



Student Assignment Project (SAP)

School Choice and Special Programs

9/24/2025

Presented by: Sarita M. Smith



DeKalb County
School District



● Agenda

- ✓ Welcome
- ✓ New Teams by District
- ✓ Session Schedule
- ✓ Meeting Norm
- ✓ Welcome HPM
- ✓ Big Question
- ✓ Today's Goal and Current Challenges
- ✓ DCSD Special Programs
- ✓ Magnet Schools of America
- ✓ Work Session
- ✓ Share Out and Consensus
- ✓ Exit Ticket
- ✓ What's Next

District Teams

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5	Team 6	Team 7
Elizabeth Bell Latifat Cabirou Maria Damian Felicia Evans David Felfoldi Tonya Freeman Erika Harris Luke Ingram Kristin Jones Eric Knight Sarah Lee Veronica Lopez-Delgado Grant Martin Kirk Martin Megan McClendon Jamie McCurley Linda Mcjunkin Kelly Mitchell Mary Novotny David Sample Meghan Stevens Robyn Stewart-Amarra	Kenya Asbill Stephanie Bialek Kathleen Boushell Tracy Dawson Maria De La Cruz Rhonda Hollis Zikia Jones-Martin Nancy Kelly Chantel Luncheon Charlie McAdoo Kaitlin Meade Jeff Rader Doug Rollins Keith Sagers Ashley Stewart Staci Taylor Donna Troka Dee Dee Westbrook Glenyce Williams	Kevin Alexander Simone Bright Alison Clark Cassandra Davis ReShanda Holland Latrese King Nwandi Lawson Barbara Long Chelsea McKinney Amber Melendrez Lysa Moore Gayle Murray Joscelyn O'Neal Marion Reeves Taneka Riley Quanesha Robinson Lisa Scott Sharquita Tuggle Daniel Walker Myisha Washington-Hankins Arian Williams	Dr. Tremaine Afetorgbor JoAlveta Allen Camisha Campbell David Cruz Vega Stacy De Jesus Jim Donofrio Randy Faigin Will Hinton Stephanie Klosik Dana Lee Ashley Little Kirk Lunde Angela Maki Eric Parker Erin Peone Zack Phillips Tiffany Russell Adam Shipp Sonja Szubski Malika Terry Maggie Tucker	Tryphenna Bastian Carolyn Benson Clarissa Blackmon Stephanie Byrd Cynthia Carter Neal Christian Emily Halevy Teresa Hardy Sukisha Kilgore Angela Leach Yolanda Mahama Shrieka Mathis Keenia Mullen Sylvia Okoma Tameika Porter Kathleen Rudd Maima Simmons Terilyn Smith Katina Watts Tanjala Wright	Glenda Barner Cathy Blakeney Aubrey Brooks Tarnisha Dent Narvella Dial Travena Evegan Charlene Fletcher Torra Hancock Kimberly Hires Angela Holmes Tinquila Hudson Lisa Lake Venola Mason Demetria Miller April Roberson Crystal Roberts Frederico Rowe Rondereo Sidney Carmen Smith Stephanie Strobridge Paula V. Tate Amitenor Wright	Keydrick Barlow Tabitha Barnette Patrice Benton Lori Bolds Monique Brown Nakia Fowler Roger Henery Maxine Jenkins Alfred Lopez David McRae Viola Merrell Taelar Osei Tambria Peeples Margaret Redmond Robin Reese Tommy Travis Everett Vance Malaika Washington Kalvin Watson LaTanya Wooley Cherryl Young

Today's Working Session Schedule

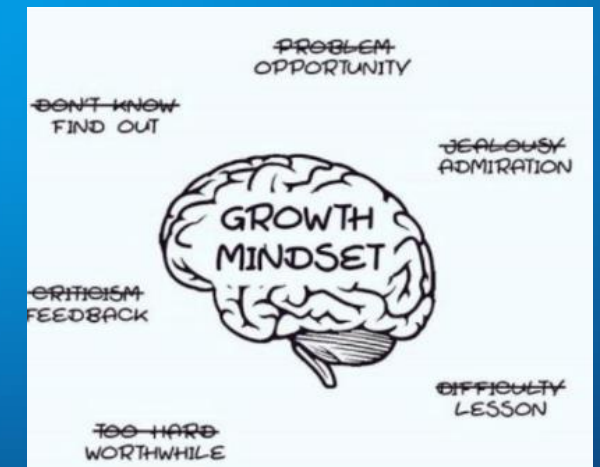
Agenda Item	Resources	Time Allotment
Agenda	Slide 30	6:30 – 6:35 p.m.
Meeting Norms	Slide 34	6:35 – 6:45 p.m.
HPM Intro and School Dashboard	Slide 35	
Big Question	Slide 36	
Today's Goal	Slide 38	
Current DCSD Programs	Slide 40 - 43	
Magnet Schools of America	Slide 44	
Work Session	Slide 45 – 46 Team data worksheet folder here	
Share Out / Consensus	Slide 47	
Exit Ticket		
What's Next		



“ALONE, WE
CAN DO SO
LITTLE;
TOGETHER,
WE CAN DO
SO MUCH”

HELEN KELLER

Meeting Norms





School Dashboard



THE BIG QUESTION:

Should DCSD's special programs be offered in a few schools across the district, or placed within neighborhood schools?



Big Question Defined

DCSD's special programs should be offered in a few schools across the district

- Specific stand-alone facilities would be designated to house special programs with those facilities being distributed throughout the district
- Each of these buildings may house multiple programs
- Special programs will only be housed in non-neighborhood schools

DCSD's special programs should be offered in neighborhood schools

- A program within a school model means that a specialized program (like STEM, Montessori, dual language, or arts) is offered inside a regular neighborhood school
- Special programs will only be housed in neighborhood schools

Today's Goal

Determine how programs are placed in DCSD

1. DCSD's special programs should be offered in a few schools across the district
2. DCSD's special programs should be offered within neighborhood schools

1. Stand-alone program schools

Benefits

- Enrollment and centralized resource management
- Increased school choice or program seats
- Opportunities for K-12 programming models and program flexibility
- More equal opportunity to program access

Challenges

- Disproportionality advantages engaged families
- Shifts the burden of transportation to families
- Administrative management of multiple programs in one building

2. Program within a school model

Benefits

- Student accessibility closer to home
- Shared education resources
- Reduced transportation costs and logistics
- Programs designed by each school community

Challenges

- Unequal distribution for other students that live further
- Programs will be different in each location so access will be limited for all other students
- Enrollment and resource management
- Only accessible to students in the attendance area

Current Program Challenges

Program Placement	Program Evaluation and Onboarding and Sunsetting
Community perception and the desire for education options leads to high school choice application rates for those who know about program options	DCSD doesn't have a standard operating procedure (SOP) for onboarding or sunsetting program
Historically, communities have advocated for specific programs in proximity to their homes	DCSD doesn't have a universal way to evaluate educational programs
DCSD admin and operations have significant challenges with planning for the duality of programs in neighborhood school or programs in stand-alone buildings	Families have high unfamiliarity with DCSD program options
Families and educators believe programs should be more widely available and equitable distributed	Awareness and satisfaction vary by program

Add references



DCSD Programs



Current DCSD Programs

Special Interest Magnet:

Stand-Alone Schools:

Arabia Mountain High School
DeKalb School of the Arts
DeKalb Arts Academy

Programs in Schools:

Barack Obama Elementary
(Math, Science, and Tech)
Evansdale Elementary
(Math, Science, and World Languages)
Columbia Middle School
(Math, Science, and Tech)
Columbia High School
(Math, Science, and Tech)

High Achievers Magnet:

Stand-Alone Schools:

Kittredge Magnet
Wadsworth Magnet

Programs in Schools:

Chamblee High School
Chamblee Middle School
Chapel Hill Middle School
Southwest DeKalb High

Theme Schools:

Stand-Alone Schools:

E. L. Bouie Elementary
Narvie Harris Elementary
Marbut Elementary
Oakcliff Elementary
Robert Shaw Elementary
Wynbrooke Elementary
Champion Middle

International Baccalaureate:

Programs in Schools:

Avondale Elementary
Fernbank Elementary
Midvale Elementary
Druid Hills Middle
Druid Hills High
Salem Middle
M.L.K., Jr. High
Tucker Middle
Tucker High



Current DCSD Programs

Early Learning:

Centers:

Early Learning Center
Coralwood Center

Programs in Schools:

Austin Elementary
Briar Vista Elementary
Indian Creek Elementary
John Lewis Elementary
Marbut Theme
Peachcrest Elementary
Princeton Elementary
Rainbow Elementary
Rockbridge Elementary
Smoke Rise Elementary

Dual Language Immersion:

Programs in Schools:

Ashford Park Elementary
(German)
Barack Obama Elementary
(Spanish)
Evansdale Elementary
(French)
Pleasantdale Elementary
(Spanish)
Rockbridge Elementary
(French)
Chamblee Middle
(German)
Henderson Middle
(French)
McNair Middle
(Spanish)
Stone Mountain Middle
(Spanish)

Schools & Centers for Students with

Exceptionalities:

Centers / Schools:

Coralwood Center
Shadow Rock Center
Eagle Woods Academy
Warren Technical School
Margaret Harris
Comprehensive School

Montessori:

Programs in Schools:

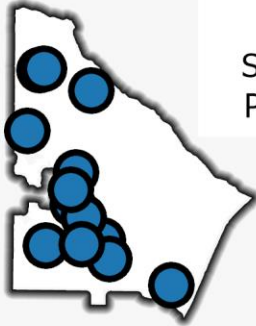
Briar Vista Elementary
Huntley Hills Elementary

Other Schools & Programs:

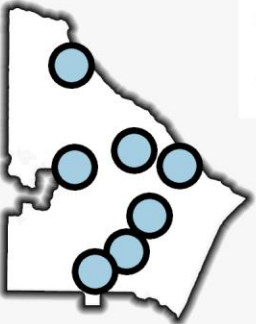
DeKalb Early College Acad.
(DECA)
DeKalb HS of Tech South
DeKalb HS of Tech North
(@ Cross Keys)
DeKalb Alternative School
Discovery Learning
(@ McNair DLA)
Elizabeth Andrews High
Flex Academy
Fernbank Science Center
(Scientific Tools and Techniques)
International Student Center



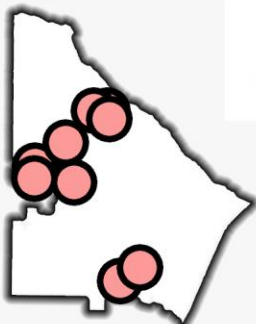
Magnet
Schools &
Programs



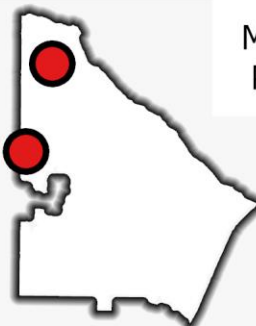
Theme
Schools



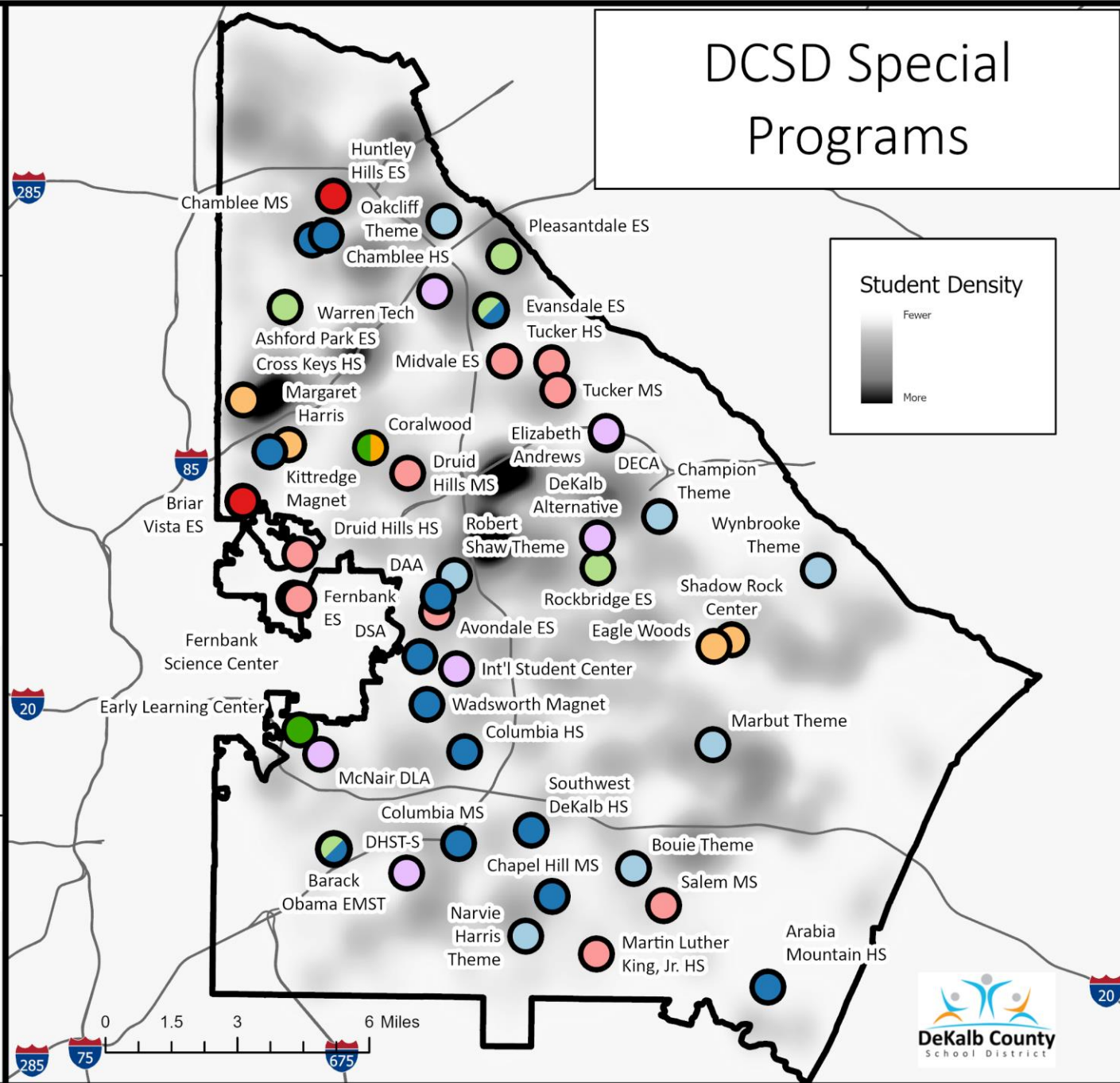
IB
Programs



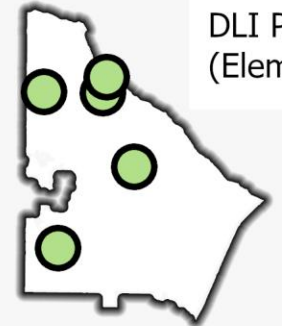
Montessori
Programs



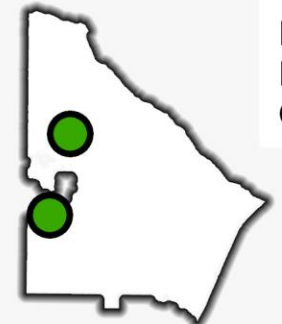
DCSD Special Programs



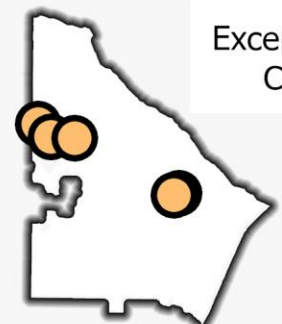
DLI Programs
(Elementary)



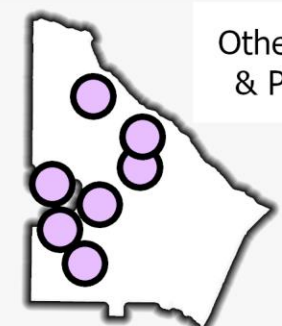
Early
Learning
Centers



Exceptional Ed
Centers



Other Schools
& Programs





Magnet
Schools of
America



Work Session

Programs Guiding Principles	Option 1 Programs should be placed in neighborhood schools as a program within a school model.	Option 2 Programs should be located in stand-alone buildings distributed throughout the district. Each building may house more than one program.	Option 3	Option 4
Programs must demonstrate measurable success, meet community and student needs, operate efficiently, and undergo regular, data-driven evaluations to ensure their sustainability and relevance.	Why: Supporting Data:	Why: Supporting Data:	Why: Supporting Data:	Why: Supporting Data:
	Score:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Program placement and expansion should be guided by strategic analysis of enrollment, staffing, facility readiness, transportation logistics, and future scalability to optimize resource use and support district growth.	Why: Supporting Data:	Why: Supporting Data:	Why: Supporting Data:	Why: Supporting Data:
	Score:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Ensure equitable access to all programs by considering geographic distribution, community needs, diverse learners, and intentional outreach, so that every student has the opportunity to succeed regardless of location or background.	Why: Supporting Data:	Why: Supporting Data:	Why: Supporting Data:	Why: Supporting Data:
	Score:	Score:	Score:	Score:
Total Score				

Share Out / Consensus

Please share which scenario received the most points

- Team 4
- Team 5
- Team 3
- Team 2
- Team 1
- Team 7
- Team 6

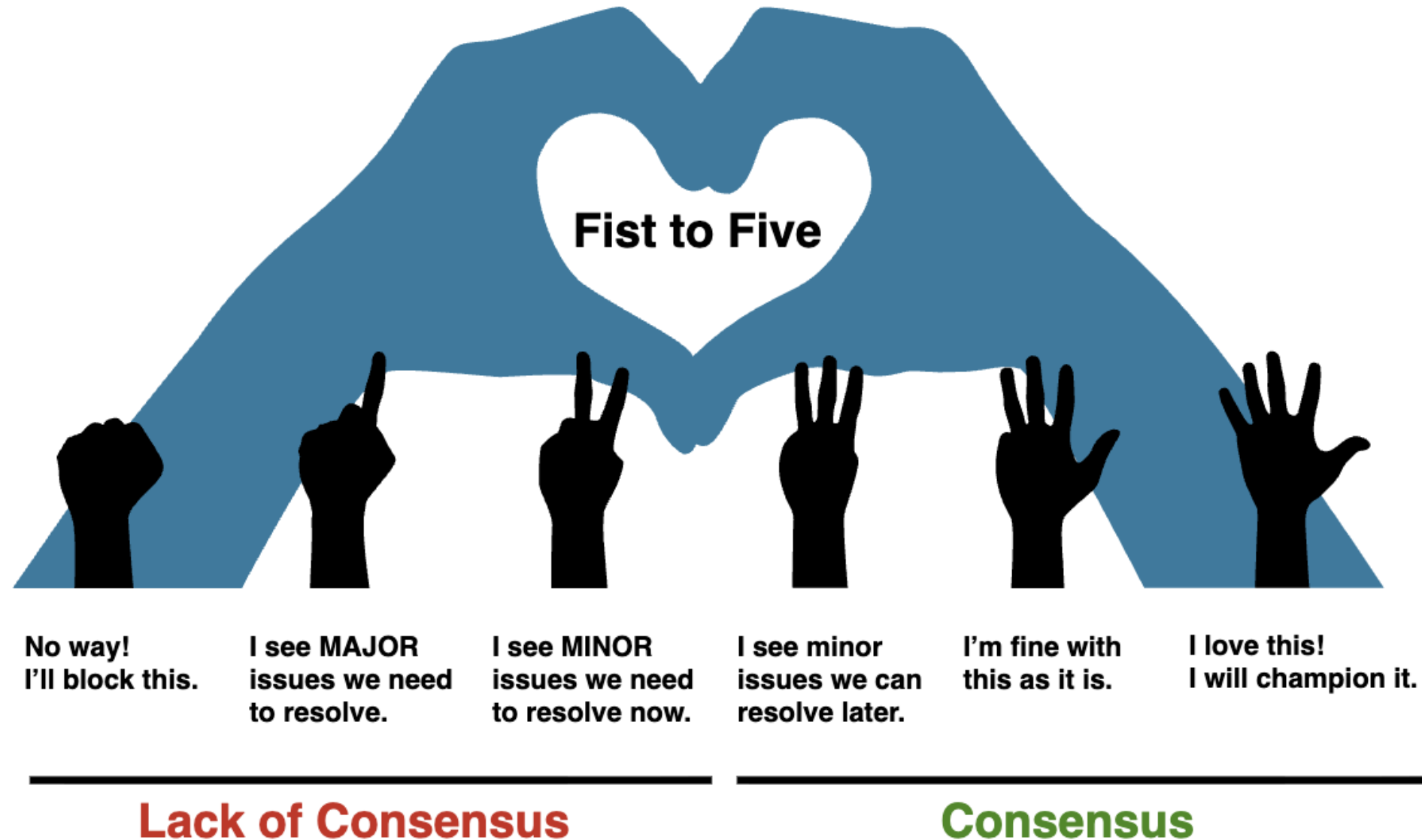
Consensus means – Majority with no strong objections due to lack of related data

Based on the share out we will do a **fist** to **five** consensus vote.



What is Fist to Five?

The Fist to Five is a technique for quickly getting feedback or gauging consensus during a meeting. The leader makes a statement, then asks everyone to show their level of agreement with the statement by holding up a number of fingers, from 5 for wild enthusiasm (jazz hands!) down to a clenched fist for vehement opposition.



SAP Meeting Exit Ticket (9/24/25)



EXIT Ticket

What's Next?

1. Homework

- Based on our last meetings consensus, begin considering what metrics we use to reimagine program placement
- HPM and Operations team will begin developing program scenarios based on the consensus

2. Next meeting

- October 8, 2025 – virtual meeting

Connect with SAP and Ms. Smith
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