



**Saint Paul**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# **SPPS Program/Initiative Updates and Transitions**

## **Board of Education**

Jackie Turner, Executive Chief Administration and Operations

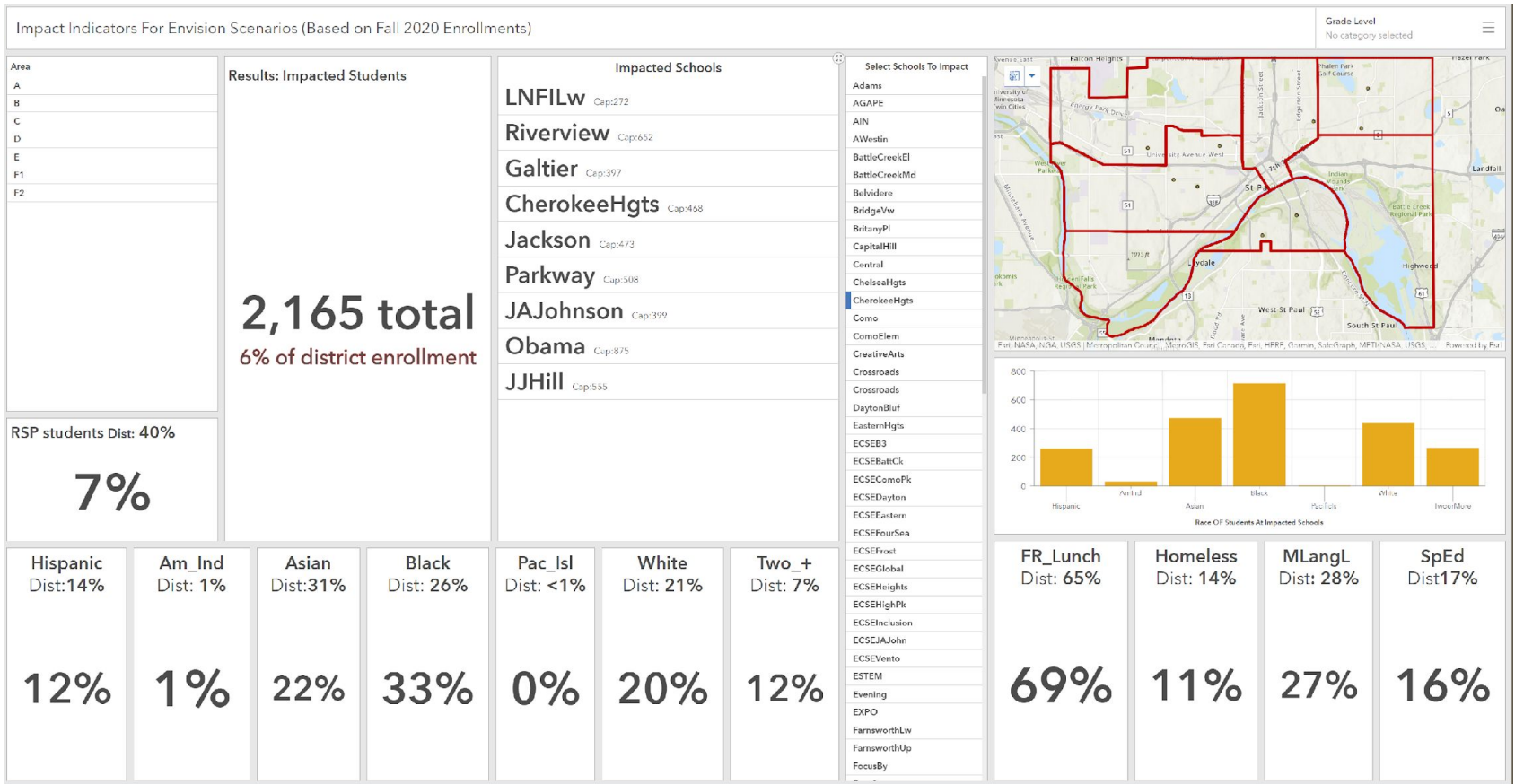
January 23, 2024

# New Program and Initiative Updates

- Phase 1: Envision SPPS: Well-rounded Education
- Phase 2: Envision SPPS: Growing Enrollment
  - Bruce Vento
  - Enrollment/Retention Campaign
  - East African Elementary Magnet School
  - Prekindergarten
- Phase 3: Onward SPPS: Innovating with Community
  - African American Program Workgroup
  - Flexible Calendar Year Workgroup
  - Karen Culture and Language Workgroup
  - Txuj Ci Facilities Committee

**PHASE 1:**  
**Envision SPPS**

# Total Systemic Impact



# BOE Vote December 1, 2021

- **11 school programs expanded or changed** due to parent requests or program consolidations
  - Bruce Vento
  - Cherokee Heights
  - Galtier
  - Hamline
  - J.J. Hill
  - LNFI Lower
  - LNFI Upper
  - Maxfield
  - Parkway
  - Phalen
  - Riverview
- **1 high school pathway change** due to neighborhood expansion: Capitol Hill
- **6 sites** available for future programs, community partnerships, early childhood expansion or temporary space during construction, or other district needs
  - Galtier
  - Obama
  - J.A. Johnson
  - Jackson
  - J.J. Hill
  - LNFI Lower

# BOE Vote December 1, 2021

**Galtier:** Merged at Hamline; now Early Childhood Hub West

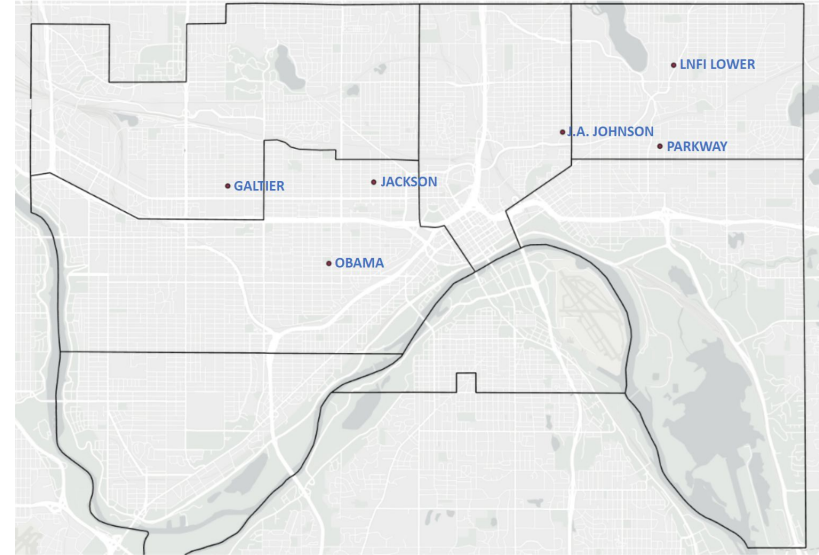
**J.A. Johnson:** Merged at Bruce Vento; now houses LEAP

**Jackson:** Community School moved to Maxfield and Hmong program moved to Phalen/Txuj Ci; site now houses East African Elementary

**LNFI Lower:** Merged at LNFI Upper; now Early Childhood Hub East

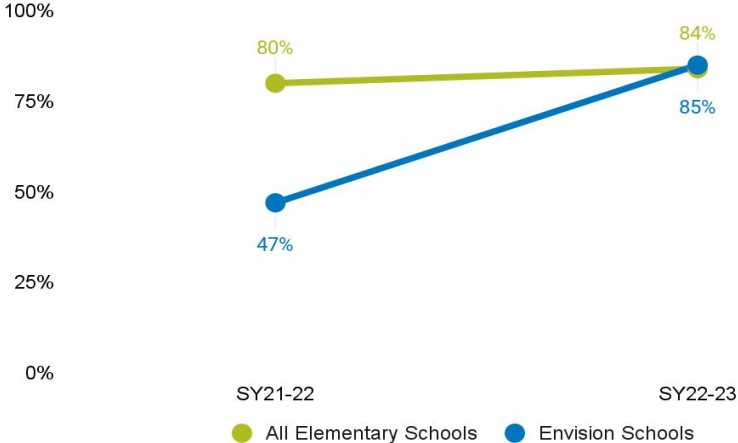
**Obama:** Closed; will reopen with two programs: Montessori PK-5 (JJ Hill) and separate 6-8 middle school

**Parkway:** Closed; now the Upper Campus for Txuj Ci Hmong Language and Culture

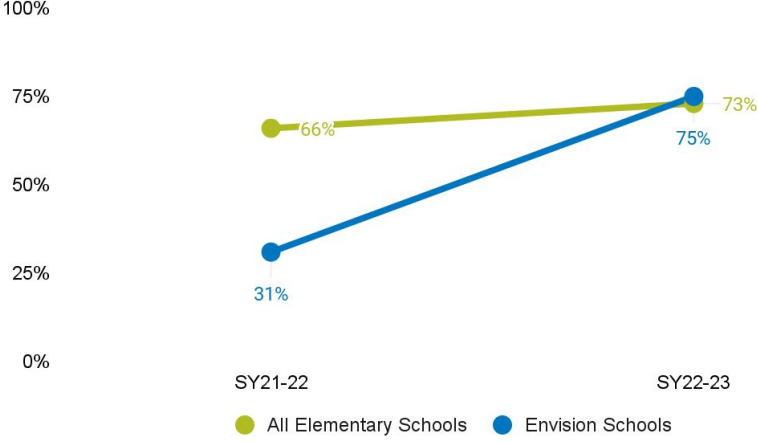


# Sustainable Enrollment

The Percent of Elementary Students at Sustainable (#>250) increased due to Envision SPPS



The Percent of Elementary School Buildings with more than 250 Students Increased due to Envision SPPS



# Continued Monitoring

- Highwood Hills Elementary: 1 of 6 Enrollment Campaign schools
- LEAP: This past fall, moved to JA Johnson site
- Wellstone Elementary: Status remains as co-located program with Spanish Dual Language Immersion and Biosmart



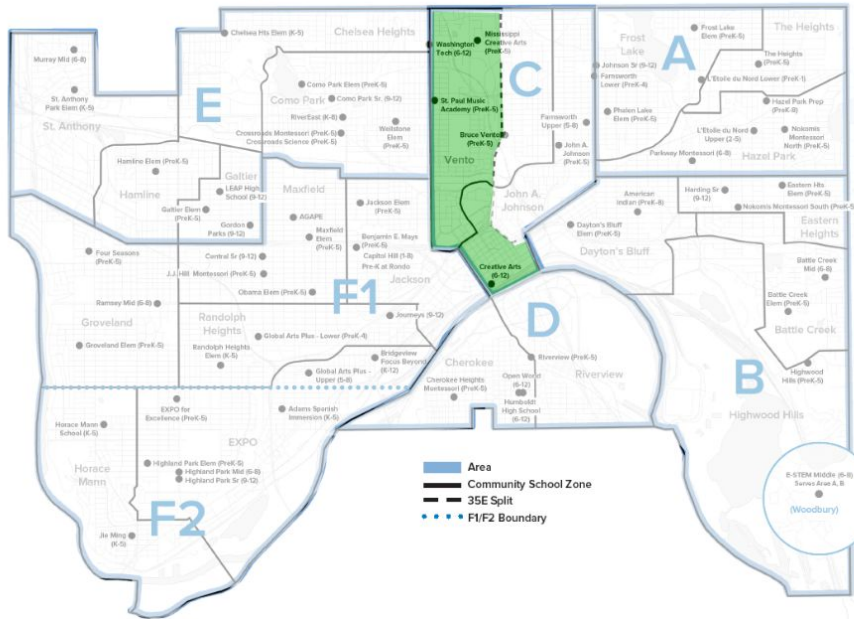
**PHASE 2:**  
**Growing Enrollment**

# Bruce Vento Elementary - New building opening fall 2025

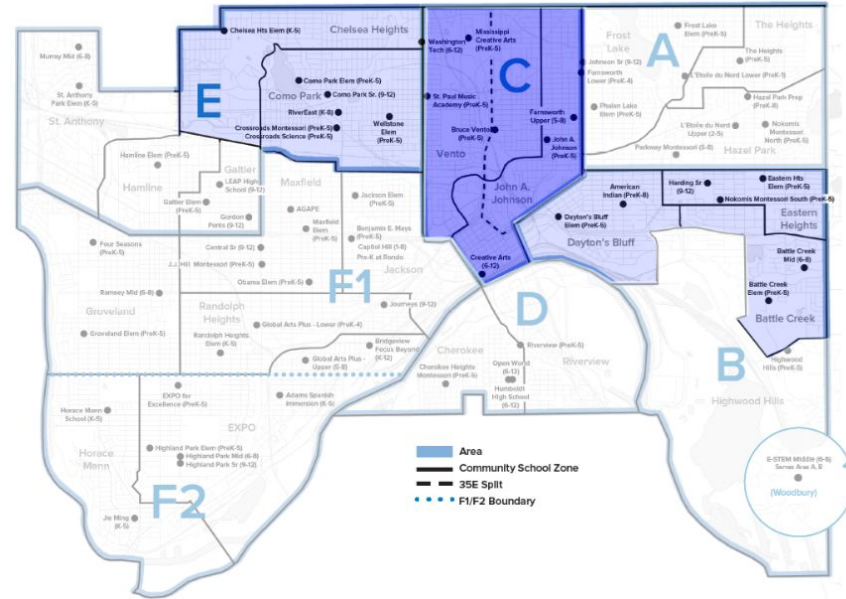


# Bruce Vento - Magnet Program Focus

Enrollment area  
(Pre-Envision SPPS)



SY25-26 Magnet Area  
(dark blue is current enrollment area; light blue will be expanded enrollment area)



# East African Elementary Magnet School

- Location: 437 Edmund Ave. W.  
(former Jackson Elementary)
- Opened September 2023
- Program focus: East African cultures and languages
- PreK-5 grades
  - Adding 6th grade fall 2024



**East African countries in orange:**  
Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia,  
Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan,  
South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda

# School Enrollment and Retention Campaign SY23-24

## Participating Schools:

1. Cherokee Heights
2. Dayton's Bluff
3. Hamline
4. Highwood Hills
5. Txuj Ci Upper Campus
6. Riverview  
Spanish/English Dual  
Immersion

## Resources provided:

- \$20K discretionary marketing budget per school
- Plus: Contractors to assist with campaign development and implementation
  - Engaging branded marketing materials
  - Focus on stellar “customer experience” via school tours
  - Building community partnerships
  - 12-month social media ads to generate leads
  - Enrollment school web microsites to generate leads
  - Marketing training for staff

# Family Exit Survey SY22-23 | Response rate: 11% (N=250)

TOP REASONS	%
Moved	18%
Moved to a charter school	14%
Generally feeling unsafe	13%
School poorly managed behavior	11%
Issues with transportation	11%
Academic needs not met	10%
Other reasons	23%

# PreKindergarten Expansion

- **Goal:** Expand access to quality Pre-K programming with long-term goal of retaining 75% of Pre-K students
  - Address SPPS' Pre-K waitlist of 800+ (January 2023)
- **Head Start partnership:**
  - Mixed-delivery program model; aligned with State's and City's investment in early learning
  - Capacity for 80 additional new students: Eastern Heights; Highwood Hills, EXPO
- **Nature Discovery program**
  - Unique, fee-based Pre-K program sets itself apart from free Pre-K offering
  - Families who meet qualifications have fees supplemented via School Readiness funds

# Nature Discovery Pre-Kindergarten





# Secondary (9-12) Programs for Student Retention

## Expansion of World Language Courses

- Continuation of Karen 1 and Karen for Karen speakers
- Addition of Karen 2 and Karen 2 for Karen Speakers
- Addition of Somali 1 and Somali for Somali Speakers

## 3DE by Junior Achievement

- Innovative high school curriculum bringing professionals from high-demand industries into the classroom for project-based learning and case studies
- Launching at Washington Tech and Como Senior in Fall of 2024
- First district in Minnesota to offer this program

## Career Pathways

- Courses in high wage, in-demand career fields at all high schools
- Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Hands-on experience in popular trades
- Industry-recognized certifications

## Investment in Yellow Buses

- Continue to provide yellow bus service to high schools (exceptions: Creative Arts, Johnson)

**PHASE 3:**  
**Onward SPPS**

# Workgroups Currently in Planning Phase: Draft Objectives

## **African American Program Workgroup**

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.

## **Flexible Calendar Year Workgroup**

Review key data related to a year-round calendar to assess its impact on students, staff, families, and overall program effectiveness.

## **Karen Culture and Language Workgroup**

Determine how to provide an elementary Karen culture and language program through a co-location with another program while also considering the potential for expansion.

## **Txuj Ci Facilities Committee**

Find a long-term, feasible facilities solution for accommodating Txuj Ci's PreK-8 enrollment growth, and the need for a large gathering/performance space for school and community events, focused on community cohesion and identity sought by the Txuj Ci community. While the long-term home is being implemented, this group will provide input on the interim location(s).

# Next Steps: Onward SPPS

- Continue to meet with workgroups to develop findings and determine timeline for program changes and/or implementation
- Periodic update to Board of Education and community

**THANK YOU!**