

School Consolidation Recommended Plan

Board of Education Work Session
January 27, 2025



School Consolidation Work Sessions

JAN 6

Recommended Plan

- Why Consolidation
- Framework
- Overview of Recommended Plan
- Buildings Timeline

JAN 13

Buildings & Process

- Redistricting
- Transportation
- Building Capacities & Classrooms
- Repurposing Buildings
- Staffing Impacts

JAN 27

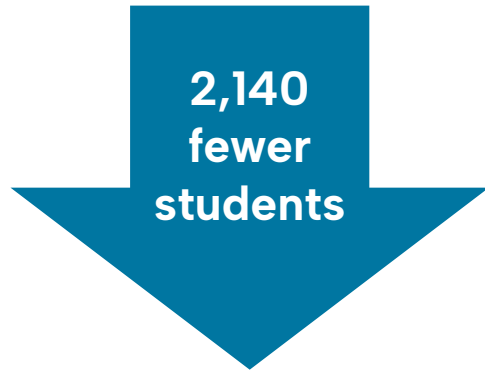
Impacts to Students & Instruction

- Consolidation Recap
- Transition Support
- Academic Improvements
- Student Support Services
- Educational Options & Opportunities
- Special Education Impacts
- Revitalize

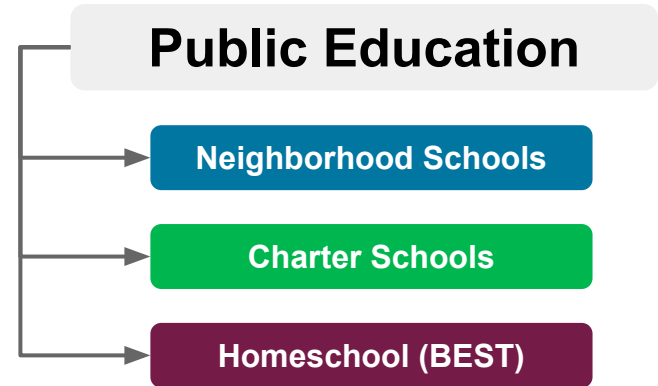
School consolidation is a necessary step to align resources with enrollment, ensuring our schools remain strong, sustainable, and focused on delivering the best education for every student.

Why School Consolidation

Declining population and enrollment: The Borough population has seen a population decline, due to both a fall in birth rates and an outward migration of residents. Over the past 20 years, student enrollment in the school district has fallen 15% (2,140 students from FY04 to FY24) while the number of school buildings has increased.



*That's the same as 6
regular-sized
elementary schools!*



Why School Consolidation

Reduced public education funding: Public education funding has lagged behind inflation. There has not been a meaningful increase to the per student funding amount in 10 years.



The diagram consists of three colored rectangular boxes arranged horizontally. The first box is red and contains the white text '\$5,960'. A large, stylized arrow points from this box to the second box, which is green and contains the white text '\$7,769'. To the right of the green box is a third box, which is yellow and contains the white text '\$1,808'. Below each box is a line of explanatory text.

\$5,960

Current per student funding. In the last 10 years it's been increased \$30 in FY2024 and \$50 in FY2017.

\$7,769

What the per student funding would be if it had kept up with inflation since FY2011.

\$1,808

How much less the Base Student Allocation (BSA) is this year than if it had kept up with inflation.

Phase 1
Spring
2024 - Now

Community Feedback
Survey and focus groups are used to gather input from families, students, staff, and community members.

Phase 2
August -
November
2024

Community Facility Team
Reviews feedback to determine educational direction and craft school consolidation framework.

Phase 3
November -
December
2024

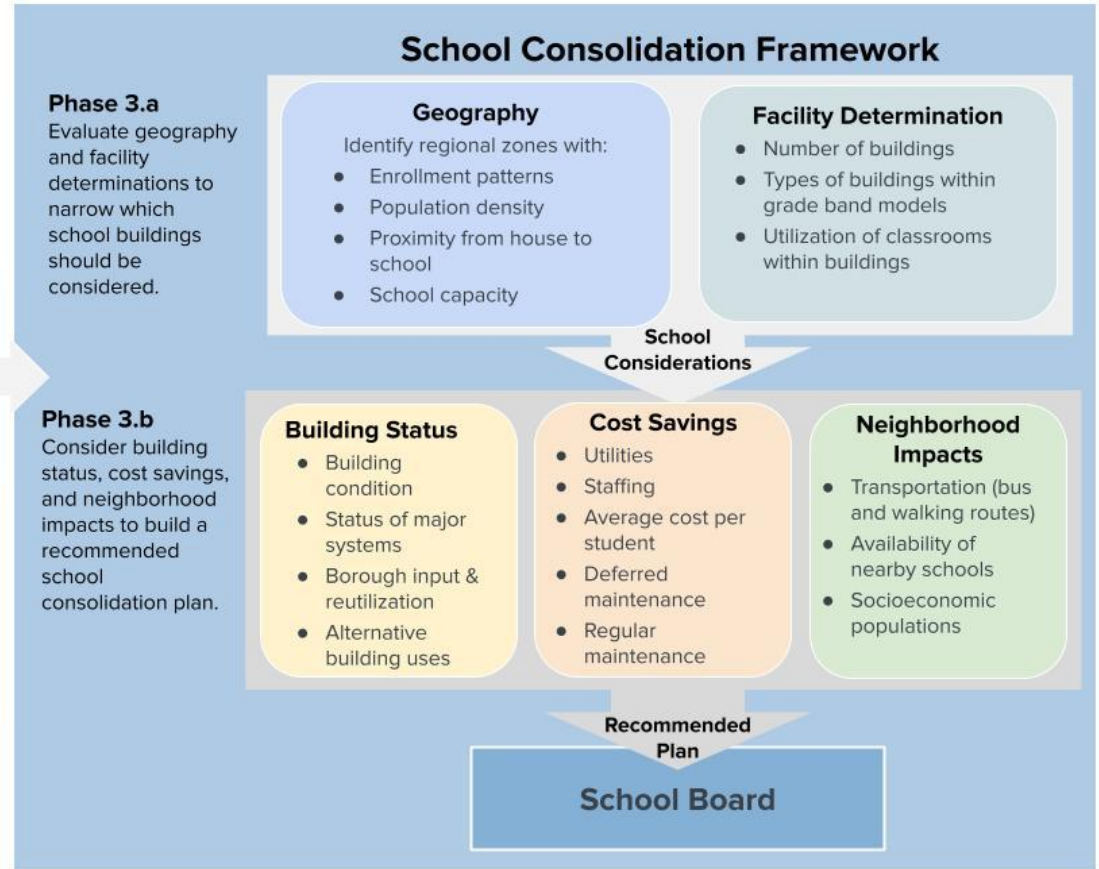
District Administration
Works through framework to determine a recommended plan.

Phase 4
January -
February
2025

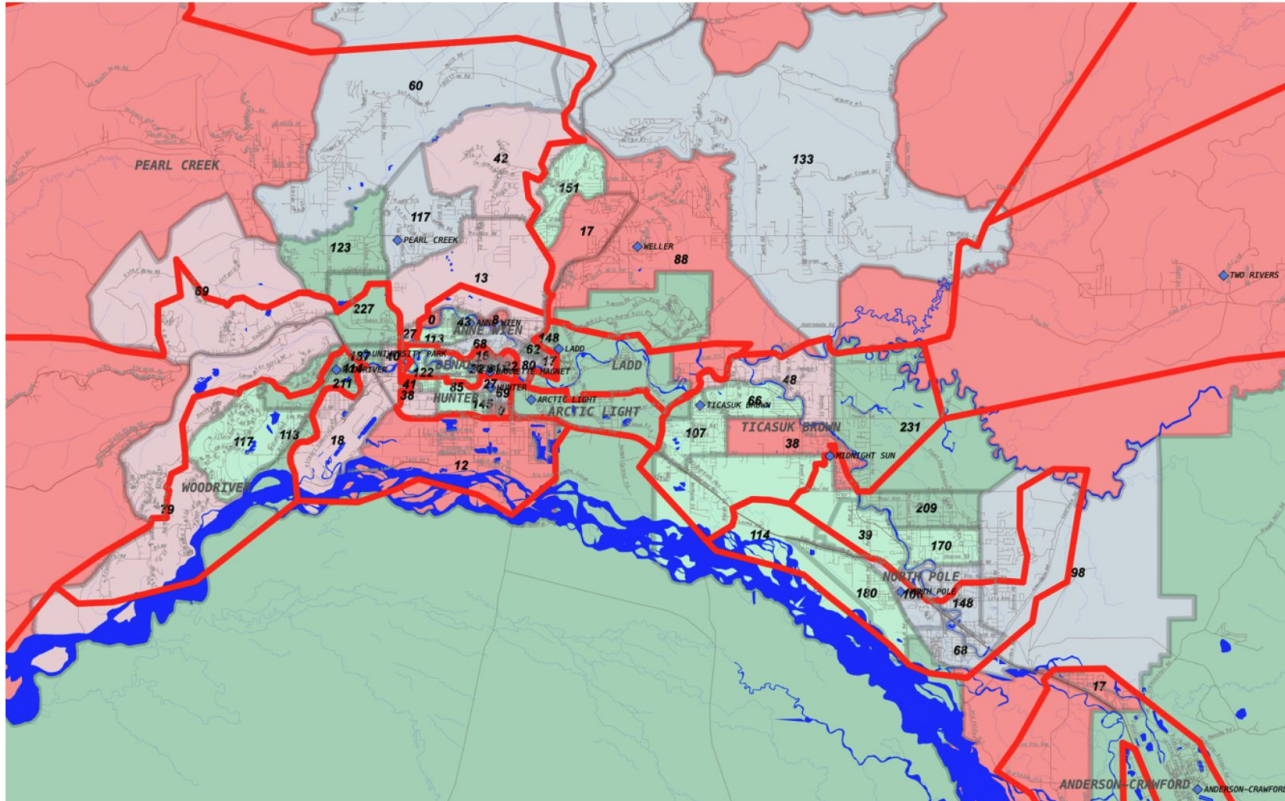
School Board
Reviews the process and information gathered, listens to public testimony, and makes the final decision on school consolidation.

Phase 5
February -
June 2025

School Consolidation
District team works with impacted school communities throughout the transition process.



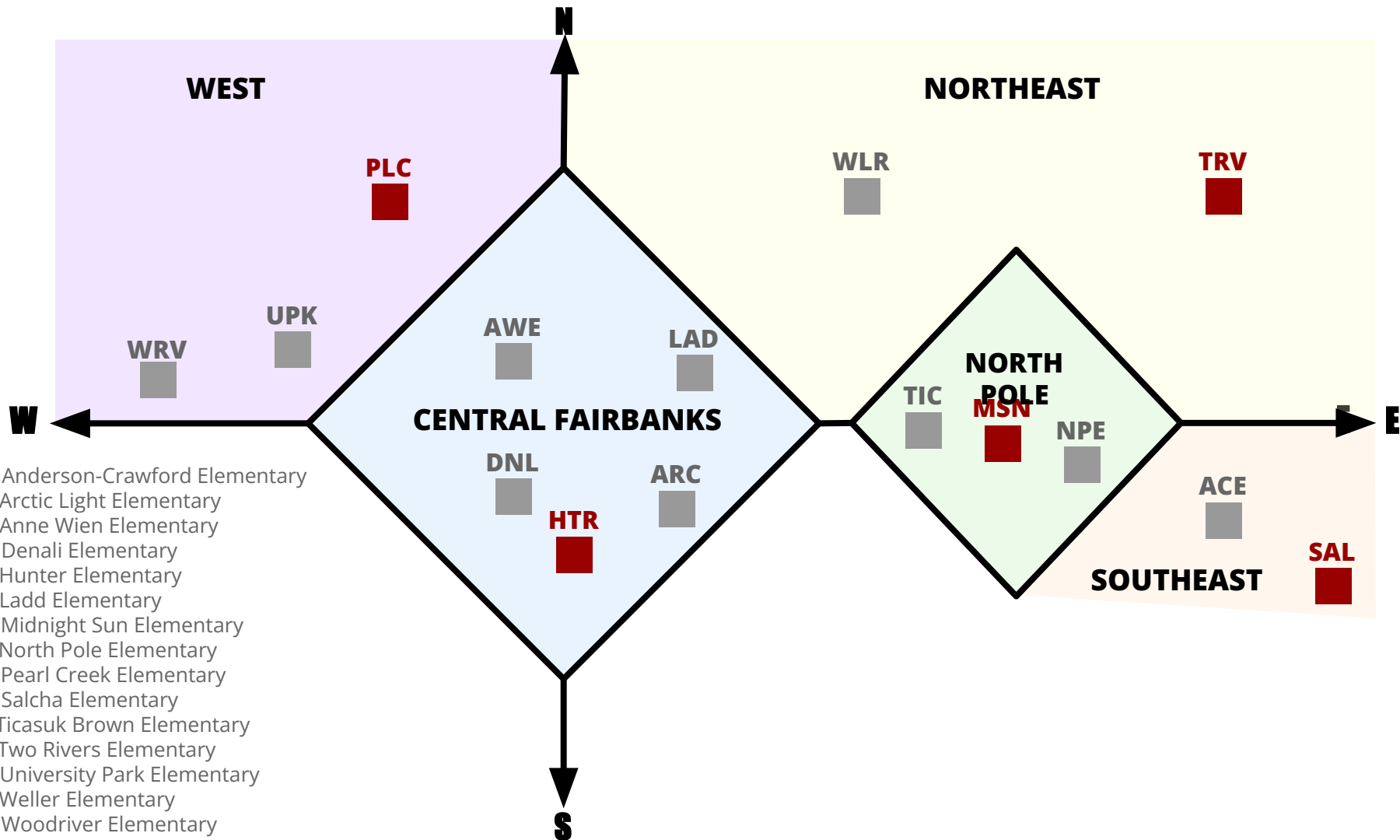
Age 0-4 Population Density



Age 0-4 Population Density

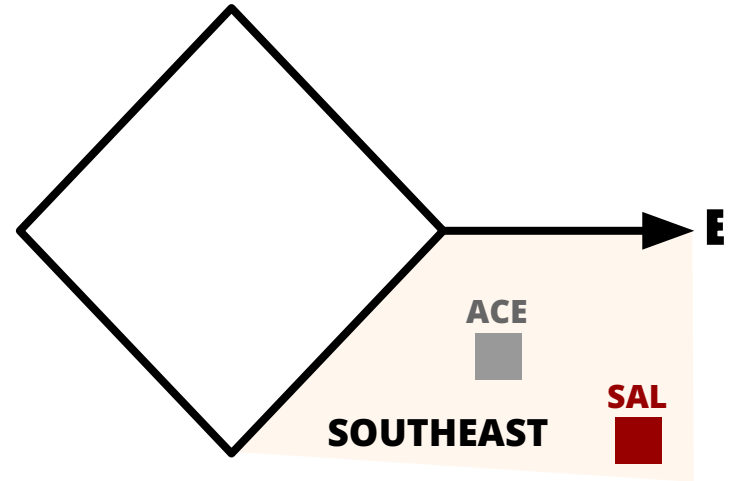
School	Age 0-4 Count	Total Score*	Observations
Anderson-Crawford Elementary	426	10	Most viable based on age 0-4 population density
University Park Elementary	187	10	
Woodriver Elementary	211	10	
Ticasuk Brown Elementary	107	9	
Arctic Light Elementary	N/A	8	Viable based on age 0-4 population density
Ladd Elementary		8	
North Pole Elementary	106	8	
Midnight Sun Elementary	114	7	
Pearl Creek Elementary	117	6	
Anne Wien Elementary	43	5	Less viable based on age 0-4 population density
Denali Elementary	85	5	
Hunter Elementary	27	5	
Barnette Magnet	31	4	
Weller Elementary	88	4	
Two Rivers Elementary	N/A	2	
Salcha Elementary		2	

**Total score based on age 0-4 density near building location and adjacent areas without a school.*



- ACE:** Anderson-Crawford Elementary
- ARC:** Arctic Light Elementary
- AWE:** Anne Wien Elementary
- DNL:** Denali Elementary
- HTR:** Hunter Elementary
- LAD:** Ladd Elementary
- MSN:** Midnight Sun Elementary
- NPE:** North Pole Elementary
- PLC:** Pearl Creek Elementary
- SAL:** Salcha Elementary
- TIC:** Ticasuk Brown Elementary
- TRV:** Two Rivers Elementary
- UPK:** University Park Elementary
- WLR:** Weller Elementary
- WRV:** Woodriver Elementary

Southeast Region



Southeast Region

The school closed in the Southeast Region is **Salcha Elementary**.

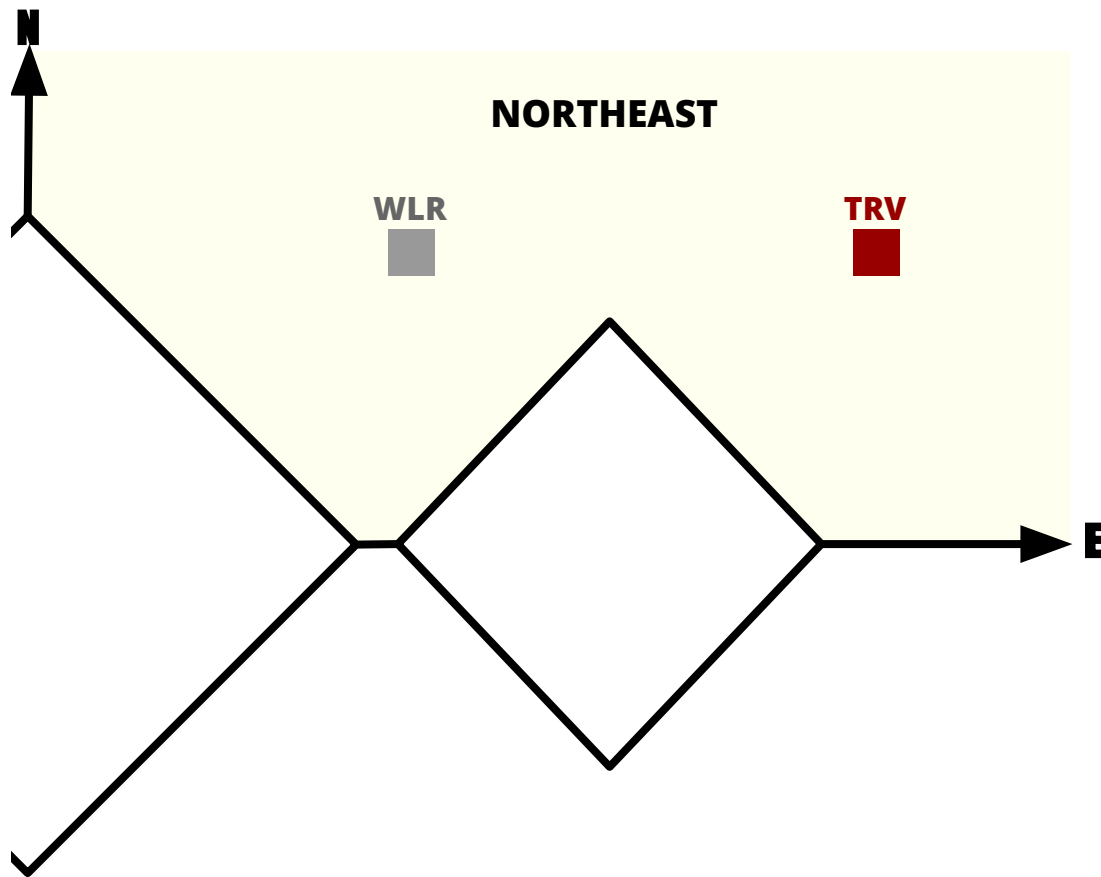
Key Considerations for Closure:

- **Enrollment:** Low and declining student numbers. **47 students impacted.**
- **Nearby Capacity:** Anderson-Crawford Elementary has the capacity to accommodate Salcha students. **191 seats available at Anderson-Crawford Elementary.**
- **Staffing:** Persistent challenges in recruiting and retaining staff.
- **Transportation:** Minimal impact on transportation routes. **The same number of bus routes are needed to transport students.**
- **Cost Efficiency:** High cost per student compared to district averages. **\$21,250 per student compared to the approximate average per student cost of \$11,000.**

Projected Savings: \$1.0 million

Transition Plan: Students will transfer to Anderson-Crawford Elementary (**47 students**).

Northeast Region



Northeast Region

The school closed in the Northeast Region is **Two Rivers Elementary**.

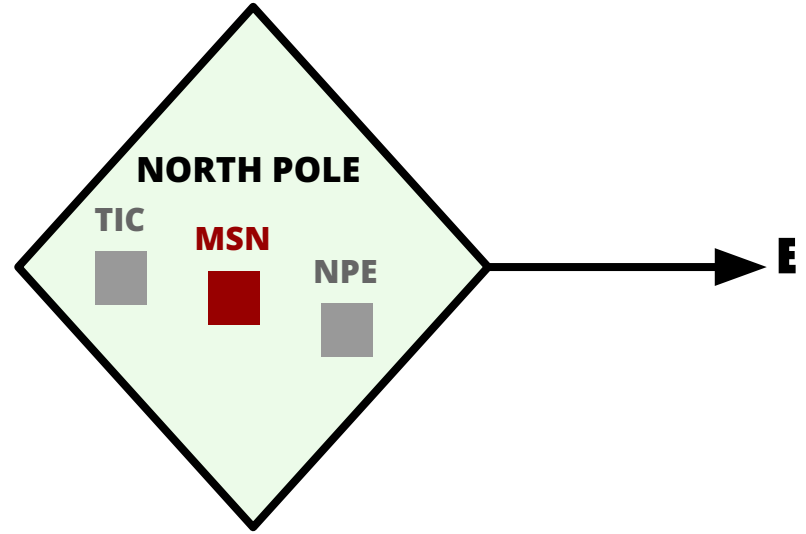
Key Considerations for Closure:

- **Enrollment:** Low and declining student numbers. **56 students impacted.**
- **Nearby Capacity:** Weller Elementary (K-5) and Tanana Middle School (6-8) can accommodate students from Two Rivers.
- **Staffing:** Persistent challenges in recruiting and retaining staff.
- **Transportation:** Minimal impact on transportation routes. **The same number of bus routes are needed to transport students.**
- **Cost Efficiency:** High cost per student compared to district averages. **\$22,300 per student compared to the approximate average elementary per student cost of \$11,000.**

Projected Savings: \$1.1 million

Transition Plan: Students will transfer to Weller Elementary (**33 students**) and Tanana Middle (**23 students**).

North Pole Region



North Pole Region

The school closed in the North Pole Region is **Midnight Sun Elementary**.

Key Considerations for Closure:

- **Geography:** Midnight Sun Elementary is located between North Pole Elementary and Ticasuk Brown Elementary. Geography-wise, closing the school in the middle minimizes student displacement.
- **Nearby Capacity:** North Pole Elementary (**181 seats**) and Ticasuk Brown Elementary (**212 seats**) have room for Midnight Sun Elementary students while still keeping them in the North Pole community and feeder system.
- **Minimizing Impacted Students:** Closing Ticasuk Brown Elementary and keeping students in the North Pole feeder system would have meant moving about half of Midnight Sun Elementary students to North Pole Elementary so there would be enough room at Midnight Sun for Ticasuk Brown Elementary students. **This would impact approximately 165 more students than the recommended plan.**

North Pole Elementary

North Pole Elementary has many students who walk to school. If it were to close, those students would need to take the bus, which would cost more money. Also, the North Pole area has seen the most population growth, so keeping the school open will help serve more students in the future.

- **Minimizing Impact to Economically Disadvantaged Students:** Closing Midnight Sun Elementary impacts **116 students** who are economically disadvantaged. Closing Ticasuk Brown Elementary would impact **196 students** at both Ticasuk Brown Elementary and Midnight Sun Elementary.
- **Room for Growth:** There is a better balance of school capacity with Ticasuk Brown Elementary and North Pole Elementary as the remaining North Pole area schools.

	Midnight Sun Elementary (MSN)		Ticasuk Brown Elementary (TIC)		North Pole Elementary		
	DEC 2024	TIC CLOSED	DEC 2024	MSN CLOSED	DEC 2024	MSN CLOSED	TIC CLOSED
Enrollment	325	515	344	505	314	472	473
Seats Available	212	22	212	51	181	23	22
% Capacity	61%	96%	62%	91%	63%	95%	96%

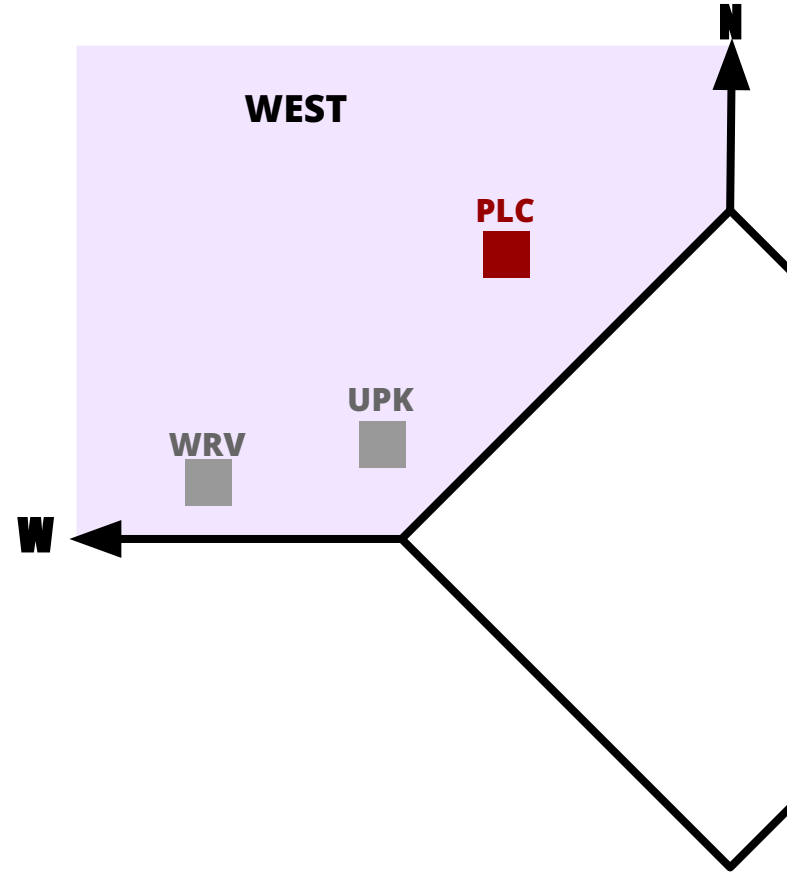
*Includes impact of all recommended school closures
Enrollment numbers as of December 6, 2024

- **Transportation:** Minimal impact on transportation routes. **The same number of bus routes are needed to transport students.**

Projected Savings: \$1.5 million

Transition Plan: Students will transfer to North Pole Elementary (**127 students**) and Ticasuk Brown Elementary (**103 students**).

West Region



West Region

The school closed in the West Region is **Pearl Creek Elementary**.

Key Considerations for Closure:

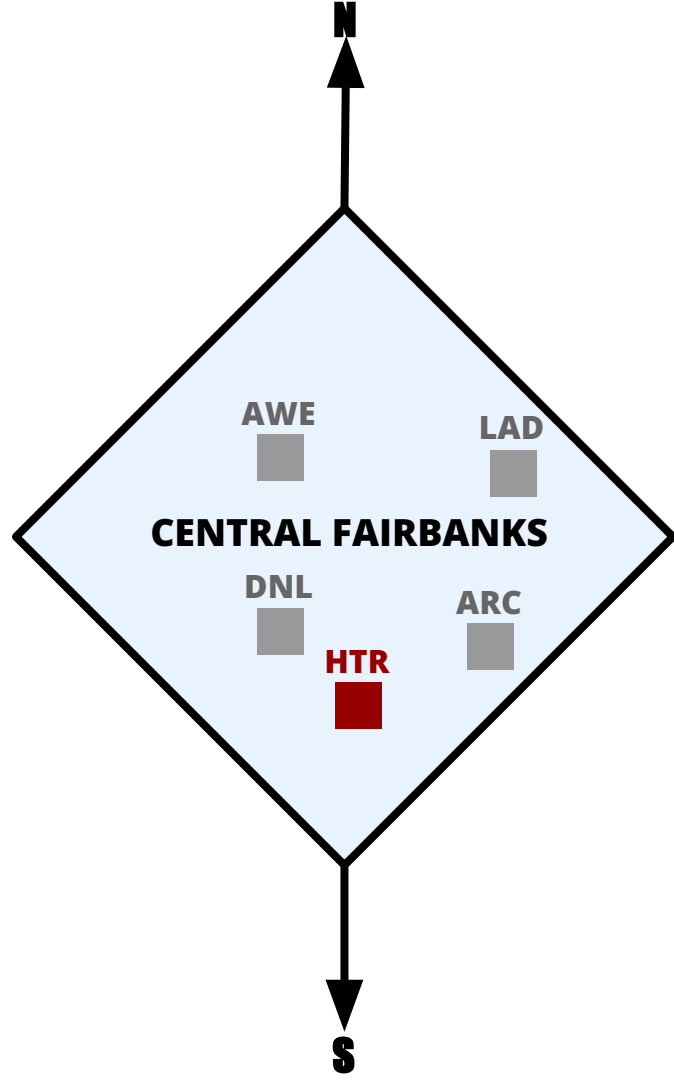
- **Minimal Transportation Impact:** Only **36 students (9%)** are in Pearl Creek's walk zone, compared to **80 students (21%)** University Park Elementary students and **173 students (50%)** of Woodriver Elementary students. There will be 1 fewer bus needed for routes and student ride times will see minimal changes.
- **Demographics:** **Significantly lower age 0-4 population** densities compared to other schools in the region. **University Park areas have 60% more age 0-4 children compared to Pearl Creek areas. Woodriver areas have 80% more.**
- **Minimizing Impact to Economically Disadvantaged Students:** Closing Pearl Creek Elementary impacts **101 students (26% of students)** who are economically disadvantaged. The other schools in the region have a higher number of students who are economically disadvantaged: University Park Elementary has **138 students (37% of students)** and Woodriver Elementary has **121 students (35% of students)**. Additionally, University Park Elementary is a Title I school.

- **Building Condition:** Pearl Creek Elementary has a large amount of major systems that are at end of life (boiler, fire sprinkler system). The building is also not on city utilities, which increases maintenance costs.

Projected Savings: \$1.7 million

Transition Plan: Students will transfer to Anne Wien Elementary (**156 students**), University Park Elementary (**89 students**), Woodriver Elementary (**41 students**), and Weller Elementary (**4 students**).

Central Fairbanks Region



Central Fairbanks Region

The school closed in the Central Fairbanks Region is **Hunter Elementary**.

Key Considerations for Closure:

- **Building Condition:** Hunter Elementary building (1956) is **36 years older** than the next oldest elementary in the region, which is Ladd Elementary (1992). Hunter Elementary is **49 years older** than Denali Elementary (2005). The building also has major systems (boiler and roof) that are at end of life and need replacement.
- **Demographics:** **Significantly lower age 0-4 population** densities compared to other schools in the region. The areas around Hunter Elementary have **1/3 the age 0-4 students** compared to the areas around Denali Elementary.
- **Enrollment:** Sharp decline in student enrollment during the current school year (**44 students or 12% drop**).

Transition Plan

- Students will move to Denali Elementary (**104 students**), Barnette Magnet (**81 students**), and University Park Elementary (**49 students**).
- **Supports for Students Maintained:** Hunter Elementary is a Title I school and receives additional supports. Hunter students would move to either another Title I school (Denali or University Park Elementary) or a magnet school (Barnette).

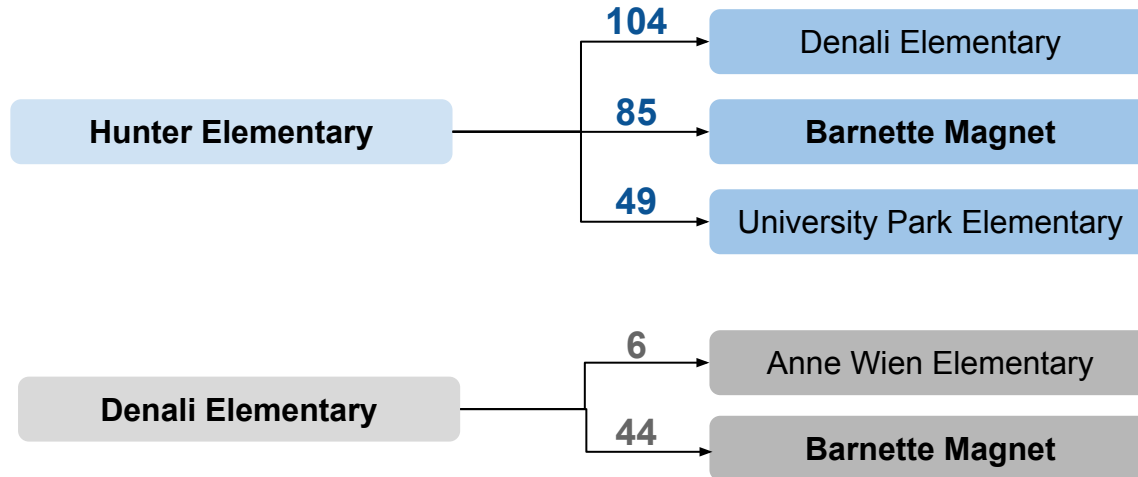
Projected Savings: \$1.7 million

	Hunter Elementary (HTR)	Denali Elementary		Barnette Magnet		University Park Elementary	
		HTR OPEN	HTR CLOSED*	HTR OPEN	HTR CLOSED*	HTR OPEN	HTR CLOSED*
Enrollment	326	304	380	413	438	375	498
Seats Available	168	118	42	4	-21	189	66
% Capacity	66%	72%	90%	99%	105%	66%	88%

*Includes impact of all recommended school closures
Enrollment numbers as of December 6, 2024

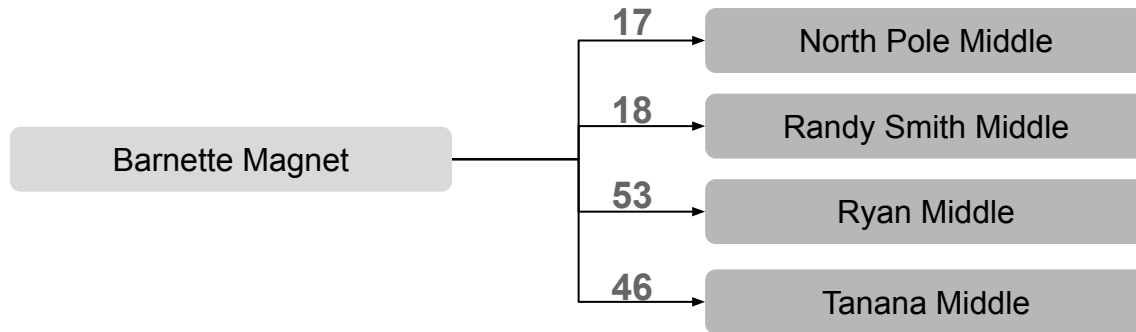
Hunter Students to Barnette Option

- **Barnette Magnet K-5:** Hunter students that would have originally been moved to Ladd Elementary will instead be shifted to Barnette Magnet. In order to accommodate these students, Barnette would shift to grades K-5 only. Additionally, Barnette's walk zone would be expanded, allowing some students who currently attend Denali Elementary to attend Barnette.



Impact to Barnette Students

- Approximately **135 Barnette students** in current grades 5-7 would be moved to their neighborhood middle school.
- All Barnette middle school students would have the option to go to Ladd K-8 as a priority applicant for 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.



Walk Zones & Chronic Absenteeism

	Walk Zone Students			Economically Disadvantaged (All School)	Chronic Absenteeism	
	Not Bus Eligible	Are Bus Eligible	Total		All School	Economically Disadvantaged
Anne Wien Elementary	55	123	178	49%	38%	42%
Arctic Light Elementary	346	0	346	43%	30%	32%
Denali Elementary	124	40	164	58%	42%	49%
Hunter Elementary	99	98	197	67%	56%	62%
Ladd Elementary	118	56	174	32%	32%	41%

How Does School Bus Transportation Affect Student Attendance and Achievement?

A Policy Brief from Brown University dated July 19, 2022 used Michigan public school records from 2012-13 to 2018-19 to examine the effects of school bus eligibility on student attendance and achievement. Below are some of the effects of bus transportation on student outcomes.

- School bus eligibility increases attendance rates for economically disadvantaged students by 0.63 percentage points (approximately a 1 day increase in a 180-day school year).
- School bus eligibility decreases the probability of being chronically absent (missing more than 10% of school days) for economically disadvantaged students by 3.8 percentage points (an approximate 20%-25% reduction).
- Transportation eligibility does not have any statistically significant effects on student achievement.

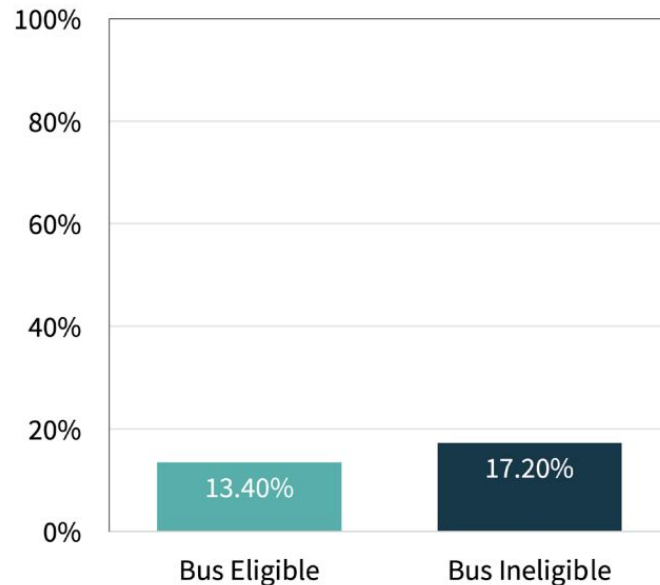
Edwards, D. S. (2022, July 19). *How does school bus transportation affect student attendance and achievement?* National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED622132.pdf>

How Does School Bus Transportation Affect Student Attendance and Achievement?

23-24 Chronic Absenteeism Rates for Economically Disadvantaged Students	
Hunter	62%
University Park	53%
Denali	49%
Ticasuk Brown	47%
Anne Wien	42%

Figure 2. Transportation Eligibility Decreases Chronic Absenteeism for Economically Disadvantaged Students

Likelihood of Being Chronically Absent for Economically Disadvantaged Students



Building Capacities w/ Barnette K-5 Option

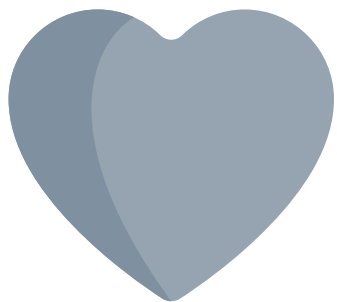
	DEED Capacity	Current (Dec. 6)				Recommended Plan			
		Student Count	% Capacity	# Economically Disadvantaged	% Economically Disadvantaged	Student Count	% Capacity	# Economically Disadvantaged	% Economically Disadvantaged
Elementary Schools									
Anderson-Crawford Elementary	553	362	65%	77	21%	424	77%	106	25%
Anne Wien Elementary	553	367	66%	179	49%	454	82%	178	39%
Arctic Light Elementary	596	367	62%	155	42%	449	75%	164	37%
Barnette Elementary	417	413	99%	120	29%	438	105%	191	44%
Denali Elementary	422	304	72%	176	58%	380	90%	236	62%
Hunter Elementary	494	326	66%	217	67%				
Ladd Elementary	553	375	68%	121	32%	420	76%	177	42%
Midnight Sun Elementary	537	325	61%	116	36%				
North Pole Elementary	495	314	63%	107	34%	472	95%	158	33%
Pearl Creek Elementary	548	386	70%	101	26%				
Salcha Elementary	76	61	80%	29	48%				
Ticasuk Brown Elementary	556	344	62%	142	41%	505	91%	203	40%
Two Rivers Elementary	98	69	70%	33	48%				
University Park Elementary	564	375	66%	138	37%	498	88%	190	38%
Weller Elementary	569	410	72%	128	31%	482	85%	160	33%
Woodriver Elementary	561	348	62%	121	35%	471	84%	153	32%
Elementary School Total:	7,592	5,146	69%	1,960	40%	4,993	86%	1,916	39%

Building Capacities w/ Barnette K-5 Option

	DEED Capacity	Current (Dec. 6)				Recommended Plan			
		Student Count	% Capacity	# Economically Disadvantaged	% Economically Disadvantaged	Student Count	% Capacity	# Economically Disadvantaged	% Economically Disadvantaged
Middle Schools									
North Pole Middle	680	628	92%	211	34%	637	94%	214	34%
Randy Smith Middle	422	405	96%	118	29%	392	93%	110	28%
Ryan Middle	626	457	73%	218	48%	547	87%	252	46%
Tanana Middle	602	510	85%	181	35%	575	96%	196	34%
Middle School Total:	2,330	2,000	87%	728	37%	2,151	92%	772	36%
High Schools									
Lathrop High	1,421	779	55%	253	32%	792	56%	256	32%
North Pole High	946	689	73%	160	23%	676	71%	157	23%
West Valley High	1,314	779	59%	164	21%	779	59%	164	21%
High School Total:	3,681	2,247	62%	577	25%	2,247	62%	577	25%
All Neighborhood Schools Total:	13,603	9,393	71%	3,265	37%	9,391	84%	3,265	36%

Questions?



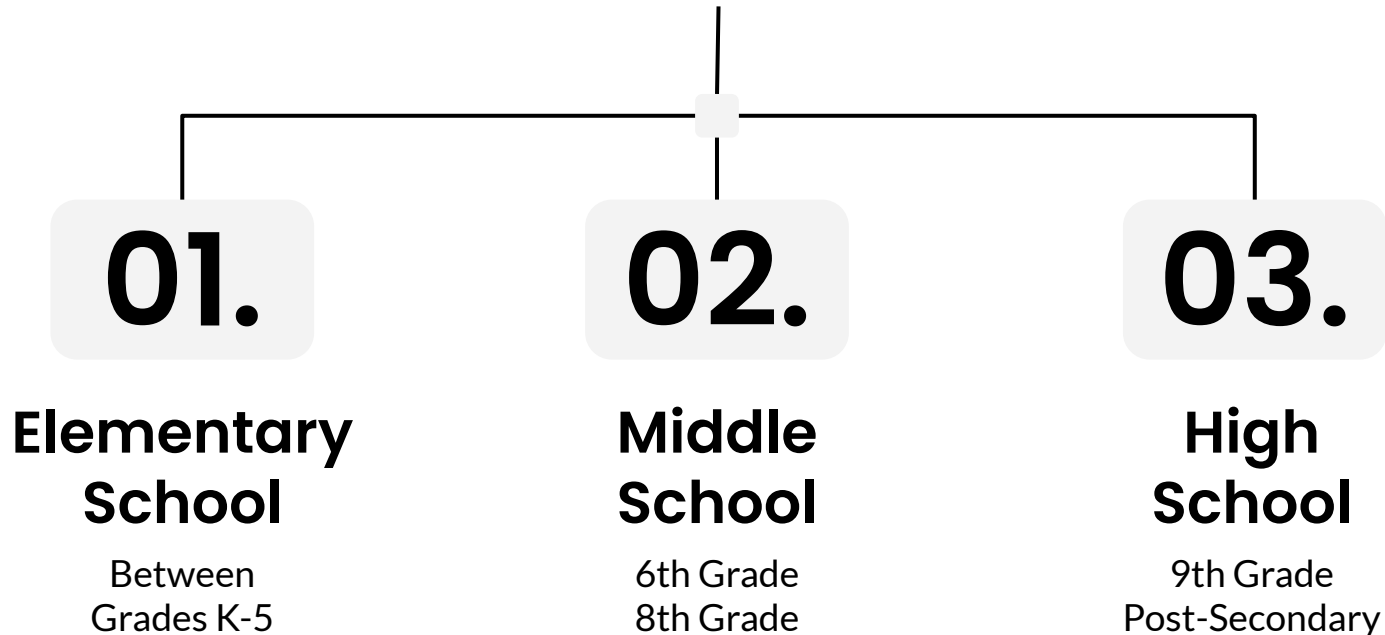


Transition Support

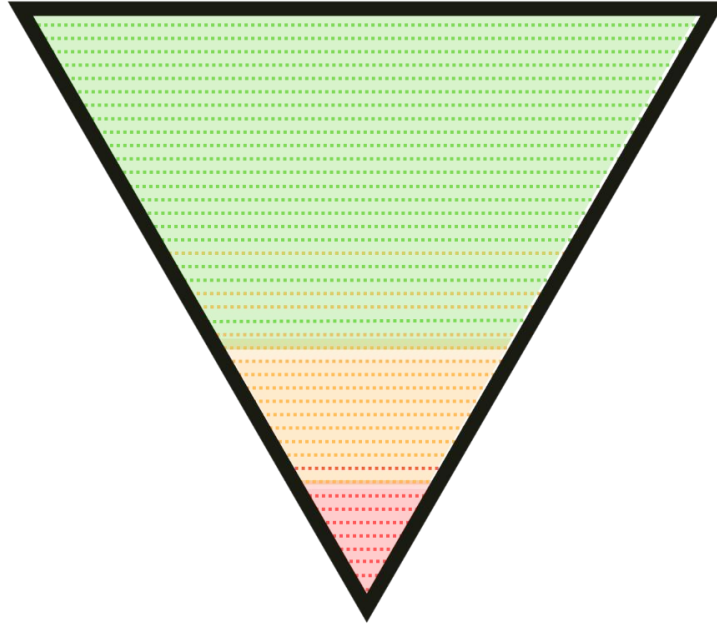
How students and families will be supported after the school consolidation decision

Managing Transitions

School Building Transitions



Layers of Intervention



1.

All Students

Open Houses
School Visits
Bus Rides

2.

Groups of Students

Smaller Tours
Targeted Connections
Early Monitoring

3.

Individual Students

Peer Relationships
Identified Support Plan
One-on-one Tour

Support Action Plan

- **Support for Students and Staff:** Prioritize helping students and staff at closing schools feel welcomed and supported in their new school communities.
- **Clear Communication for Families:** Provide families with clear and timely information about new school assignments, transportation plans, and other logistics.
- **Staff Transition Support:** Ensure staff have clarity about their new roles or positions and provide resources to assist with the transition.
- **Transition Funding:** Allocate \$5,000 per school to assist with transition activities such as school t-shirts, welcome events, and other community-building efforts.
- **Spring Open Houses:** Organize open houses at receiving schools to familiarize students and families with their new environments.
- **Student Field Trips:** Arrange visits for students to their future schools to help ease the transition and build familiarity.

Student Support Plan

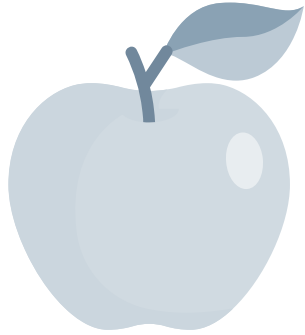
- **Closing School Support:** Provide dedicated resources and services to help students and families from closing schools adjust to the transition.
 - Flyers mailed and sent home, including helpful resources (e.g., fidget items) and shared in school newsletters.
 - Books provided for schools to support staff and families; these can be kept for ongoing use.
 - A podcast to guide families on talking to students about transitions.
 - Counselors available for families during the transition period.
 - Identify school traditions to embrace at the new school location.
- **Direct Student and Family Support:** Offer targeted assistance from Student Support Services to address individual needs during the transition.
 - A dedicated meeting with SELP staff from affected schools, with support from the Counseling Leadership Team.
 - Meetings with McKinney-Vento and Foster Care staff, in partnership with OCS, to clarify processes and provide support for impacted students.

Staff Support Plan

- We're working with our labor unions on the transition process to ensure that we're supportive of staff and removing as many barriers as possible.
- We've agreed to a retirement extensions with FEA and ESSA.
- Specific professional development for educators will focus on culturally responsive teaching and trauma-informed practices to support Indigenous students' needs.

Support for Principals

- Contracting with David Wright, Alaska Team Builders for change leadership and support
- Bi-weekly touch points for logistics and support
 - FMD - Moving classroom supplies (for staff)
 - HR - transfer process, days for classroom move



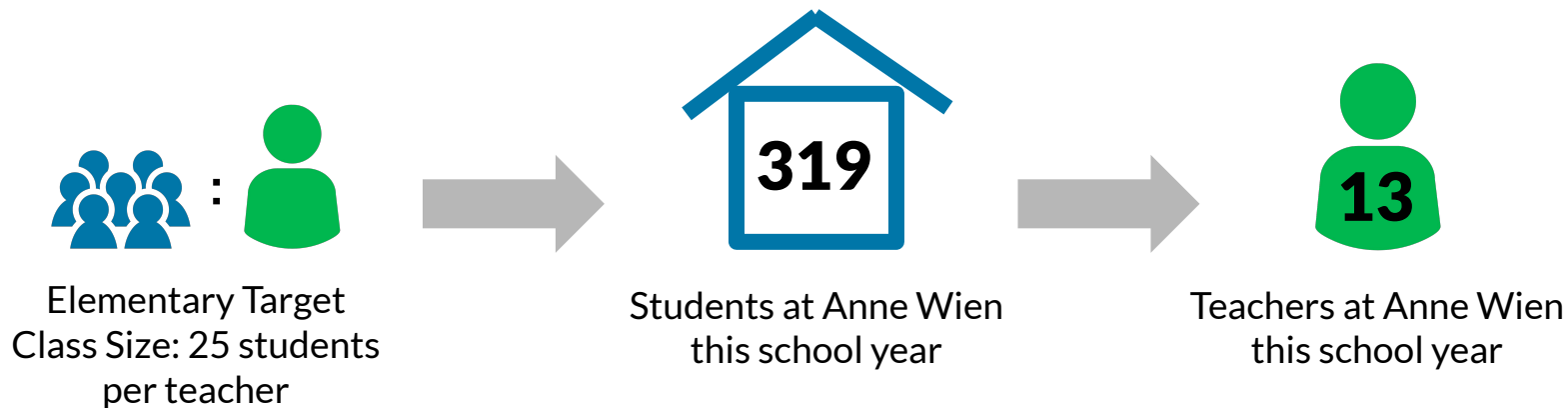
Academic Improvements

How school consolidations positively benefit our students

Class Size & Grade Bands

- With more students in schools, it's easier to balance class loads across grade bands in schools.
- More classes will align with the district's pupil-to-teacher ratio (PTR).
- Fewer split-grades in general education classrooms.

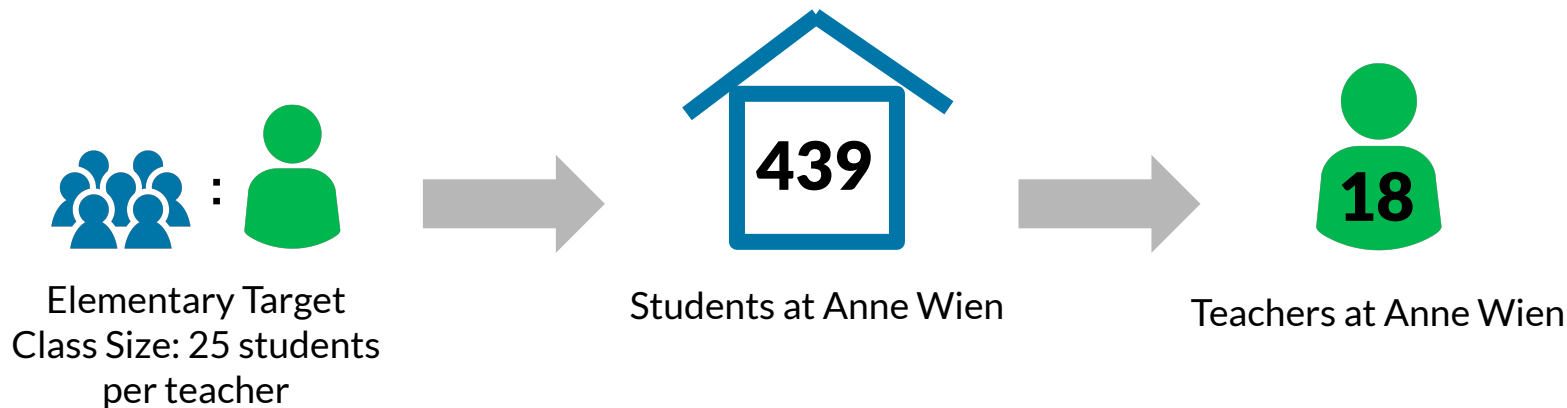
Current Example: Anne Wien Elementary



Number of Students in Classes, by Grade							
	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	
	27	27	27	22	25	24	
	29	29	24	21	21	20	
					14	9	
Total Students	56	56	51	43	60	53	319

- 5 of 13 classes (38%) above target class size
 - +2 above : 3 classes
 - +4 above: 2 classes
- 1 split grade class

Consolidation Example: Anne Wien Elementary



Number of Students in Classes, by Grade							
	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	
	25	23	24	26	27	23	
	25	23	23	26	27	23	
	23	22	23	26	28	22	
Total Students	73	68	70	78	82	68	439

- 6 of 18 classes (33%) above target class size
 - +1 above : 3 classes
 - +2 above: 2 classes
 - +3 above: 1 class
- No split grade classes

Teacher Planning & Instruction

- Improved teacher planning and preparation time, leading to more effective instruction.
- Greater opportunities for grade-level teacher collaboration.
- Teachers can receive more immediate and targeted support as specialists spend less time traveling.
- Improved ability to support 11 schools compared to 15 schools
 - Recent cuts to Teaching & Learning Department
 - Coaches spend less time traveling between schools

Specialty Positions & Services

- There will be fewer vacancies in hard-to-fill specialty position (music, counseling, library, nursing) allowing better service for students.
- Small financial savings on site-based licenses and teacher materials (e.g., Pebble Go, Smarty Ants, Mystery Science, Destiny, Swank, and ProQuest).

Additional Student Support

- More schools become eligible for DoDEA grants, providing additional resources and support:
 - Salcha students transitioning to Anderson-Crawford Elementary will benefit from DoDEA Reading Coaches.
 - Students moving to Ladd Elementary will also gain support from DoDEA resources.
- Larger language communities for multilingual (ML) students enhance peer interaction and support.
- Better opportunities for interventions with more precise groupings and individualized support.

Questions?





Student Support Services Impacts

How Student Support Services will be affected by school consolidation.

Student Support Services

**Student Support Services applies our mission and vision statement district-wide.
Services are not limited to Title I schools or schools in which we have staff.**

Mission Statement

To partner with school communities by offering services that support students' academic achievement and life success.

Vision Statement

Supportive and engaging learning communities.

Student Support Services Programs



Grants & Partnerships



21st Century Afterschool Programs



Alaska Native Education



Migrant Education



Foster Care



McKinney-Vento



Title I



School Improvement (CSI/ATSI)



Wellness and Prevention

Supporting Indigenous Families

Student Support Services Staff reached out to ANE families at Hunter Elementary to speak to families about their perspective and voice regarding school consolidation. We were able to get in contact with **23 families**.

Community Awareness:

Majority of families are aware of potential closure

Identified Priorities

Staff continuity, smaller class sizes, and retaining Title I, SPED, and ANE programs.

Community Strengths

Hunter is viewed as a family with strong teacher-student relationships.

Voice of Concern/Challenges in Transition:

Transportation, maintaining traditions, and supporting students emotionally during the shift.

Family Recommendations: Orientation Events, ensuring early communication, and transportation support.

What is Title I?

Title I funds are federal funds provided to school districts based up on the percentage of students from low-income families. Low-income families are identified through a free and reduced lunch application forms.

At a Title I school, these funds are typically used to support additional academic programs and resources, such as:

- Hiring additional staff to implement targeted intervention programs and increase teacher efficacy.
- Purchasing educational materials and technology.
- Professional development for staff.
- Family engagement activities that strengthen school-home connections.

The specific use of Title I funds is determined by the school's rigorously developed needs assessment and spelled out in detail in its school improvement plan.

Title I: Schoolwide Programming

- Title I schools are designated by the district, with funding allocated to support schoolwide services.
- The purpose of a schoolwide program is to upgrade the entire educational program in the school in order to raise the achievement of the lowest achieving students.
- The primary goal is to ensure that all students, regardless of their economic circumstances, have access to a high-quality education and the resources needed to meet academic standards.
- All students, staff, and families benefit from the schoolwide plan.

Title 1 Schools

Current Title I Schools

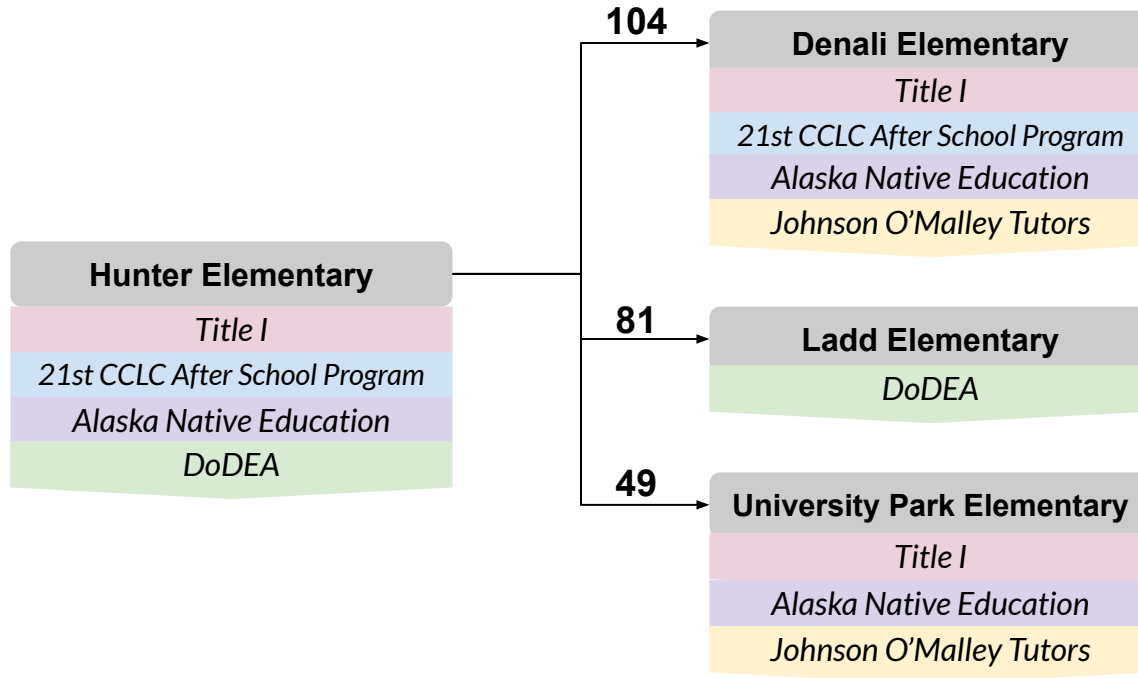
- Anne Wien Elementary
- Arctic Light Elementary
- Denali Elementary
- Hunter Elementary
- Ryan Middle
- Ticasuk Brown Elementary
- Two Rivers Elementary
- University Park Elementary

Anticipated Title I Schools After Consolidation*

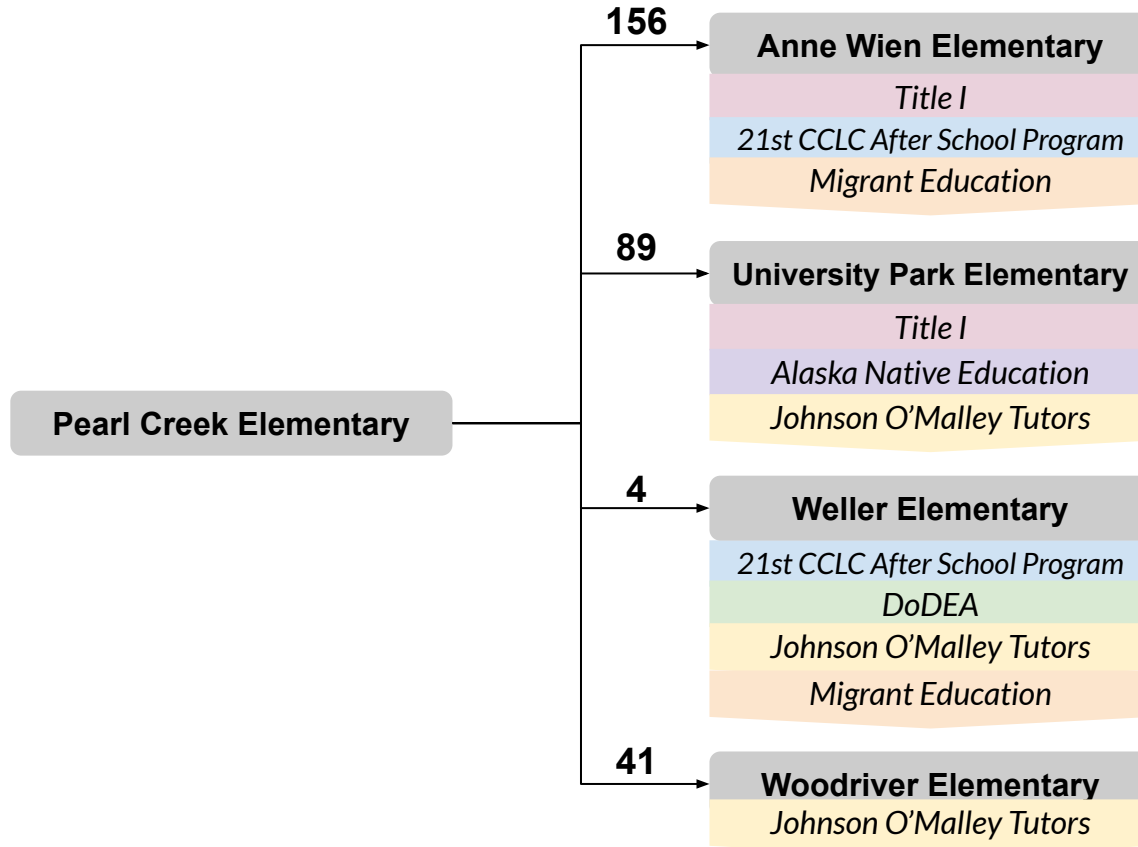
- Anne Wien Elementary
- Arctic Light Elementary
- Denali Elementary
- Ryan Middle
- Ticasuk Brown Elementary
- University Park Elementary

* Additional schools may be included once economically disadvantaged numbers are finalized.

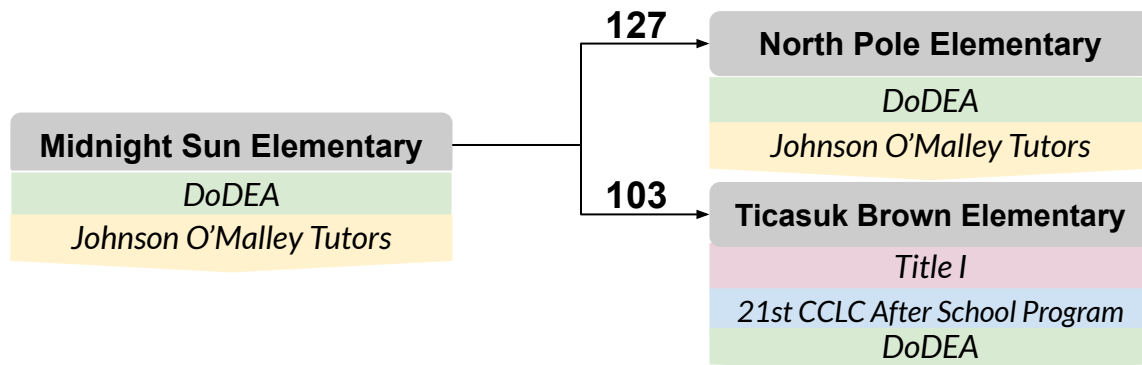
Student Support Changes



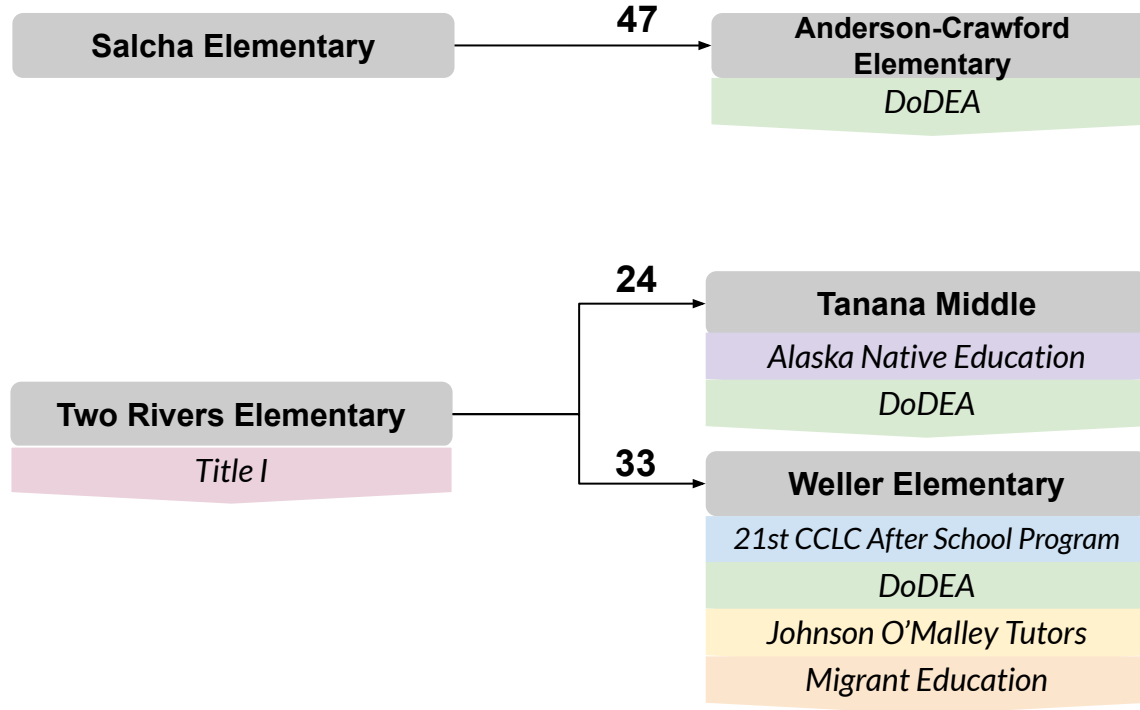
Student Support Changes



Student Support Changes



Student Support Changes



Student Support Programs After Consolidation

	School Enrollment	Title I	21st CCLC After School Program	Alaska Native Education	DoDEA Grants	Migrant Education	JOM
Anderson-Crawford Elementary	424				✓		
Anne Wien Elementary	454	✓	✓			✓	
Arctic Light Elementary	449	✓					
Barnette Elementary	438					✓	
Denali Elementary	380	✓	✓	✓			✓
Ladd Elementary	420				✓		
North Pole Elementary	472				✓		✓
Ticasuk Brown Elementary	505	✓	✓		✓		
University Park Elementary	498	✓		✓			✓
Weller Elementary	482		✓		✓	✓	✓
Woodriver Elementary	471						✓

Questions?





Educational Options & Opportunities

Educational Options and Opportunities

Students Making A Right Turn (SMART)

Second Chance for Success

The SMART program is a voluntary program designed to help students who have faced academic disciplinary action, such as long term suspensions or indefinite expulsions.

Focus on Decision-Making

The program equips students with the tools and strategies they need to navigate challenging situations and make positive choices. This focus on decision-making empowers students to get back on track towards academic success.

Focus on Academics

The program works with students and schools to come up with an academic plan so students may transition back to their schools with little interruption. They assist with credit recovery and acceleration.

Educational Options and Opportunities

- SMART was referred 57 students in 2023-2024.
 - 42 full time enrolled students
 - Ongoing support for students who transfer back to their school sites
 - 15 declined services and transferred from the district.
- SMART was referred 49 students in 2022-2023
 - 34 full time enrolled students
 - Ongoing support for students who transfer back to their school sites
 - 15 declined services and transferred from the district.

Educational Options and Opportunities

If SMART were to open a satellite office in North Pole, they would be able to assist families/students who are unable to find transportation into Fairbanks. By attending the North Pole site, students could work with assigned staff on academics, group sessions, and community service. These are all things that students need to show progress in order to re-enter their schools.

This would create an option that has been needed. Without this option families will have to choose other homeschool programs or to drop out. The district can keep students enrolled while giving them the tools/resources that are needed to be successful when they return to their schools.

We would have a grant-funded educator placed at this satellite office that would facilitate the small-group and/or one-on-one sessions, and facilitate academics through online curriculum.

Educational Options and Opportunities

Star of the North

Star of the North is an alternative secondary school that serves grades 9-12. They create small learning communities which emphasize positive learning experiences without the distractions found in conventional secondary schools. Dedicated staff is focused on building relationships and tailoring district curriculum to fit the needs of individual students.

- Class sizes at Star of the North are kept intentionally small.
- There are no bells, lockers or noisy passing periods.
- Freshmen and Sophomores enjoy direct instruction from teachers who rotate in and out of the classroom.
- Juniors and Seniors have the flexibility of independent study, direct instruction or seminar style learning.

The flexible instruction enables students to accelerate the graduation process or quickly recover credits they may have missed in previous years.

Educational Options and Opportunities

Star of the North (SON)

Star of the North's lease expires on June 30, 2025. They will need to have a space large enough to accommodate the students and staff.

Families at SON chose the school for several reasons:

- Small class sizes
- No bells
- Teachers move, not the students
- Both credit recovery and acceleration are available
- Close knit community

Educational Options and Opportunities

BEST Homeschool

BEST has a larger variety of weekly programming that brings families into BEST on a regular basis, including:

- Lego Club, Sewing, Open Gym, Socials, Art, CPR, Music Classes, and Puzzle groups

BEST students regularly participate in competitions around the district and state including:

- Poetry Out Loud, Science Fair, Science Olympiad, Up with Art, Battle of the Books, All-State Music, Solo and Ensemble, Athletics, ACADECA, High School Science Symposium, and more!

BEST was recently named a Purple Star School as a recognition of our support for our military connected students and families.

Educational Options and Opportunities

BEST Homeschool

BEST moved from their small office in the ADC to a more spacious home in the Nordale Education Center in the summer of 2022.

If BEST opened a satellite office in the North Pole area, they would be able to assist families who are not able to drive into town on a regular basis to meet with their education specialists, turn in paper receipts, turn in grades, attend various events/activities. We have families in Salcha, Delta Junction, and North Pole who would benefit from this option.

BEST would survey families to see what interests and activities are desired for their students.

Depending on family interest, they could have monthly activities similar to those offered at the Nordale Education Center.

Educational Options and Opportunities

BEST Homeschool

What does an Education Specialist do?

- An Ed Specialist is a certified teacher who works hand-in-hand with families to help select instructional materials and curriculum to meet the needs of their students. This is truly individualized to meet the needs of students and families. During the initial meeting, the Ed Specialists speak at length with families to find out student interests and strengths so they can make suggestions that will enhance learning.
- Ed Specialists sponsor the activities and events for BEST families, and coordinate with local vendors for field trips.
- Ed Specialists will rotate coverage of the satellite office in North Pole, or any other areas as assigned.

Questions?





Special Education Impacts

How special education programs and students will be affected by school consolidation.

Special Education in Schools

- **Intensive Resource (IR)** - Designed for students with significant needs that require a highly individualized programming, often including paraprofessional support and small-group instruction. Focuses on more individualized and intensive interventions in areas such as life skills, communication, motor skills, behavior, and/or functional academics.
- **Extended Resource (ER)** - Supports students who require extensive specialized support in social/emotional development, behavior, and/or academics. Students may require paraprofessional support in the general education setting and small-group instruction.
- **Pre-Kindergarten** - Early intervention for students 3-5 years of age requiring specialized support in developmental areas such as communication, life skills, behavior, motor skills.

Special Education in Schools

- **Resource Services** - Resource teachers are available at all schools and focus on supports of specific academic areas and moderate behavior/social emotional needs.
- **Related Services and Itinerant Specialists**- The services are available to all schools and include services by teachers of the deaf, teachers of the blind, Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational therapists, School Psychologists, Physical Therapist and others.

Special Education Programs in Elementary Schools

	Pre-K	Extended Resource	Intensive Resource	Special Programs	Total Classrooms
Anderson-Crawford Elementary	1				1
Anne Wien Elementary	1		2		3
Arctic Light Elementary	1				1
Barnette Elementary					0
Denali Elementary	1	2			3
Hunter Elementary	1		2		3
Ladd Elementary	1		2		3
Midnight Sun Elementary	1		2		3
North Pole Elementary	1	2			3
Pearl Creek Elementary	1	2			3
Salcha Elementary					0
Ticasuk Brown Elementary		1			1
Two Rivers Elementary					0
University Park Elementary	1		2	1*	3
Weller Elementary					0
Woodriver Elementary		2			2
Total Classrooms	10	9	10		29

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Cohort, not included in total classroom count.*

Special Education in Elementary Schools

- Approximately **1550** elementary special education students. **332** students require special education supports at the 5 proposed
- Approximately **295** of these students are school-age and **37** attend special education preschool programs
- Currently, **65%** of special education students in district wide programs cannot attend their neighborhood school. This means they are not with their siblings and may be at a school that is not a part of their neighborhood feeder system.
- Special education students are more likely to have longer bus ride times than non-special education students.

Special Education After Consolidation

- If schools close, special education staff and resources will move to other schools based on the new needs after boundary changes.
- Specialized programs for the district will also move to new locations, but the total number of programs will stay the same.
- More neighborhood schools will have specialized resources, allowing more students to attend schools in their area instead of traveling farther. Transportation would be improved, with shorter routes and more students riding with peers.
- Families of students with disabilities will have more predictability when transitioning from elementary to secondary school, as most neighborhood schools will now have the needed supports for high-needs students.
- Specialists like occupational therapists and school psychologists will have fewer campuses to cover, giving them more time to work with students instead of traveling.

Special Education Programs After Consolidation

	Pre-K	Extended Resource	Intensive Resource	Special Programs	Total Classrooms
Anderson-Crawford Elementary	1	1 cross categorical			2
Anne Wien Elementary	1	1	2		4
Arctic Light Elementary	1	1 cross categorical			2
Barnette Elementary					0
Denali Elementary	1	1	1		3
Ladd Elementary	1	1	1		3
North Pole Elementary	1	2	1		4
Ticasuk Brown Elementary	1	1	2		4
University Park Elementary	1	1	1	1*	3
Weller Elementary	1	1	1		3
Woodriver Elementary	1	1	1		3
Total Classrooms	10	9	10		31

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing Cohort, not included in classroom count*

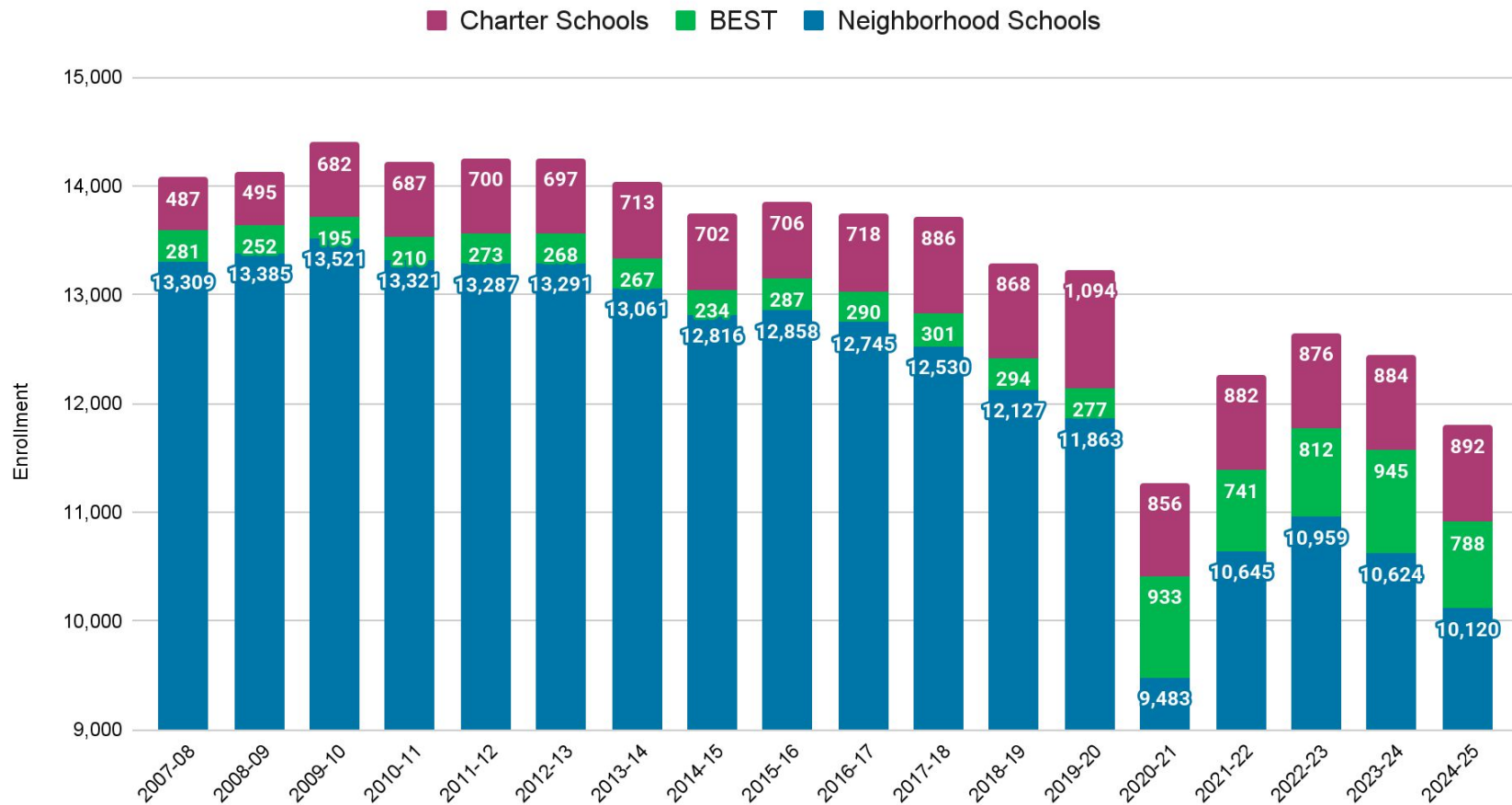


Revitalizing Schools

Reinvesting in all of our students.

School consolidation is a necessary step to align resources with enrollment, ensuring our schools remain strong, sustainable, and focused on delivering the best education for every student.

Neighborhood School Enrollment Changes



Investing in our Schools with a Significant BSA Increase

- Class Size Reductions
- Reads Act Tutoring
- Restoration of Extended Learning Program (ELP)
- Instrumental Music & Fine Arts in Elementary Schools
- Student Activity Funding

Questions?

