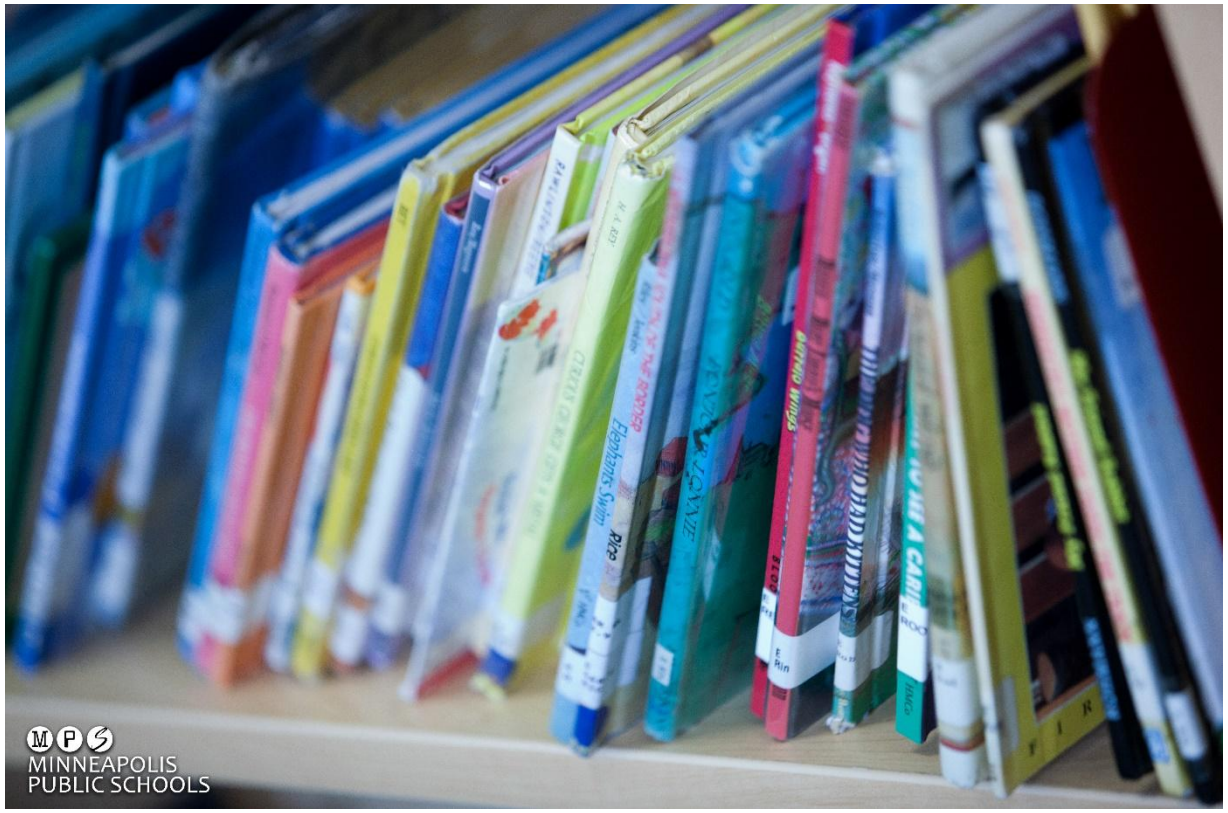
Kenwood
State of the School Meeting

November 2025





MINNEAPOLIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Urban Education. Global Citizens.

Agenda

Kenwood: WHO WE ARE

- **Mission and vision**
- **Strengths**
- **Challenges**

OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- **Goals and strategies**
- **Sharing student progress**

TITLE I

- **Overview of Title I**
- **How we're using our Title I fund**
- **Title I and Family Engagement**





Kenwood Community School: Who We Are

Who We Are

Mission

Kenwood Community School exists to provide an inclusive, joyful, and student-centered atmosphere for children to learn and grow. We believe strong academics, the arts, and equitable practices inspire creativity, collaboration, and civic engagement.

Vision

Smarts + Arts:
Through strong academic programming and arts integration, we prepare all students to be lifelong learners and contributors to a democratic society.

School Stats

- 373 Students: 14% Hispanic; 2% American Indian; 8% Asian American; 27% Black/African American; 35% White; 14% 2+ races; 11% SpEd services; 20% Receive EL Services; 10% of total population are newcomers
- Located near the Lake of the Isles in the Kenwood neighborhood, serving the immediate community and neighborhoods in downtown Minneapolis
- Reading Interventionist, Reading Corps Volunteers, Associate Educator and parent/community volunteers to support reading; Community volunteer to support Math Club and math extensions; Pull-out Support for Advanced Learners in EL; Library time, Visual Arts, Music, Physical Education; ALC on T and Th afternoons beginning in November; Affinity Groups for BIPOC students; Student leadership opportunities; Outdoor Classroom; DNR School Forest
- Partnerships with Native American artists; Brother Ghana; Alliance Francais; Language Sprout; Chess Club; Girls on the Run; Youth Inc.
- Strong PTA: Provides financial support for arts residencies, Camp Widjiwagan, classroom supplies, winter gear; organizes community events: Woody Woodchuck's Fun Run, Fall Festival, Winter Sledding, Spring Picnic; provides volunteers for lunchroom supervision, classroom support, field trips, Art Adventures, staff appreciation

Our Current Reality

Strengths

- Excellent math, literacy, and phonics curriculum
- Talented staff, collaborative practices, commitment to race equity
- Supportive and engaged families
- Academic supports: Reading Interventionist; Multilingual Services; Literacy for Advanced Learners; Reading Corps Volunteer; Special Education Services
- Opportunities for connection: before and after school programming, schoolwide community events
- Commitment to the arts through residencies and specialist programming and environmental stewardship through the Outdoor Classroom and School Forest
- Family Liaison
- Active and committed PTA, Site Council
- Spanish and Pashto language support

Challenges

- Half of our students are not yet working at grade level in math and reading;
- Consistent attendance;
- Large class sizes in 3rd and 4th grades

Our School Improvement Plan

What's a School Improvement Plan?

Our school improvement plan:

- Sets the **goals** that our school community is working to achieve
- Identifies the **strategies or activities** that will help us reach those goals together

Every Minneapolis Public School is required to develop, implement, and monitor a school improvement plan.



School Improvement Plan Goals

Goal 1: Academic Achievement

Goal 2: Student Well-being

Goal 3: Effective Staff

Goal 4: School and District Climate

Our School Improvement Plan

Goal: Academics

By Spring of 2026, 100% of American Indian students will make typical or aggressive growth on aReading or EarlyReading.

By Spring 2026, the percentage of Kenwood students in grades Kindergarten-1st who are proficient on EarlyReading will increase from 53% to 58%.

By Spring 2026, the percentage of Kenwood students in grades 2nd-5th who are proficient on CBMreading will increase from 55% to 60%.

Strategy:

Implement an MTSS Framework which includes multi-layered practices through strong tier 1 instruction (UFLI, Advanced Word Study, Benchmark) and tier 2 and tier 3 interventions; data based decision making; and linked collaborative teams.

Our School Improvement Plan

Goal 2: Student Well-Being

By Spring of 2026, the percentage of students in grades 3rd-5th who agree or strongly agree with the statement "students from my school show me that they care about me," will increase from 77% to 82%

Strategy:

Implement Social Emotional Learning through Wayfinder Curriculum.

Our School Improvement Plan

Goal 3: Effective Staff

By Spring of 2026, 100% of teachers will observe two peers and provide feedback to them.

Strategy:

By Spring of 2026, 100% of teachers will observe two peers and provide feedback to them.

Our School Improvement Plan

Goal 4: School and District Climate

By Spring of 2026, the percentage of parents/guardians who attend conferences at Kenwood will meet or exceed 80%.

Strategy:

Intentional Family Engagement & Communication that includes school-wide events, the Kenwood Courier, Family Liaison, Donated Resources, Spanish and Pashto-speaking staff, Site Council, and partnership with the PTA.

How We Measure Student Progress

We want to make sure our students are learning as much as possible, so we use state and district assessments to determine their strengths and areas for growth. The results of these assessments help us figure out how we can better support our students in the classroom.

Assessments help us answer questions such as:

- *Are we teaching what we think we are teaching?*
- *Are students learning what we intend for them to be learning?*
- *Are all students improving and being appropriately challenged?*

Some of the assessments our students will take this year are:

- Weekly tests
- End of unit tests
- FAST Assessments, Math and Reading Diagnostics, CoGAT, ACCESS, MCAs

How We'll Share Student Progress with You

Throughout the year, we'll share information with you about how your student is doing in the classroom.

We'll do it in the following ways:

- Parent-Teacher conferences on Oct. 15 and Feb. 13
- Quarterly report cards/progress reports: Backpacked home
- Communication with classroom teachers: monthly updates, emails, Talking Points, appointments



Title I

What is Title I?



Title I is a federal program that provides **money to schools and districts** to help them ensure all children have an **equal opportunity to get a high-quality education** and achieve proficiency on our state's academic standards and assessments.

Title I supports our School Improvement Plan, and the funding we receive helps us reach our goals.

Kenwood is a schoolwide Title I program, which means all our students are able to benefit from the services we provide with our Title I funding.

For the 2025-26 school year, we received $132,356 for programming and $3,248 for family involvement.

We are required to use Title I funding to improve the academic achievement of all students and engage our families, in that process.

How We're Using our Title I Funding

Curriculum and Instruction Support

- Spanish Bilingual Program Assistant;
- Associate Educators

Family Engagement

- Refreshments for some school events;
- Taxis for parents/caregivers for school events, conferences, and meetings with staff

As a family member in a Title I School, you have the right to…



- **Request information from the district** about whether your student's teacher meets State licensing approval for the grade and subject being taught, is teaching with a waiver, and/or has certification for the field being taught
- Request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional providing instruction
- Know how your child's **school is rated** on its state test scores
- Expect **regular communication** with your school in a language that you can understand
- Work with other families and staff to develop a **compact** between our school and our families
- Help plan how **money for family involvement** should be spent
- Work with teachers, other families, and the school principal to develop a **family engagement plan**
- **Ask for a meeting** with your school principal or your child's teacher at any time

Opportunities for Families to be Involved!

We want your input on our:

- School Improvement Plan goals and strategies
- Family Engagement Plan
- School-Family Compact

You will find these documents on our school website.

- **Participate in Site Council**
- **Visit** your child's classroom or **volunteer** at our school.
- Talk to your child's teacher about events and issues that may affect your child's work or behavior.

We'd love to see you at the following fall school events:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences: Oct. 15
- Coffee with the Principal: 11/7, 12/5

School Staff Information

Principal: Heidi Johnson

Family Liaison: Victoria Johnson

Spanish Bilingual Program Assistant: Iker Salas

School Social Worker: Alex Holzschuh

- Main Office: 612-668-2760

