



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Onward SPPS

Committee of the Board

Jackie Turner, Executive Chief Administration and Operations

March 6, 2024

Agenda: Onward SPPS updates

1. Flexible Calendar Year Workgroup
2. Karen Culture and Language Workgroup
3. African American Program Workgroup



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Crossroads Montessori and Crossroads Science

Crossroad's Year-round Calendar: Background

- Convened workgroup due to concerns over student outcomes and retention
 - Last summer alone, 24 students dropped out between Memorial Day and the last day of Crossroads calendar year
- Conducted deep dive on student outcome data
- Surveyed staff on what type of support they believe students, families and staff will need to transition to traditional calendar

Crossroad's Year-round Calendar: Background

- Only elementary school in Saint Paul operating on a year-round calendar
- Roughly nine weeks on and three weeks off; same number of student days as a traditional calendar
- Extended summer break broken into 3-week breaks in November, February, and May
 - During two of those three weeks off, summer school-like program offered called “Intersession” for students with academic needs, program focused on math, reading and writing
 - Advantages cited to year-round calendar is availability of additional learning opportunities through “Intersessions”; however, data does not show significant academic gains or other student outcomes, e.g., consistent attendance

Crossroad's Year-round Calendar: Background

Challenges posed by year-round calendar:

- Due to November Intersession and February Intersession, Crossroads loses 6 weeks of instructional time, but still have to take MCA tests putting students 6 weeks behind on instruction when taking the MCAs
- Having to start and stop school three times a year more than other sites blunts momentum to establish and maintain classroom rituals and routines
- Year-round calendar challenging to families with children at both Crossroads and other SPPS schools on traditional calendar

Additional costs:

- To run Crossroads as a year-round, co-located program is \$226K more
- If Crossroads transitions to traditional calendar, amount closer to \$48K more

Flexible Calendar Year Workgroup members

- Craig Anderson, Executive Director, Office of Teaching and Learning
- Tracy Buhl, Principal, Crossroads Elementary Science + Montessori Program
- Andrew Collins, Executive Chief of Schools & Learning
- Dr. Heidi Dunlap, Assistant Principal, Crossroads Elementary Science + Montessori Program
- Patrick Thuente, Teacher, Crossroads Elementary Science + Montessori Program
- Jackie Turner, Executive Chief Administration and Operations, Facilitator
- Dr. Yeu Vang, Assistant Superintendent

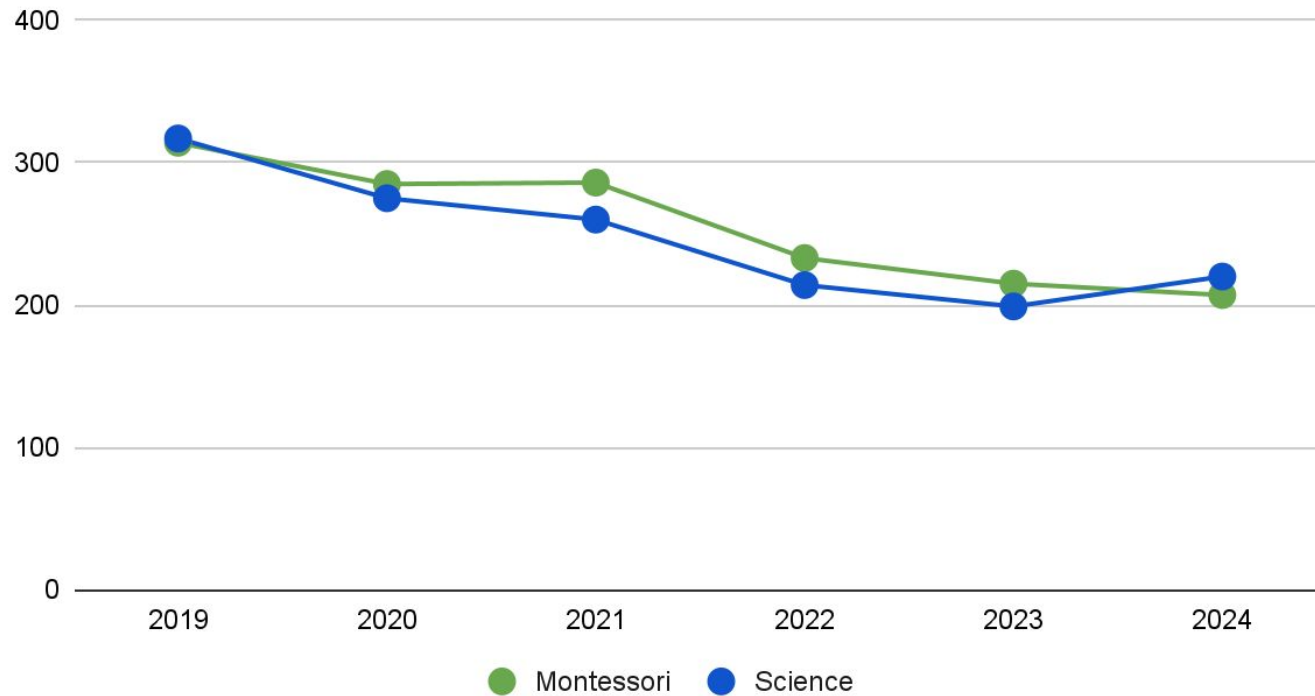
Crossroad's Year-round Calendar: Staffing

Intersession staffing challenges:

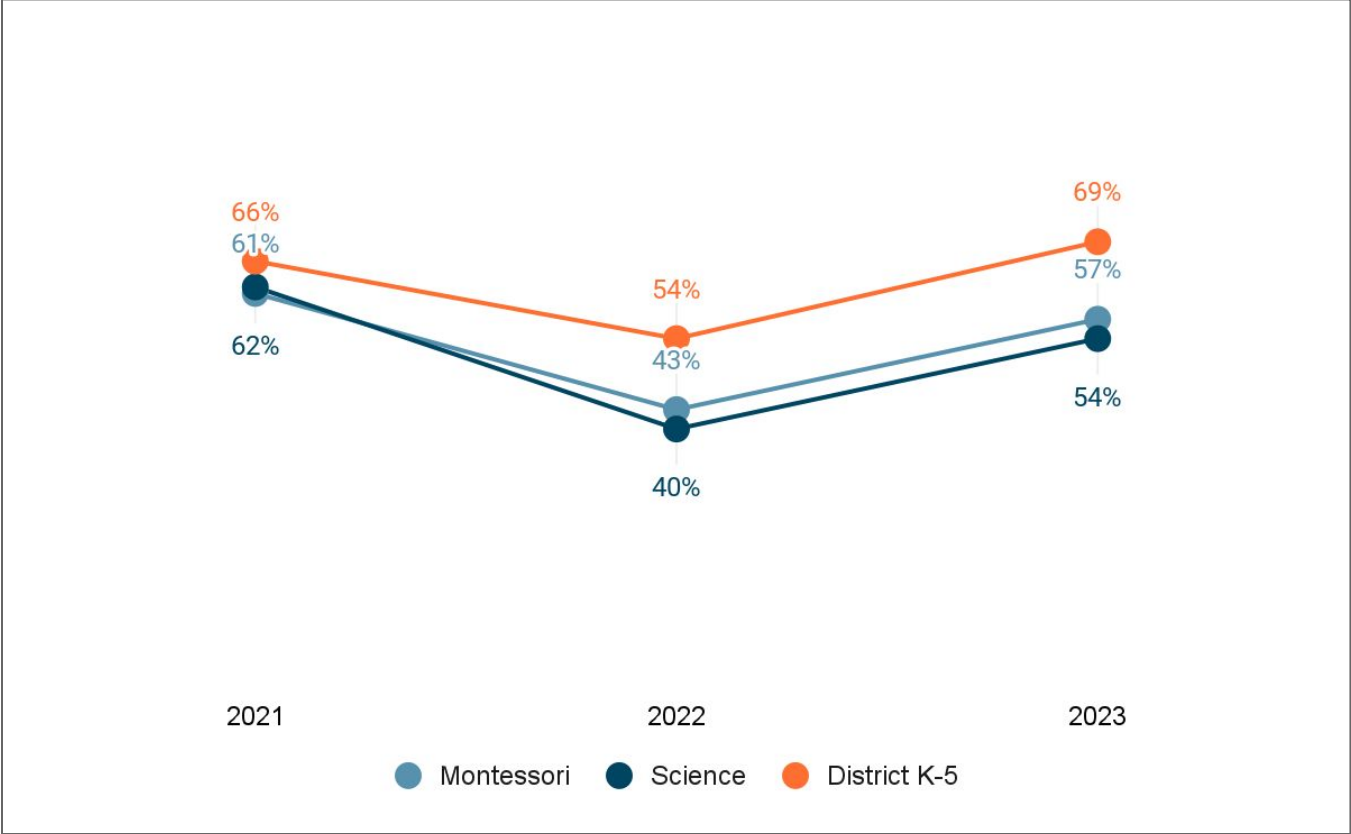
- Over past 10 years, significant reduction in total staff at Crossroads
- Staffed on a voluntary basis, making it challenging to fill positions for the program
- Only Crossroads staff can staff Intersession as rest of district is still in session
- Teachers on Call not able to staff as would be taking teachers away from subbing, already a shortage of subs
- Crossroads staff would need to write lesson plans for external teachers which is time consuming
- Crossroads does leverage their TAs/EAs and other staff who have bachelor's degrees, but they are not licensed teachers
- Have reached out to retired staff but have not been able to get anyone to commit to any of the sessions

**Crossroads Montessori
and Crossroads Science:
Data Review**

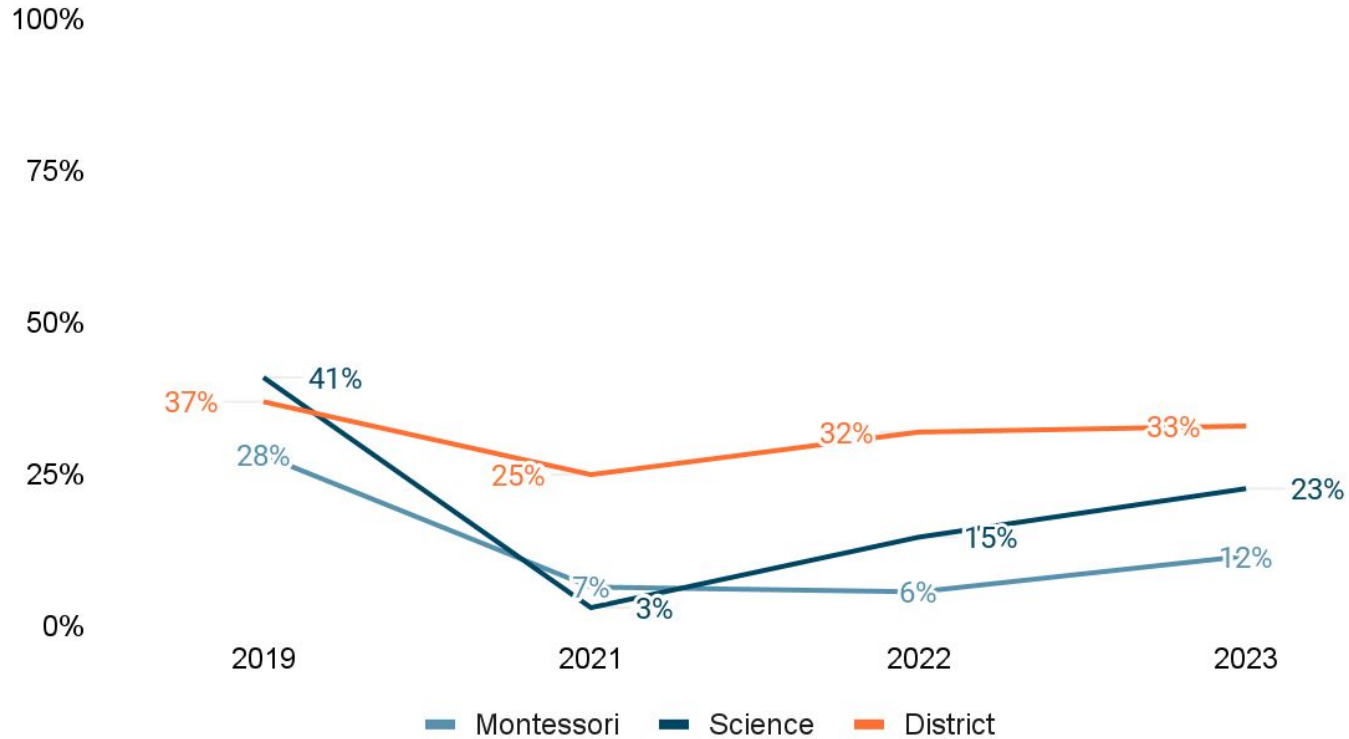
Enrollment Counts



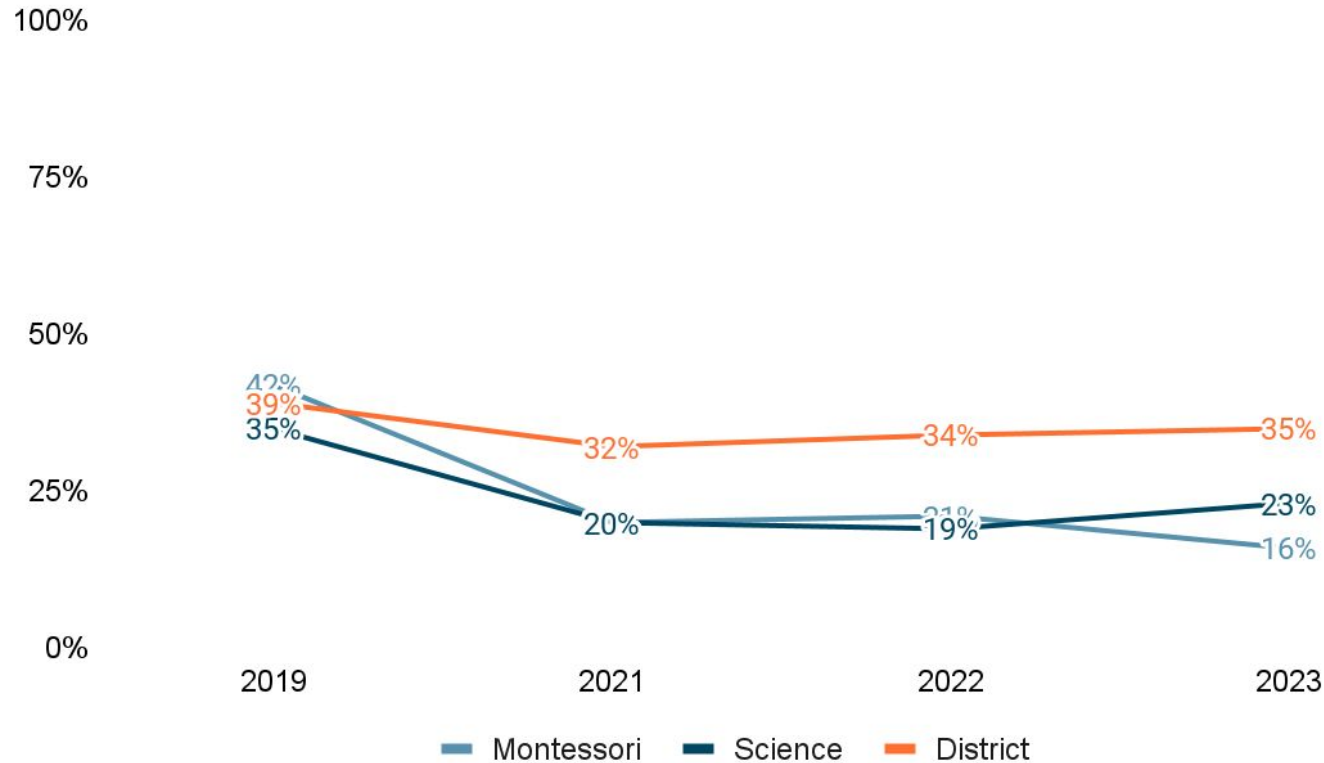
Consistent Attendance: Percent of students attending 90% or more from Q1-Q4



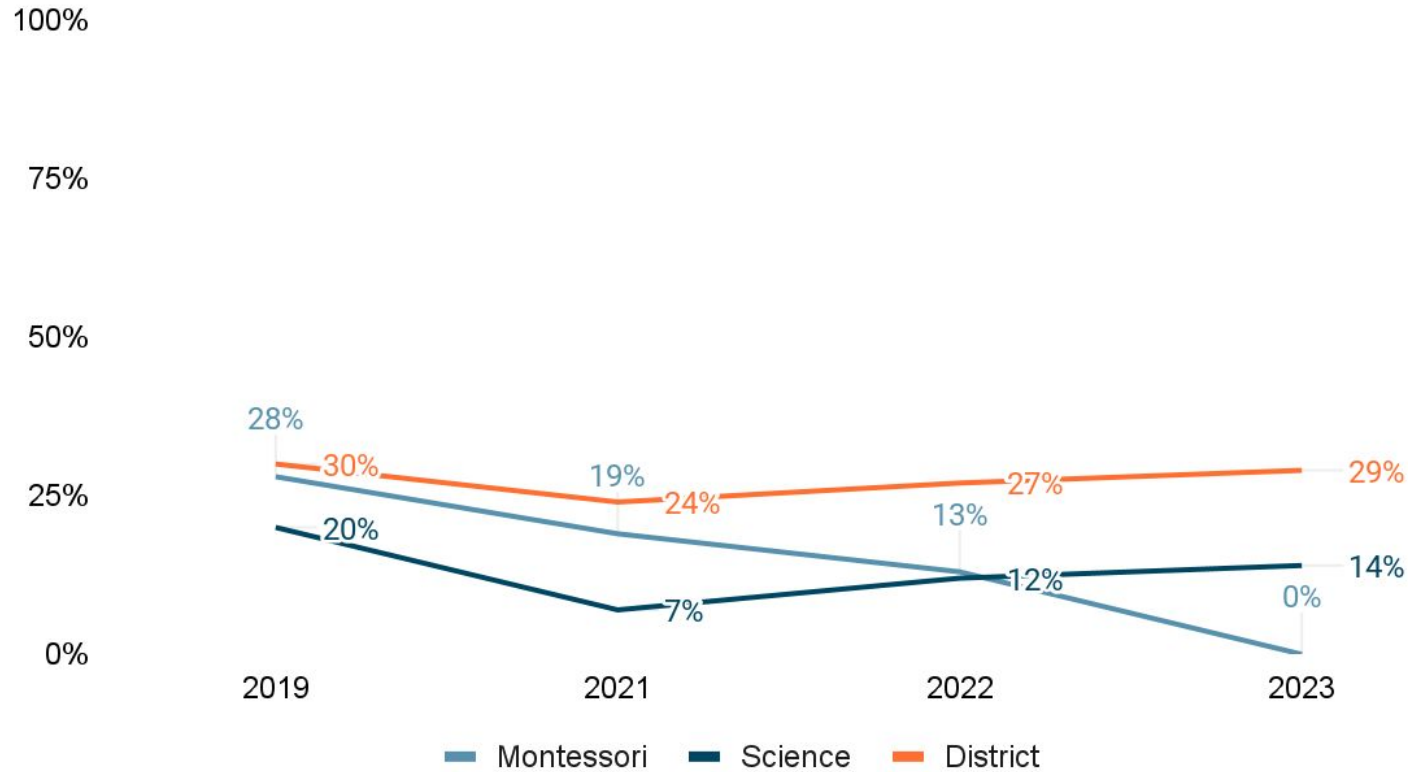
Percent Proficient, Math MCA/MTAS



Percent Proficient, Reading MCA/MTAS

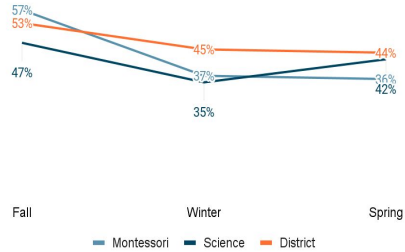


Percent Proficient, Science MCA/MTAS

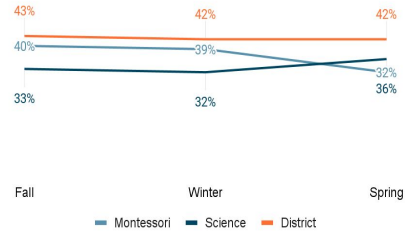


Percent of Students Scoring College Pathway/Low Risk, Fast aReading Grades 2-5

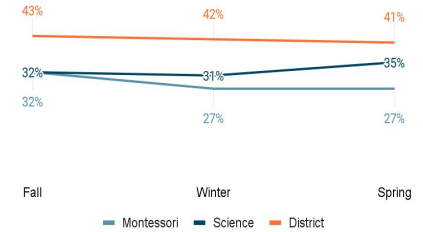
SY20-21



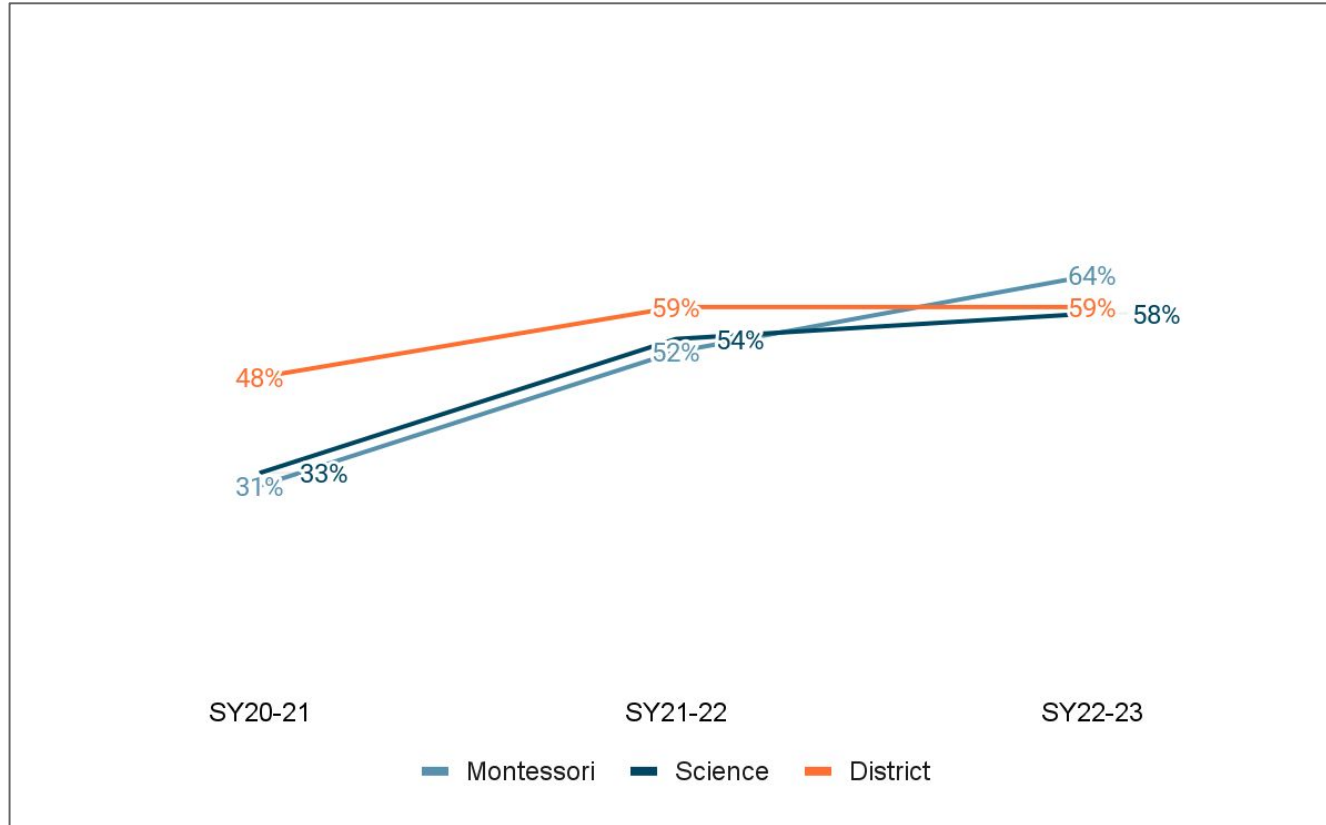
SY21-22



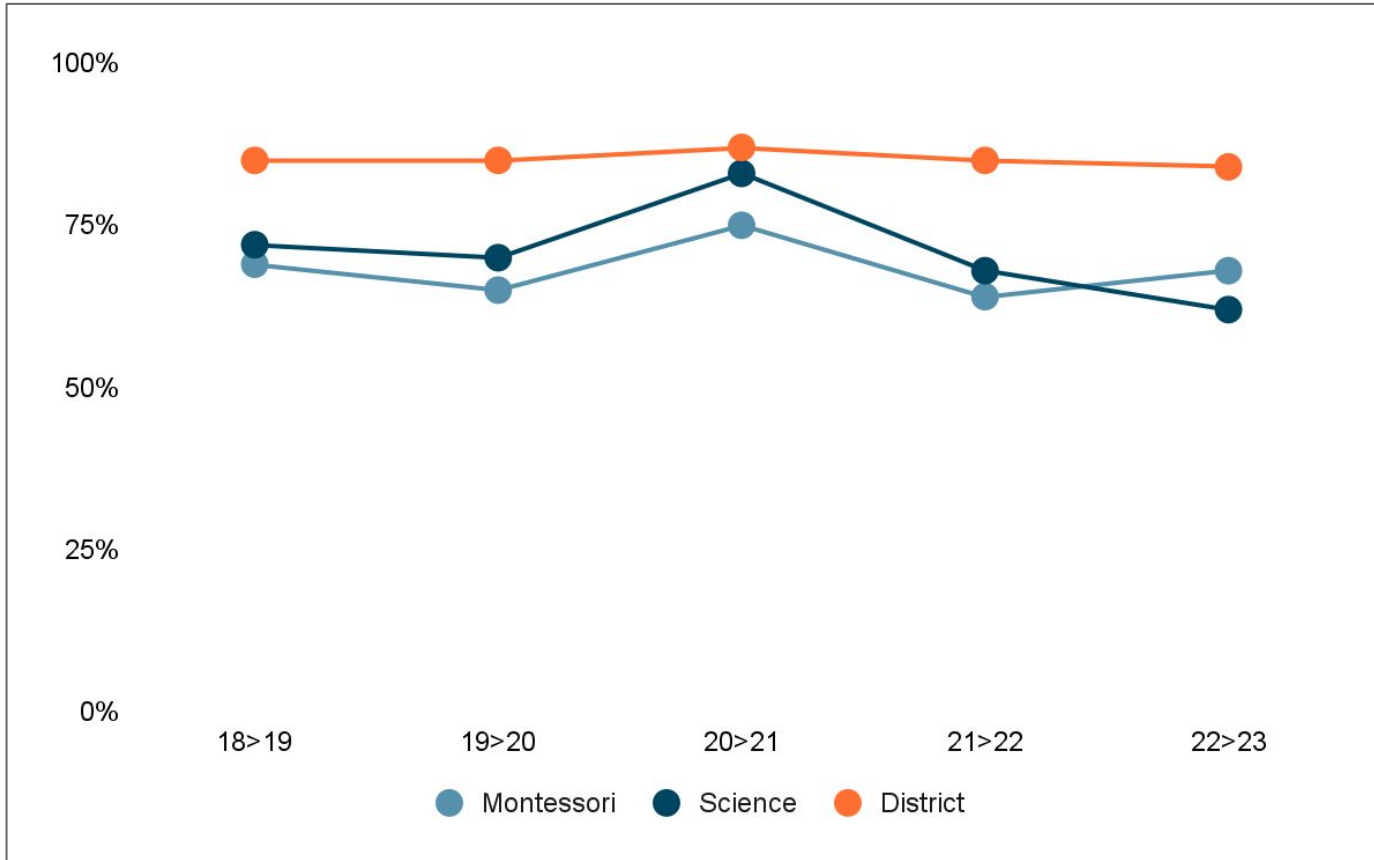
SY22-23



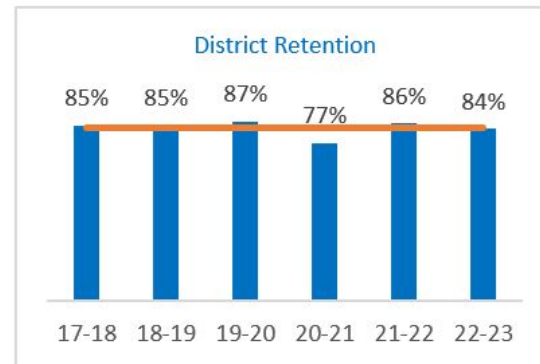
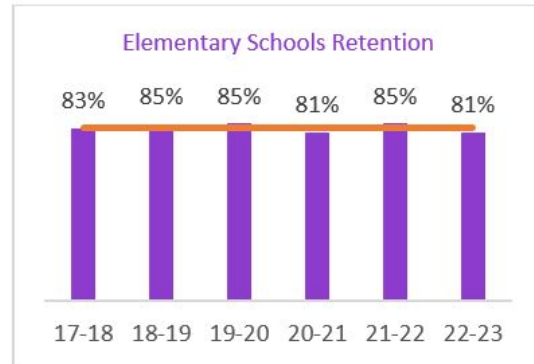
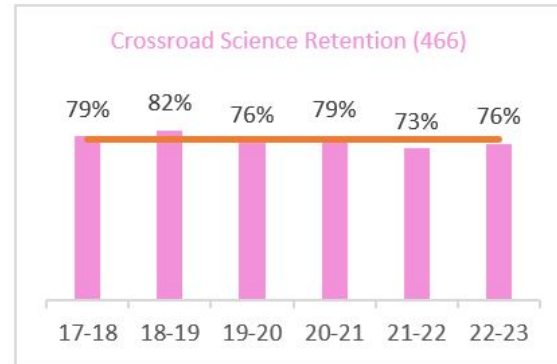
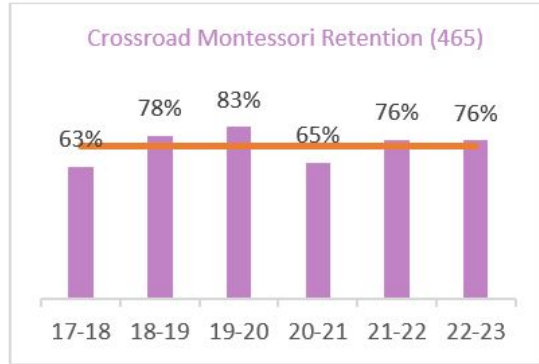
Percent of Students with Typical/Aggressive Growth in Fall to Spring, Fast aReading Grades 2-5



Continuation Rates, PK-4



Staff Retention



*Average: Crossroad Montessori 74%, Crossroad Science 78%, Elementary Schools 83%, District 84%

**Crossroads Montessori
and Crossroads Science:
Next Steps**

Next Steps

- March 19: BOE vote on Crossroads calendar to transition to traditional calendar
 - **NOTE: Science and Montessori programs will remain intact**
- Spring 2024 through spring 2025:
 - Support staff, families and students in transitioning to new schedule/calendar

QUESTIONS?



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Karen Culture and Language Workgroup

Karen Workgroup Members

1. Naw Bu, Wellstone Elementary, teacher
2. Lucas Blesser, SPPS staff
3. Tansini Detpraiwan, parent
4. Hsajune Dyan, Assistant Principal, Washington Technology Magnet
5. Kyaw Hoe, Midwest North, Chairman
6. Pawter Hsahtoo, Pastor and Chairperson, Nazareth Karen Baptist Churches
7. Nay Htoo, Karen Community of Minnesota, Vice Chairman
8. Hla Min, SPPS staff
9. Lighter Moo, SPPS staff
10. Nue Nu, Wellstone Elementary, teacher
11. Jeffry Saw, Humboldt High School, Educational Assistance; Karen Community of Minnesota, Chairman
12. Eh Tah Khu, Co-executive director of Karen Organization of Minnesota
13. George Thawmoo, Karen Parent Advisory Committee, Chair
14. Mischael Timothilay, Como Park High School
15. Saw Sunshine Timothy, Karen Cultural Specialist, Family Engagement & Community Partnerships
16. Hsacushee Zan, Educational Assistant on Special Assignment, Office of Multilingual Learning
17. Kawlahay Zan, SPPS Translation Services
18. Ehtalow Zar, SPPS staff

Karen Culture and Language Workgroup: Background

- Workgroup convened after Karen staff approached SPPS leadership about Karen elementary program to preserve language and culture
- Workgroup recommendations:
 - Karen Culture and Language Program (rather than Karen Language Program)
 - Wellstone Elementary as preferred location
- Opens fall 2024 with Kindergarten, will add grades in subsequent years
- Will create a K-12 Karen program pathway
 - Currently, four high schools offer Karen language classes: Como Park, Harding, Humboldt, and Washington Technology
 - Online Karen language classes available at all other district high schools
 - Starting fall 2024, two middle schools will offer Karen language classes at Humboldt and Washington Technology

Facilities Considerations

- Reviewed 5 potential sites for Karen program based on:
 - Proximity to density of Karen population
 - Capacity to co-locate program for next 3 years
 - Citywide busing

WELLSTONE

PROS

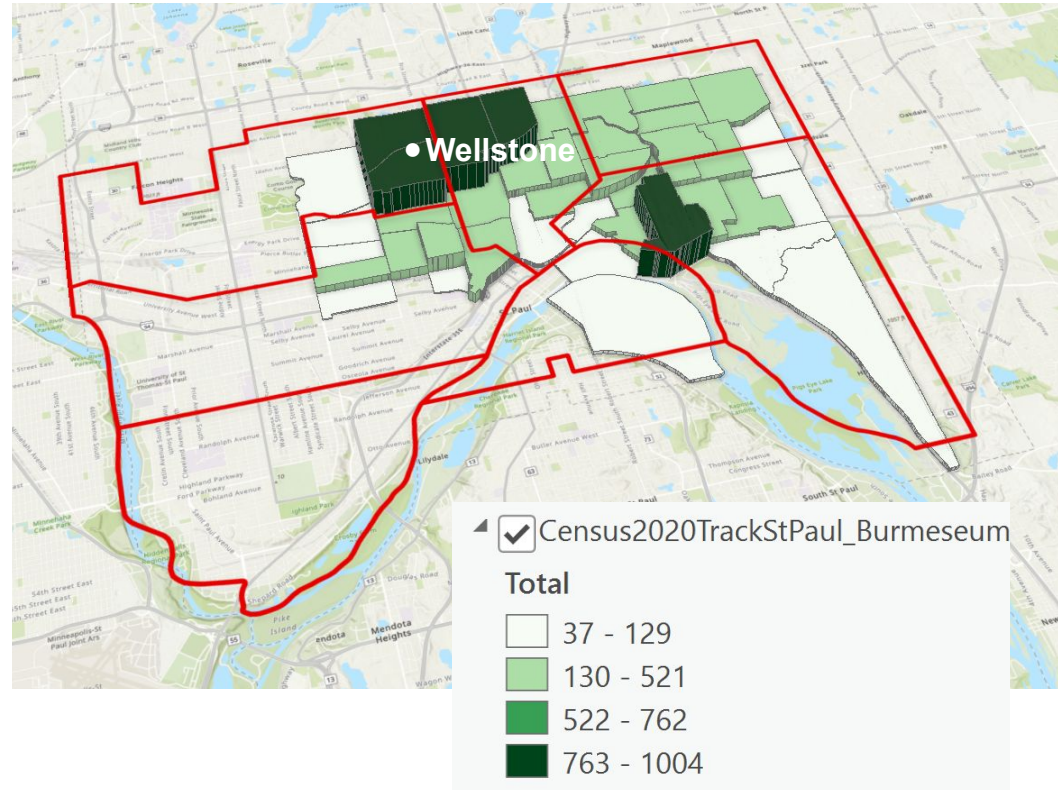
- Geographic location
- Underutilized space: 73% current building utilization
 - 3-6 classrooms potentially available
- No change to bus scheduling
- Karen staff already onsite

CONS

- Spaces currently assigned, would need to move programs around
- Projections for Fall '24 indicate some additional demand for classrooms

Where are Karen communities located in St. Paul by census data?

- The major Census Tracts according to the U.S. Census 2020 Decennial Census with more than significant numbers of Burmese alone or in any combination ancestry are located in the north end of St. Paul
- Totals include all ages of Burmese ancestry
- While significant clusters exist in Frogtown, Dayton's Bluff, and North End, a wide distribution of 1-10 students clusters are prominent across the north east neighborhoods of St. Paul



Next Steps: Marketing and Recruitment

Marketing and recruitment campaign to fill up to 2 Kindergarten sections = 48 students



**ကညီကျိန်တၢ်ရဲၣ်တၢ်ကျဲၤဖဲ
Wellstone တီၤဖျၢၣ်ကိၣ်**

အိၤထီၣ် သ့ၣ်လၢၣ်လီၤကတီၢ် ၂၀၂၄ ခုၣ်

တီၢ်တဖၣ် - အထီၣ်ကညီကျိန်တၢ်သိၣ်လီၤလၢ ခွဲၣ်အၣ်ကိၣ်တၢ်ကိၣ်ဖဲ ကိၣ်ဖဲတဖၣ်ကမၤလီၤသ့ၣ်လၢ ကညီကျိန် ဒီတၢ်ဆဲးတၢ်လၢန့ၣ်လီၤ

- ကညီကျိန်တၢ်ရဲၣ်တၢ်ကျဲၤကတၢၢ်သ့ၣ်လၢထီၣ်ထီၣ်တတီၢ်သ့ၣ်တတီၢ်လၢဆဲးသ့ၣ်လၢန့ၣ်လီၤလၢကတၢၢ်တဖၣ်
- တၢ်ဖဲတဖၣ်တဖၣ်သ့ၣ်လၢကတၢၢ်တၢ်ဟ့ၣ်ကိၣ်ဟ့ၣ်ကိၣ်သ့ၣ်လၢဆဲးတၢ်လၢန့ၣ်လီၤလၢကတၢၢ်တဖၣ်

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တၢ်လီၤတၢ်ကျဲၤ - 1041 Marion St., St. Paul
ကျိၣ်န့ၣ် - wellstone.spps.org

န့ၣ်ဆဲးတၢ်သ့ၣ်ကွၢ်တၢ်ဆဲး - ကညီကျိန်တၢ်ရဲၣ်တၢ်ကျဲၤန့ၣ်ဆဲးကျိၣ်-
 သရၣ်စၢၤတၢ်ဆဲး, ၆၅၁-၇၄၄-၆၅၂ မတဖၢ် ၆၅၁-၇၂၀-၂၈၆၅
sawsunshine.timothy@spps.org

သရၣ်ကွၢ်မနံၣ်, ၆၅၁-၇၄၄-၅၁၅ မတဖၢ် ၆၅၁-၇၄၀-၁၅၁၅
jeffry.saw@spps.org

န့ၣ်ဆဲးတၢ်သ့ၣ်ကွၢ်တၢ်ဆဲး - တၢ်ဆဲးလီၤမံၤလၢ ကညီကျိန် တၢ်ရဲၣ်
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poe.htoo@spps.org

**Karen Program at Wellstone Elementary
Opening fall 2024**

Grades: Starting with Kindergarten where students will learn about the Karen language and culture.

- The Karen program will expand to additional grades in future years.
- Families are encouraged to enroll in all grades from Pre-K to 5th Grade.

Transportation: Free citywide busing
School hours: 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Address: 1041 Marion St., St. Paul
School website: wellstone.spps.org

Questions about the program:
 Saw Sunshine Timothy (Karen speaker), 651-744-6282 or 612-720-2865,
sawsunshine.timothy@spps.org
 Jeffrey Saw (Karen speaker), 651-744-5172 or 612-240-1519, jeffry.saw@spps.org

Questions about how to enroll in the program:
 Poe Htoo (Karen speaker), poe.htoo@spps.org, 651-632-3716 or 651-325-2760

ဆဲးလီၤမံၤတနံၣ်အံၤဖဲ (Enroll today) - apply.spps.org



Next Steps: Curriculum Development

- Phased curriculum development:

Suggested Phasing in of Program (subject to change)		
Phase 1: Year 1	Phase 2: Year 2	Phase 3: Year 3
Specialist Enrichment through a Karen language class	Specialist Enrichment (# is dependent on enrollment; ideas include Karen language class, art, and performing arts, physical education)	Integration of Culture and Language (phase in by grade level or content)

QUESTIONS?



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

African American Program Workgroup

African American Program Workgroup: Purpose Statement

Determine how SPPS can provide a well-rounded and sustainable elementary program focused on the African American experience, history, and culture while partnering with families to increase the educational outcomes and long-term success of African American students.

African American Workgroup Members

1. Chauntyll Allen, SPPS Board of Education, Director
2. Mary K. Boyd
3. Emmanuel Donaby, St. Paul City School, Director of Community Education
4. Zuki Ellis
5. Gevonee Ford, Network for the Development of Children of African Descent
6. Jeanelle Foster
7. Corey Frazier, Freedom School
8. Marcus Freeman, Capitol Hill Gifted & Talented Magnet, SPPS principal
9. Sharon Freeman
10. Dr. Darlene Fry, Irreducible Grace Foundation
11. Carita Green, Executive Director, College and Career Pathways and School Supports, SPPS
12. Dr. Darcel Hill, Freedom School
13. Yusef Mgeni, NAACP NAACP - Education Committee
 - Julie Borgerding
 - Dr. Cheryl Chatman
14. Patricia Pratt-Cook, Executive Chief of Human Resources, SPPS
16. Kea Sparkman, School Counselor, AGAPE High School
17. Tyrone Terrill, African American Leadership Council; African American Leadership Council - Education Committee:
 - Shantell Hutchinson
 - Dr. Tamara Mattison
 - Aquanetta Speed
18. Dr. Kenneth Turner, Benjamin E. Mays International Baccalaureate, SPPS principal
19. Erica Valliant, SPPS Board of Education, Director

African American Program Workgroup: Background

- Researching local and national Afrocentric programs for best practices to inform programming
 - Children's Defense Fund - Freedom School
 - Met with local and national leaders to explore potential partnership agreement
 - Harvest Best Academy
- Location and timeline still being determined
 - Location informed by 70% African American student population criteria
 - Timeline informed by bargaining unit contractual obligation; program likely to open either fall 2024 or 2025

Next Steps

- Identify program location
- Determine when program will open
- Identify curriculum and professional development needs and timeline
- Outline budget

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!