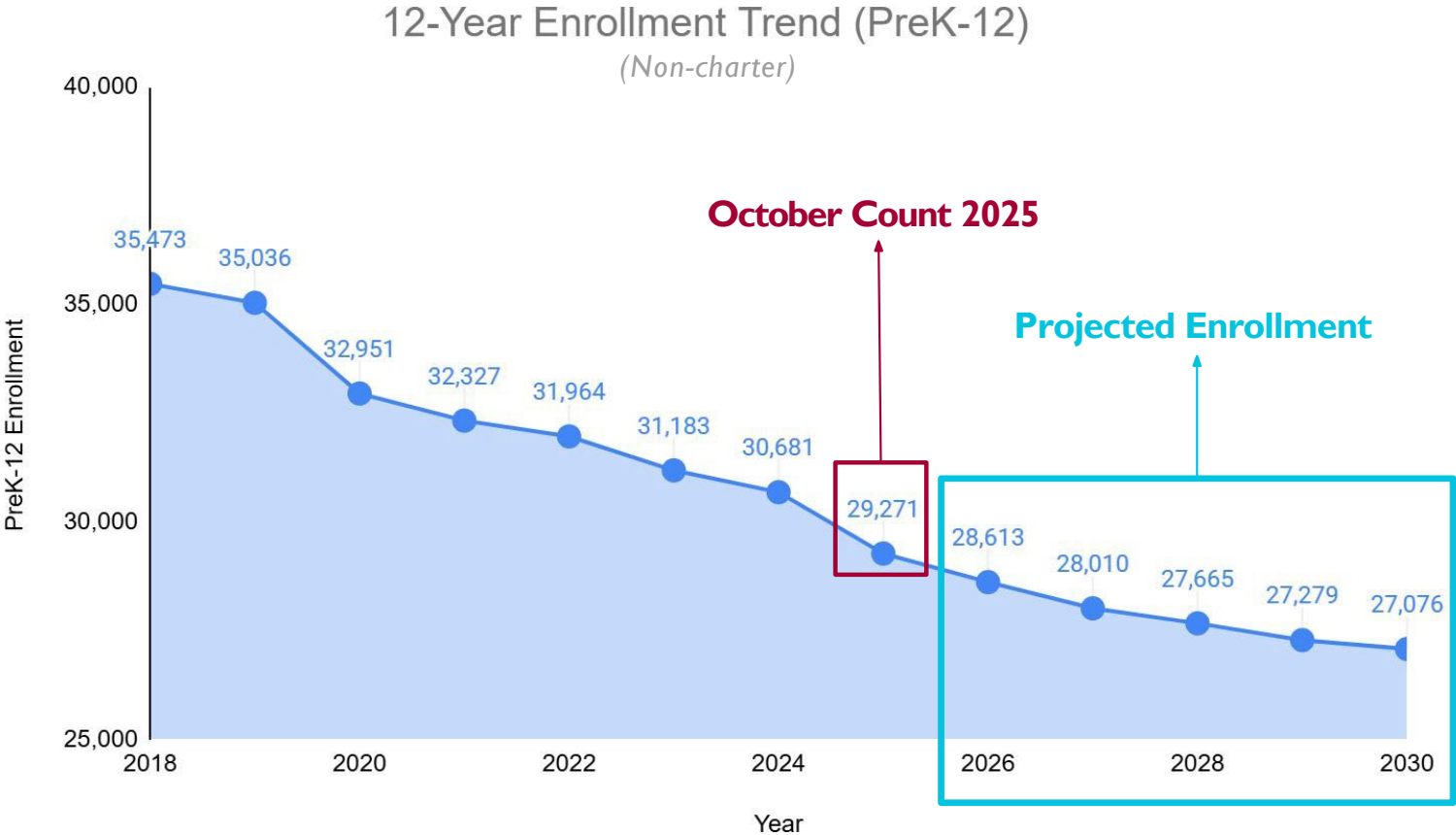
Source: State Demography Office, vintage 2024 estimates and projections

**Most recent published data, may not reflect trends from SY 2025-26*

District Trends: Enrollment Projected to Continue to Decline

Enrollment is declining more rapidly than expected.

This results in excess capacity throughout the district. This must be addressed to ensure thriving school environments for all students.



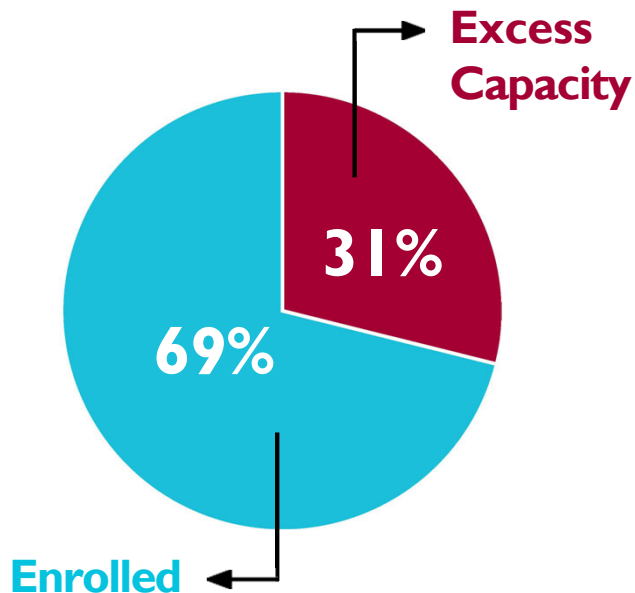
Enrollment & Capacity

What does declining enrollment look like in our schools?



Elementary School Building Capacity

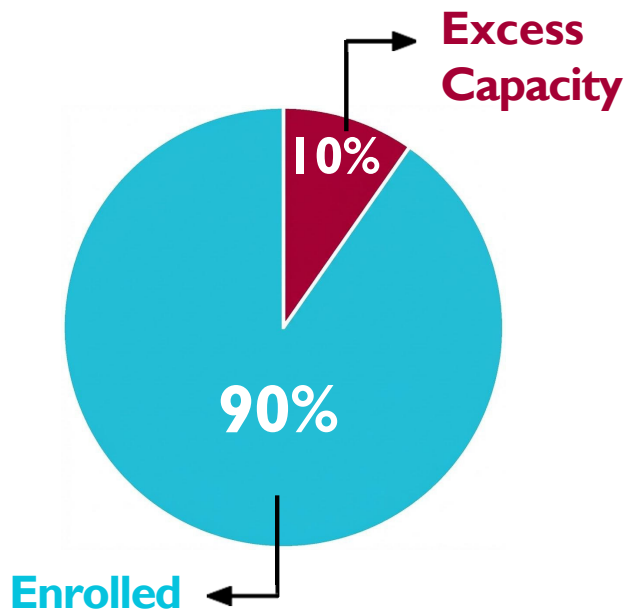
2025-26 School Year



- Capacity to serve **15,370 K-5** students in our non-charter schools
- As of 2025 October Count, we serve **10,571 K-5** students (*excludes students at K-8 schools*)
- District **K-5** utilization estimated to be **69%** (**4,799 open K-5 seats**)

K-8 School Building Capacity

2025-26 School Year

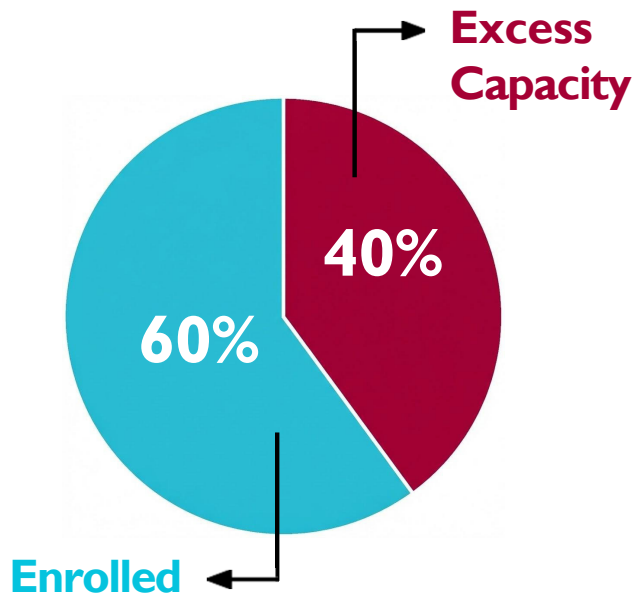


- Capacity to serve **3,066 K-8** students in our non-charter schools
- As of 2025 October Count, we serve **2,758 K-8** students
- District **K-8** utilization estimated to be **90%** (**308 open K-8 seats**)

**Does not include preschool*

Comprehensive Middle School Building Capacity

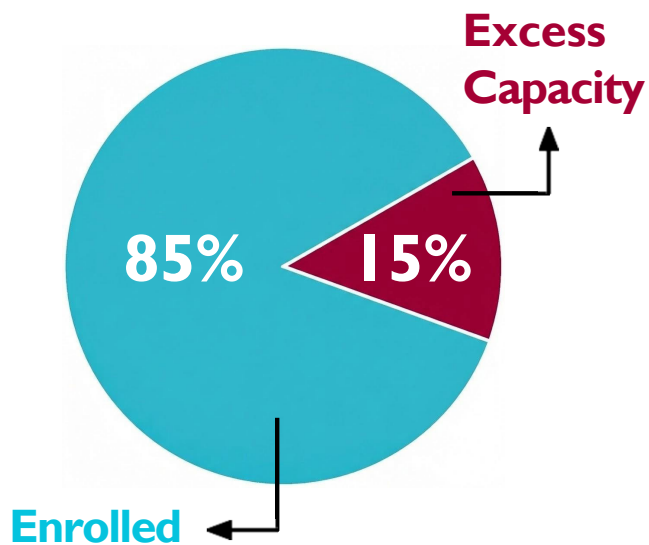
2025-26 School Year



- Capacity to serve **8,696 middle school students** in our non-charter schools
- As of 2025 October Count, we serve **5,229 middle school students** (*excludes Five Star Online and students at K-8 schools*)
- District **middle school** utilization estimated to be **60% (3,467 open middle school seats)**

Comprehensive High School Building Capacity

2025-26 School Year

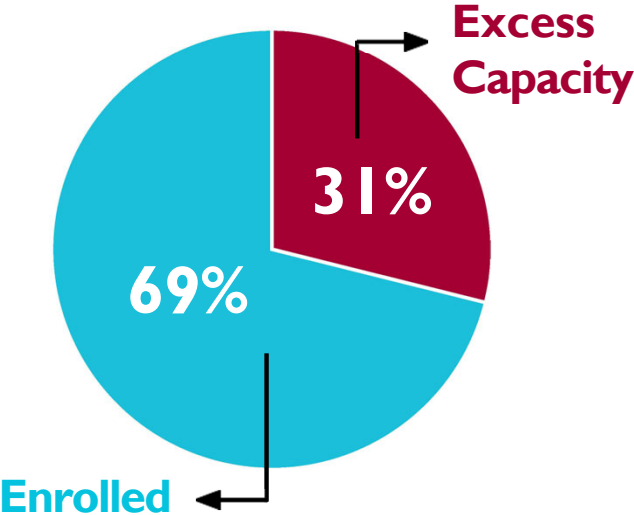


- Capacity to serve **10,548** high school students in our non-charter schools
- As of 2025 October Count, we serve **9,012** high school students (*excludes Five Star Online*)
- District **high school** utilization estimated to be **85% (1,536 open high school seats)**

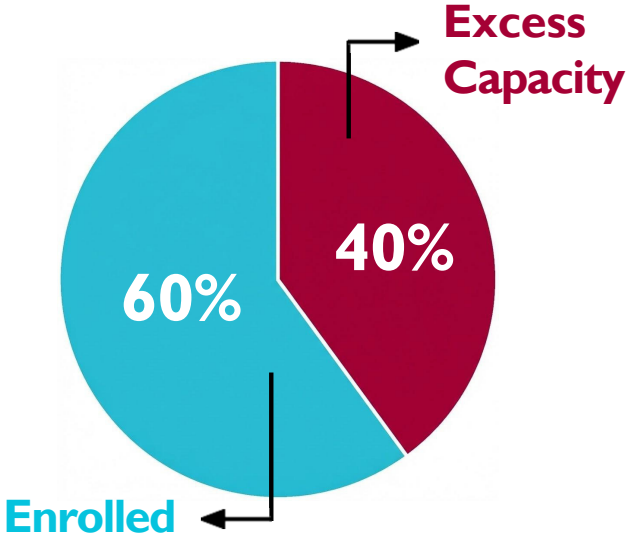
Building Capacity Challenges

2025-26 School Year

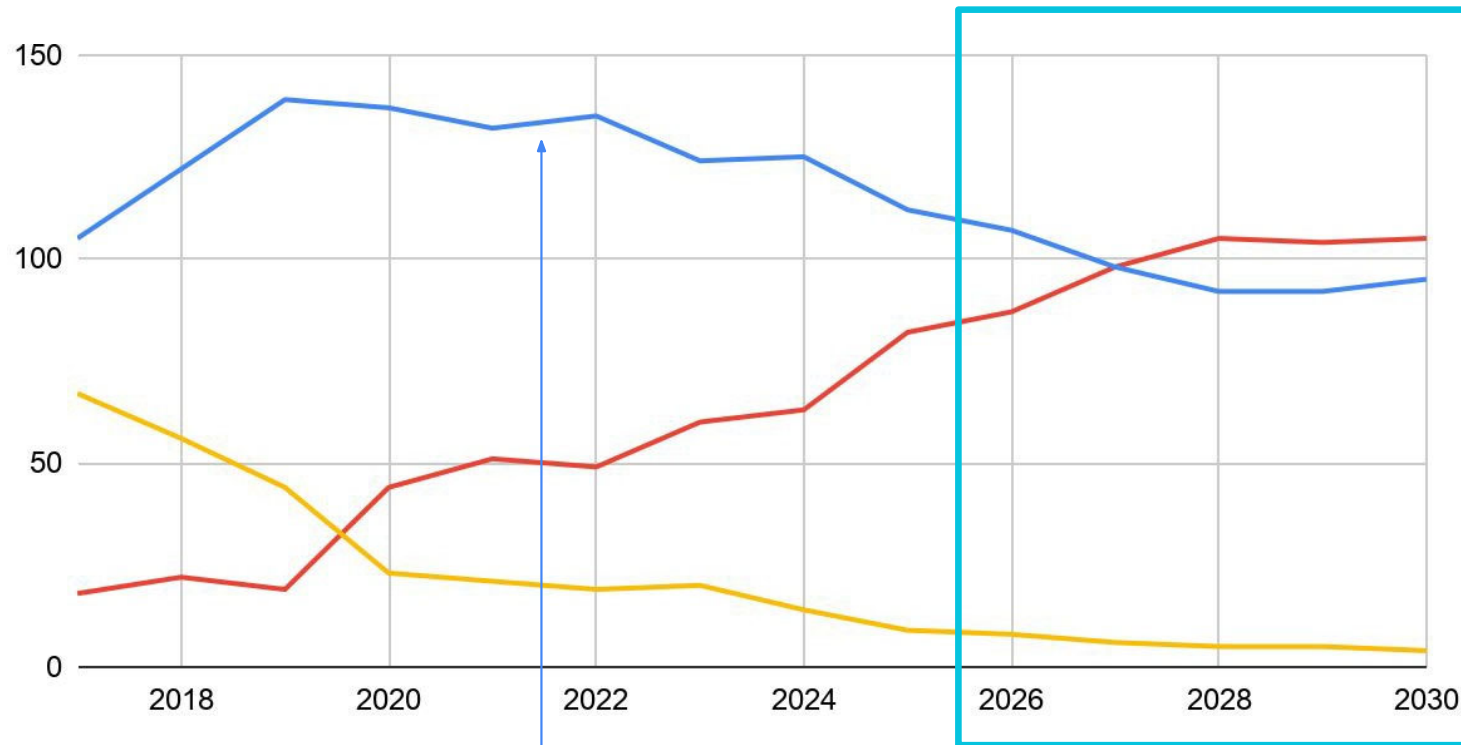
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL



Elementary - Fewer Classes per Grade Level Over Time



2 Rounds

2 CLASSES PER GRADE LEVEL

3 Rounds

3 CLASSES PER GRADE LEVEL

The goal for a thriving school

4 Rounds

4 CLASSES PER GRADE LEVEL

Projected

Elementary School Impacts

LOW ENROLLMENT

- Part-time specials teachers
- Limited teacher collaboration
- Limited dedicated support staff (Interventionists, Instructional Coaches, Social Emotional Learning Specialists, Family Outreach Liaisons)
- Limited afterschool activities
- No or limited before- and after-school childcare due to resources



2 Rounds

2 CLASSES PER GRADE LEVEL

THRIVING ENROLLMENT (3-4 Rounds)

- Full-time specials teachers
- Robust teacher collaboration
- Ample dedicated support staff (Interventionists, Instructional Coaches, Social Emotional Learning Specialists, Family Outreach Liaisons)
- Robust afterschool activities and offerings
- Before- and after-school childcare to support families



4 Rounds

4 CLASSES PER GRADE LEVEL



3 Rounds

3 CLASSES PER GRADE LEVEL



The goal for a thriving school

Middle School Impacts

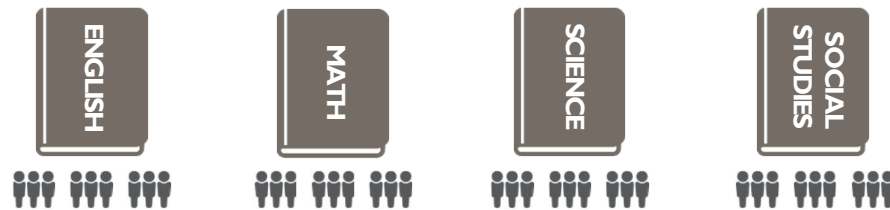
LOW ENROLLMENT

- Loss of elective or sports and club opportunities due to fewer staff to support
- Less options for academic courses
- Teachers covering multiple grades or courses
- Difficulty sustaining dedicated support roles (i.e. *Instructional Coaches, Mental Health providers, Deans, Social Emotional Learning Specialists, etc.*)

THRIVING ENROLLMENT

- Adequate staff to support greater elective choices, sports and club opportunities
- More academic course offerings
- Teachers teach only one grade level or course
- Instructional Coaches, Mental Health providers, Deans, Social Emotional Learning Specialists, etc.

4 CORE CONTENT AREAS



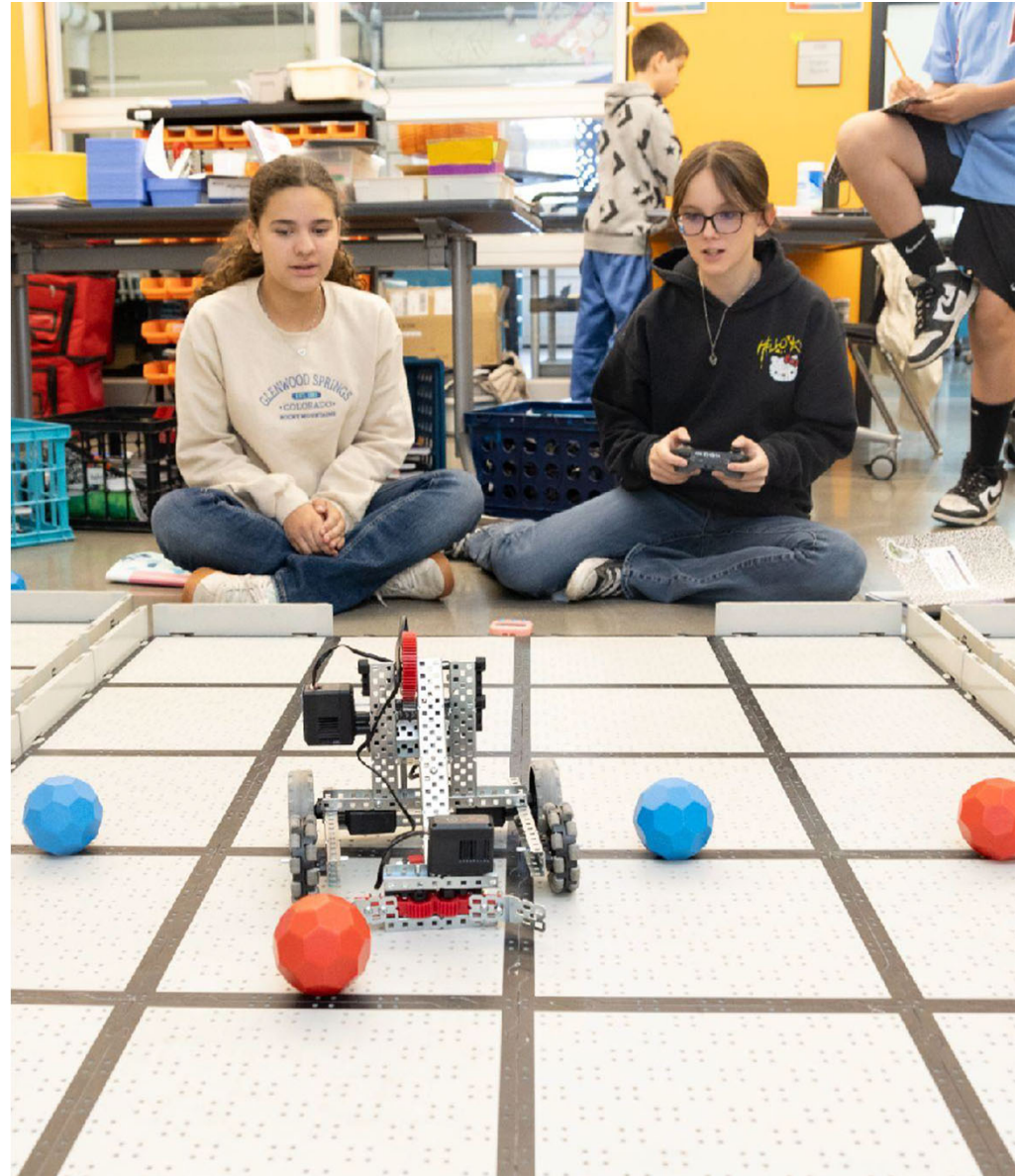
3 TEACHERS PER CONTENT AREA, PER GRADE LEVEL



Fewer students means fewer dollars
and less staff, leading to
**tough decisions about reducing opportunities
and supports for students**

Our Path Forward

*Ensure a thriving school experience
for all students.*



Guiding principles for a thriving school environment

- Establishes enrollment levels to support adequate staffing, teacher collaboration, robust student programs, and full-time specials
- Provides robust programming that fosters academic success and a high-quality student and family experience
- Promotes and maintains a strong sense of community
- Uses district resources efficiently to maximize student learning by maintaining enrollment levels that are financially sustainable

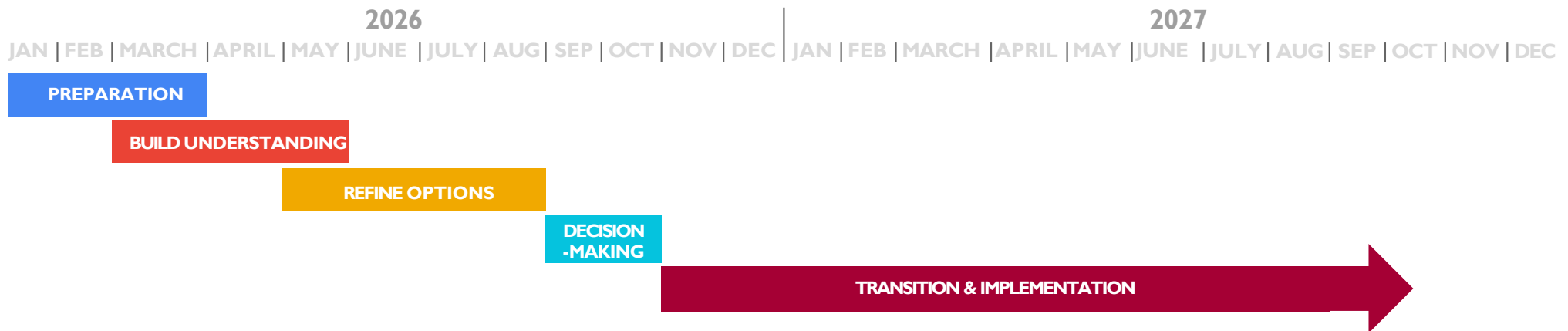


Board of Education Policy *(adopted May 2026)*

Policy includes expectations that any closure, consolidation, repurpose recommendation:

- Results in ongoing cost savings
- Provides affected students similar or expanded learning opportunities comparable to schools funded at or near the average per pupil funding
- Allows time for families to explore school enrollment choices, and affected staff to pursue employment at other district schools for the following school year
- Minimizes moving students from the same school to multiple schools
- Results in school boundaries that are compact, contiguous and maintain neighborhoods
- Moves students to schools unlikely to be closed or repurposed for 5 years or longer
- Moves students to schools with a similar or stronger academic accountability rating
- Minimizes adverse impacts on the neighborhood surrounding a closure or repurposing

Timeline for School Consolidations



Preparation

Jan '26 - March '26: Review data and establish guiding principles for a thriving school experience

Begin evaluating potential school consolidation options for elementary and middle schools

Build Understanding of the Problem

March '26: Confer with school and district leaders

April '26: Present information to Board and Community Committees

March '26 - May '26: Educate staff, parents and community

Engage with Association leaders and municipalities

Refine Options

May '26 - Aug '26: Refine school consolidation options aligned to a thriving school experience

Decision-Making

Sep '26 -Oct '26: Make final decisions on school consolidations effective for the 2027-2028 school year

- Communicate with staff, families and the larger community
- Present to the Board of Education

Transition & Implementation

Nov '26 - May '27: Host information sessions with affected staff & communities

Prepare facilities for upcoming adjustments

Aug '27: Implement school consolidations

Thank You