

# NORTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT 112

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PRESENTATION OF RESULTS FROM SCHOOL BUILDING LRP OPTIONS ASSESSMENT



# OPINIONS & RATINGS OF SD 112 AS A WHOLE

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North Shore School District 112 continues to earn strong quality ratings, as we observed in 2016. These solid ratings continue to be expressed about the Teachers in the District, who also earn solid quality ratings from the residents. However, the quality ratings of the District as a whole are somewhat suppressed from the ratings two years ago. This is likely the reflection of the continued and high profile consolidation issues and expressed concerns about the District's administrative and board leadership, both of which are prominent volunteered issue concerns in relation to SD 112.

- Residents view the quality of **North Shore School District 112** favorably with 70% rating it to be “Above Average,” comprised of 26% rating the District “Excellent” and 44% rating it to be “Very Good.” Fifteen percent (15%) rate the District to be “Average” and 7% rate it to be “Below Average,” which is a combination of “Only Fair” and “Poor” ratings. For comparison, in 2016, the District was viewed to be 83% “Above Average,” 12% “Average,” and 2% “Below Average.”

# OPINIONS OF SD 112 ADMINISTRATION & BOARD

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Generally, the Administration of the District and the Board earn lower above average quality grades and higher average and below average grades than the District as a whole or the Teachers. Although this is a common difference when rating different aspects of a School District, these sentiments can impact the community's views of issues advocated by the leadership. This is observed in a divided feeling about trusting the administration and the board to make good decisions about the District's overall direction, where half hold a favorable opinion and more than two-fifths (43%) have a less favorable view on this variable. There are observable differences in this factor among those who have a current student in the District, who are more likely to trust the leadership than those who don't have a student currently attending the schools with less favorable views.

# RATINGS OF SD 112 ADMINISTRATION & BOARD

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- The **Administration of SD 112** is viewed to be “Above Average” by 31% (8% Excellent, 23% Very Good), “Average” by 28%, and “Below Average” by 20% (9% Only Fair, 11% Poor) of respondents. A fifth of respondents (21% Don’t Know) are unsure how to rate the quality of the District’s administration.
- The **School Board of SD 112** is rated “Above Average” by 28% of District residents (3% Excellent, 25% Very Good). A similar proportion of residents (27%) rate the SD 112 School Board to be “Average” and another 25% of residents rate the School Board to be “Below Average” (11% Only Fair, 14% Poor).

# ASSESSMENT OF SD 112'S VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

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The residents value the schools on multiple levels on various factors. Nearly eight-out-of-ten say the schools were an important factor for moving to or staying in the community, with nearly six tenths saying it was a vary important factor. This sentiment is confirmed with 86% agreeing that strong schools protect property values, showing the practical views of the value of schools to the community. **When assessing opinion of reasons why the residents moved to or stayed in the community in relation to the schools, a range of quality, reputation and academic topics were the most prominently mentioned.**

# SIGNIFICANCE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL MODEL

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The neighborhood school model was significant enough to be noted when asked why the residents moved to or stayed in the area and confirmed with significant agreement as a factor to why many families remain in the community. There also is significant favorable views of neighborhood school from a perspective of strengthening our communities and to a lesser degree on the history of neighborhood schools in the District. **It is noteworthy that views of the neighborhood school concepts are generally more positive among those without a current student in SD 112 than families with a current student in the District.** This may be reflective of some older, longer term residents' connection to the school model that they saw or experienced with their children, while current District families have more direct and frequent information on the various plans and models and less connection to the former neighborhood school models.

# DISTRICT RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON FISCAL AND TAX ISSUES

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Their views on fiscal and tax issues show why the financial impact of consolidation drives some of their views on the positive financial impacts of consolidation. The residents express little agreement to raise taxes to keep all neighborhood schools open, with nearly two-thirds opposed to this concept and only one-third in agreement. They are only somewhat more favorable when this concept is localized to their neighborhood school, with 45% in agreement and half opposed. However, to a degree those in Edgewood and with current SD 112 students are more favorable to paying higher taxes for their school. **The bottom line is there is minimal to marginal support for raising taxes to keep some schools open, even the localized school, and this helps drive the practical understanding of the financial impacts of consolidation.**



# DIVERSE PROJECTION OF DISTRICT'S VALUE

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This shows that the residents have a multi-tiered positive value view of the schools – on the quality aspects and the practical (financial) implications. ***This diverse projection of the value in both quality and practical terms and the general view of value in neighborhood schools explains some of the conflicting views on consolidation.***



# ASSESSMENT OF CONSOLIDATION OPTIONS

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- Philosophical Opinions of Consolidation Issues
  - There is a modest lean in feeling that consolidation would have a positive impact on quality, with nearly half expressing that view, and only one-fourth saying it would have a negative impact. As we have observed on other topics, families with a current student have a more favorable view of the impact of consolidation than those without a current student in the District's schools.

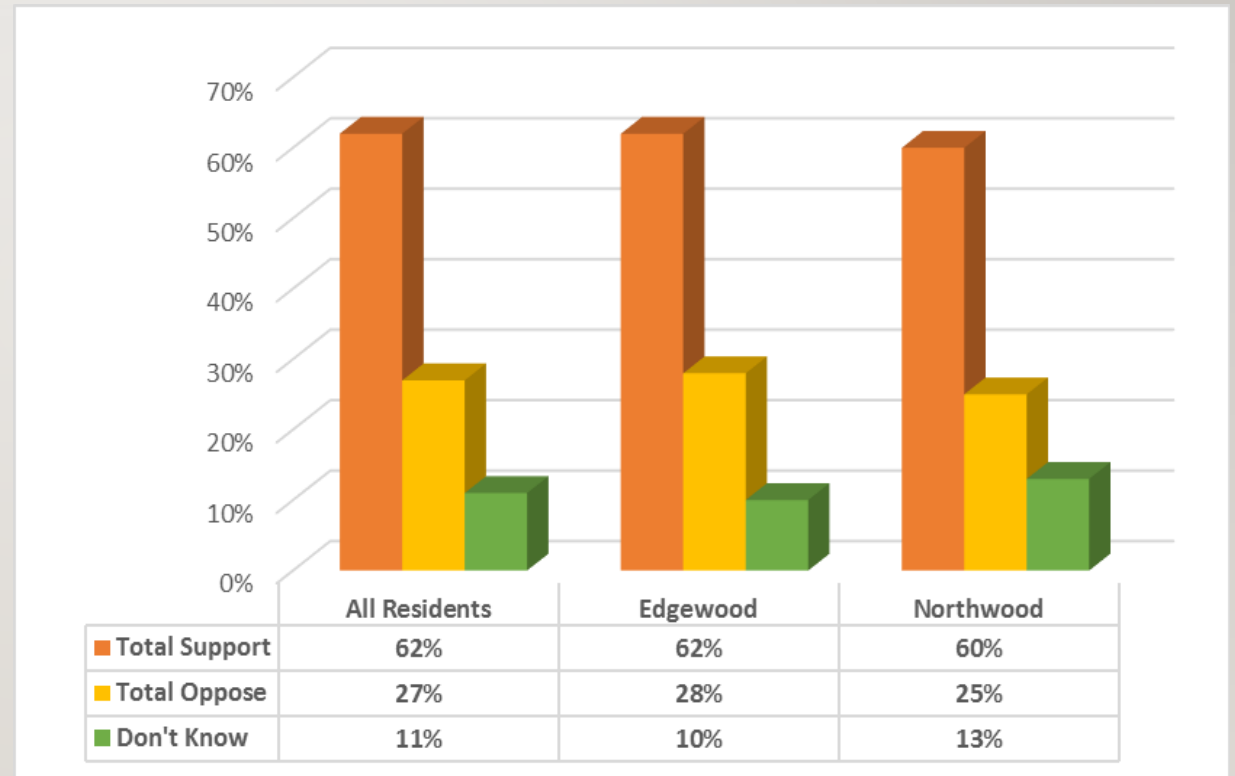
# ASSESSMENT OF CONSOLIDATION OPTIONS

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- This general philosophical lean in favor of consolidation gets confirmed on more substantive terms.
  - Nearly six out of ten (56%) feel consolidation would benefit the students and community and only one-third hold an opposing view. This sentiment is similar among those with and without students attending the District's schools.
  - There is significant agreement that consolidation would benefit the District's finances, with three-fourths holding this view and similar opinions among households with and without students in the schools. This reaffirms their practical understanding of the benefits of consolidation. SD 112's residents clearly see the value benefits of consolidation in from both a quality and practical perspective.

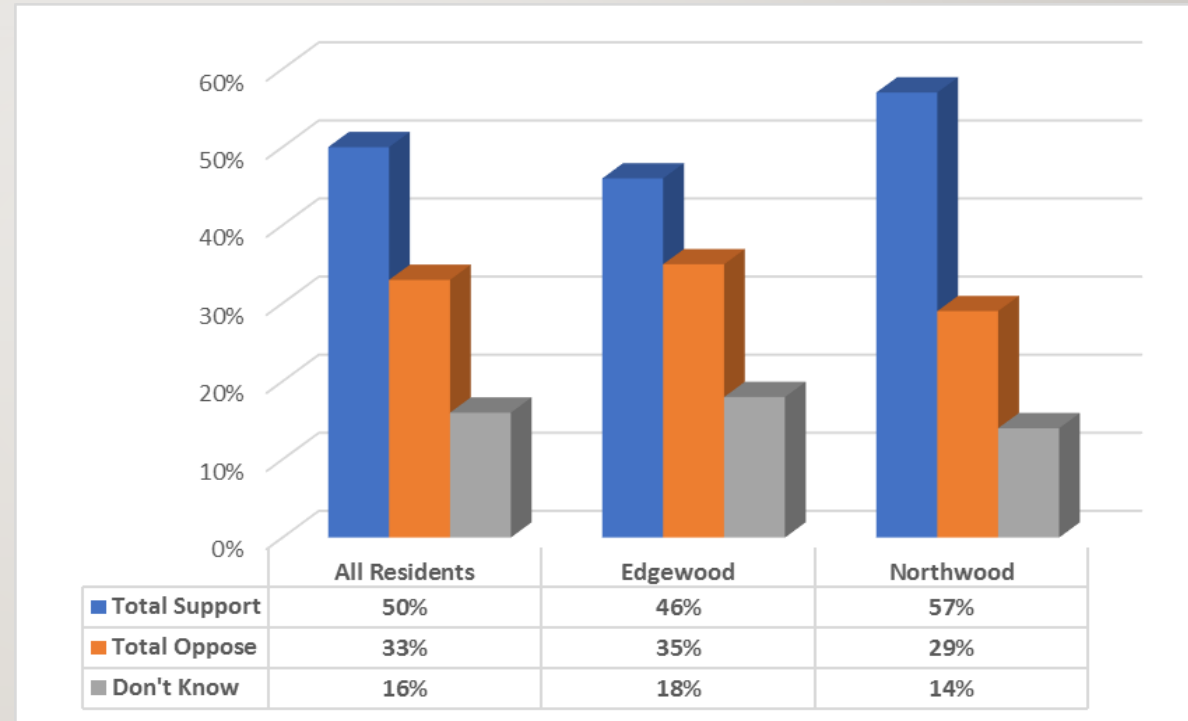
# OPINIONS OF THE CURRENT 10-9 SCHOOL MODEL

There is near uniform support for the current 10 to 9 school plans being implemented in the 2018 – 2019 school year. This opinion is similar across most sub-groups, including both middle school areas and among households with and without students in the schools.



# OPINIONS OF THE 8-SCHOOL MODEL

The next step plan to an eight (8) school option earns support from half, although differences are observed pending their middle school area (Northwood = more supportive, Edgewood Less Supportive). Opposition to this option increases, notable among older residents, which is consistent with their philosophical views. This plan earns more support from current District families versus those with kids in the school system, again consistent with other factors that we have observed. This option appears to be the cut off point for public support for consolidation.

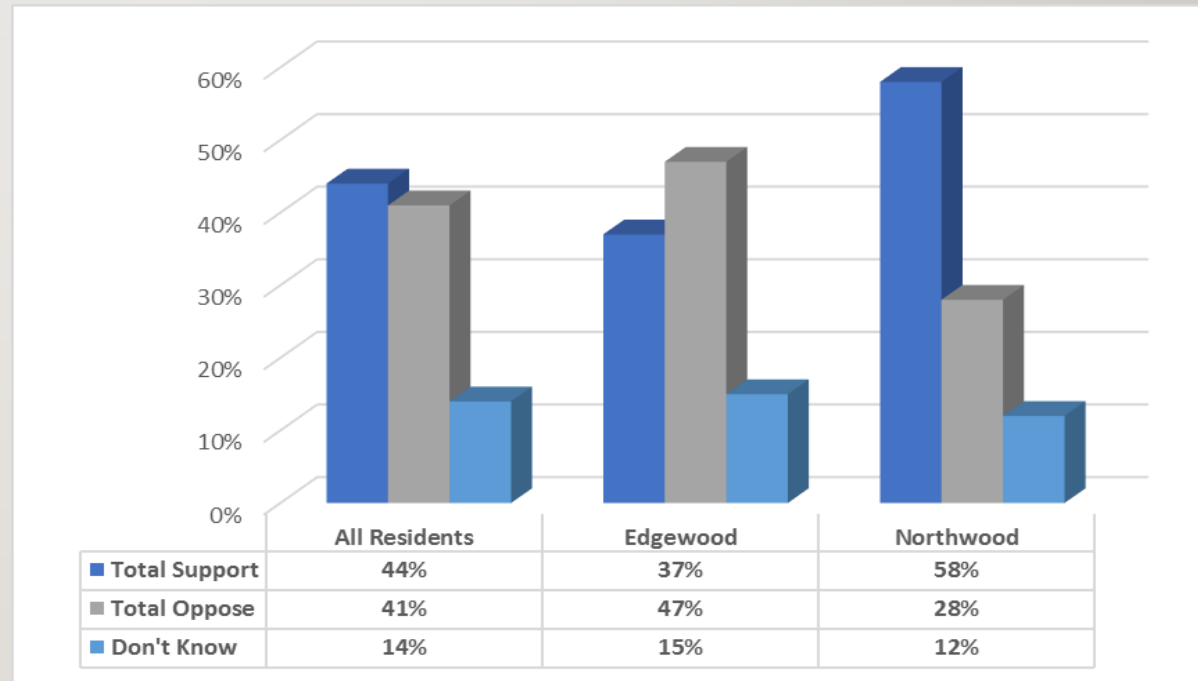


# OPINIONS OF THE 8-SCHOOL MODEL

Opinion	All Residents	Current SD 112 Household	Not Current SD 112 Household	Other Sub-Groups
<b>NET Total Support</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>48</b>	Men (57%) Ages 35-49 (71%) Men <50 (68%)
<b>NET Total Oppose</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	West Deerfield (43%) Ages 50-64 (44%) Women 50+ (41%)
<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	Ages 65+ (26%) Women 50+ (22%) No / Never Student (22%)

# OPINIONS OF THE 7-SCHOOL MODEL

Once the option of a seven (7) school model is presented, support drops to 44%, opposition increases to a near even 41%, with those in the Edgewood area significantly less favorable than Northwood, which maintains majority support.



# OPINIONS OF THE 7-SCHOOL MODEL

Opinion	All Residents	Current SD 112 Household	Not Current SD 112 Household	Other Sub-Groups
<b>NET Total Support</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>41</b>	Moraine North (63%) Ages <50 (61%) Men <50 (63%)
<b>NET Total Oppose</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	Moraine South (49%) West Deerfield (48%) Ages 50-64 (51%) No / Never Student (47%)
<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	Women 50+ (22%)

# CONCLUSION

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The multi-tiered views of the community, which is highly engaged and familiar with the consolidations issues creates opportunities and challenges to address this issue. They value the schools as a community asset, hold favorable views of the historic neighborhood school models, but also understand the positive impacts and benefits of consolidation from a philosophical and substantive (quality / financial) perspective. This lays the foundation for support for the current plan and a possible next step and these options should be the focus of the District's planning from a public opinion perspective.



# METHODOLOGY STATEMENT

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North Shore School District 112 commissioned the survey. Fako Research & Strategies, Inc. (FR&S) of Lemont, Illinois conducted the survey by telephone on August 7 – 11, 2018 using professional interviewers. FR&S interviewed a random sample of n=302 adult (age 18+) residents of School District 112. A strict screening process was used to ensure that only adult (age 18+) residents of the District vote participated in the survey. The interviews lasted an average of 12 minutes. Scientific sampling techniques using a listing of households with at least one registered voter were used to give all residents within this group living in a telephone-equipped household, or with a listed cell phone number, an equal chance of being interviewed. Cellular phones were included within the sample and accounted for 28% of all weighted interviews (85 Completed Interviews). The survey also was translated and programmed in Spanish and bi-lingual interviewers were available to conduct interviews in Spanish if accepted when offered to by the respondent when Spanish language barriers were encountered. A total of seven (7) attempted interviews encountered Spanish language barriers and all of these respondents declined the option to proceed with the interview in Spanish. The interviews were conducted in proportion to gender and regional shares of the population based on known demographics. Weighting was applied to Age and Gender to bring these groups into closer proportion to known demographics. The survey has an overall margin of error of +/- 5.60% at the 95% level of confidence. This means that if the survey were replicated the results would be consistent for 95 out of 100 cases. The margin of error is higher among the various sub-groups.

# GLOSSARY

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## Middle School Groupings (Based on 2018 – 2019 School Year Attendance Boundaries)

- **Edgewood (66% of Sample)** = Respondents residing within the attendance boundaries of the following elementary schools: Braeside, Ravinia, Indian Trail, and Sherwood.
- **Northwood (34% of Sample)** = Respondents residing within the attendance boundaries of the following elementary schools: Oak Terrace, Wayne Thomas, and Red Oak.

## Geographic Regions

- **Moraine North (34% of Sample)** = The following precincts: Moraine Township 204 – 210.
  - **Moraine South (53% of Sample)** = The following precincts: Moraine Township 211 – 224.
  - **West Deerfield Township (13% of Sample)** = The following precincts: West Deerfield Township 387, 389, and 397.
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