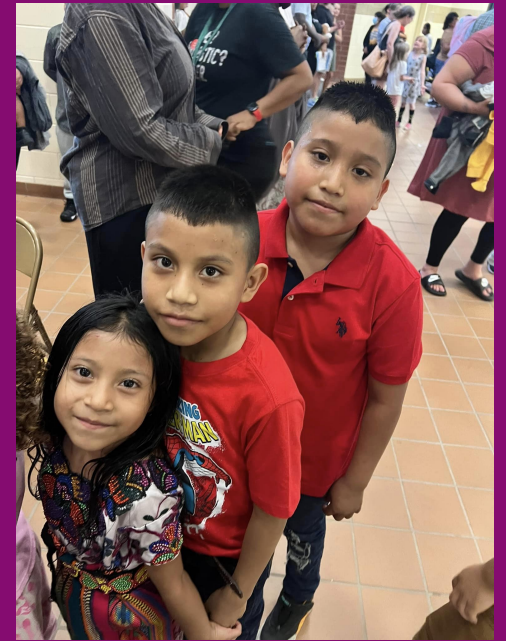


Whittier International State of the School



October 31, 2025



School and Community Description:

- Whittier International is a community school serving students from Minneapolis and surrounding communities in grades pre-kindergarten through five.
- We serve a diverse student body with a number of mother tongues, cultures, races, and ethnicities.
- We offer:
 - After school programming
 - Instrumental Music lessons for grades 3-5
 - Spanish in grades 2-5
 - International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program
 - UFLI, Bridges Math
 - Interventions for Reading, Math, and SEL

Our Pathway Schools are:

- Andersen United Middle School
- Minneapolis South High School

Our Vision and Mission:

All Whittier International Elementary students will become independent global thinkers through inquiry and action.

Our Strengths:

- ❖ International Baccalaureate program (1 of only 3 elementary IB programs in Minneapolis)
- ❖ Diverse student body representing many different cultures and languages
- ❖ Veteran staff, translation/interpretation support
- ❖ Enrichment activities across grade levels

Our Challenges:

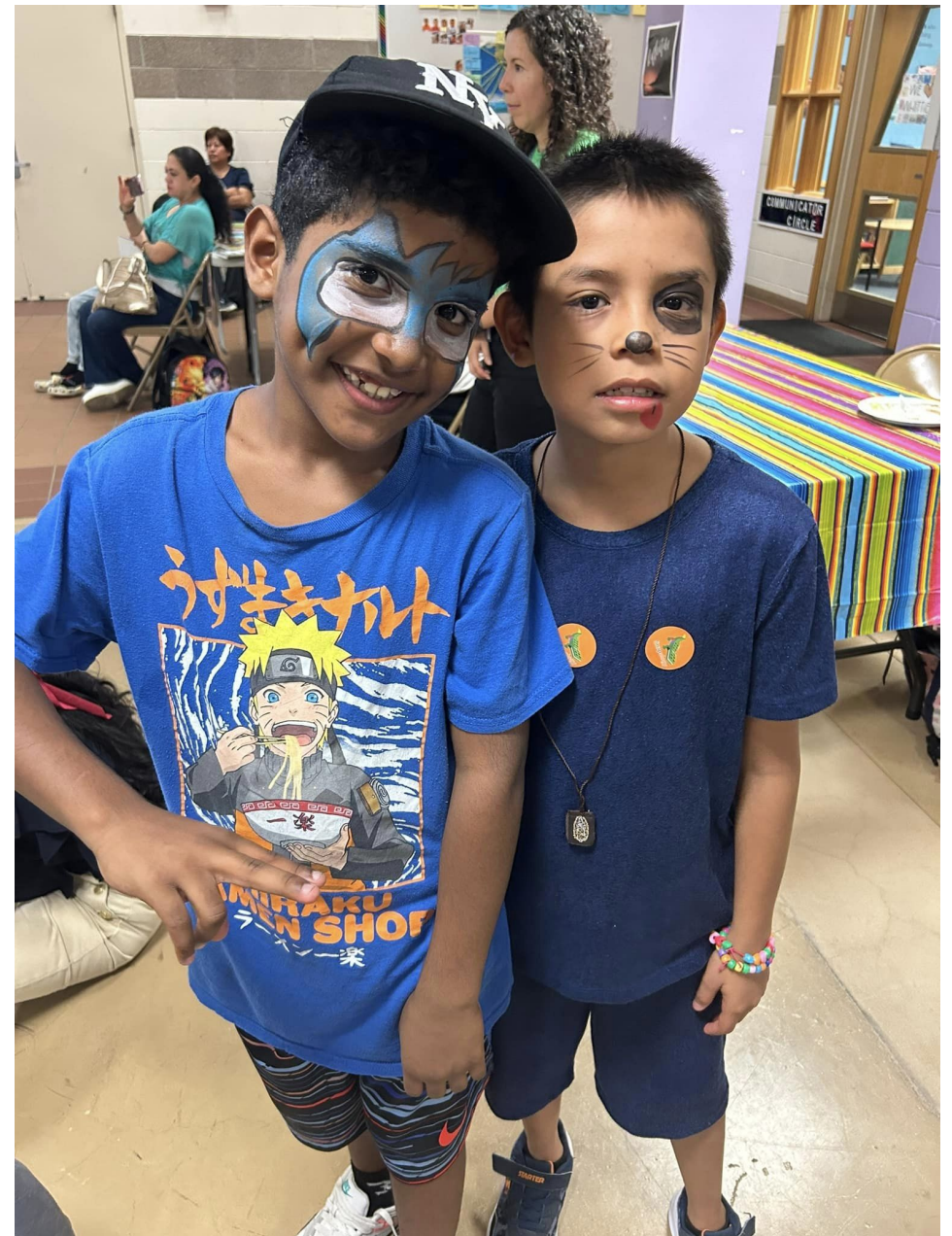
- ❖ Reading and Math scores on standardized assessments
- ❖ Student attendance
- ❖ Professional development for supporting students who are new to the country for all staff

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.



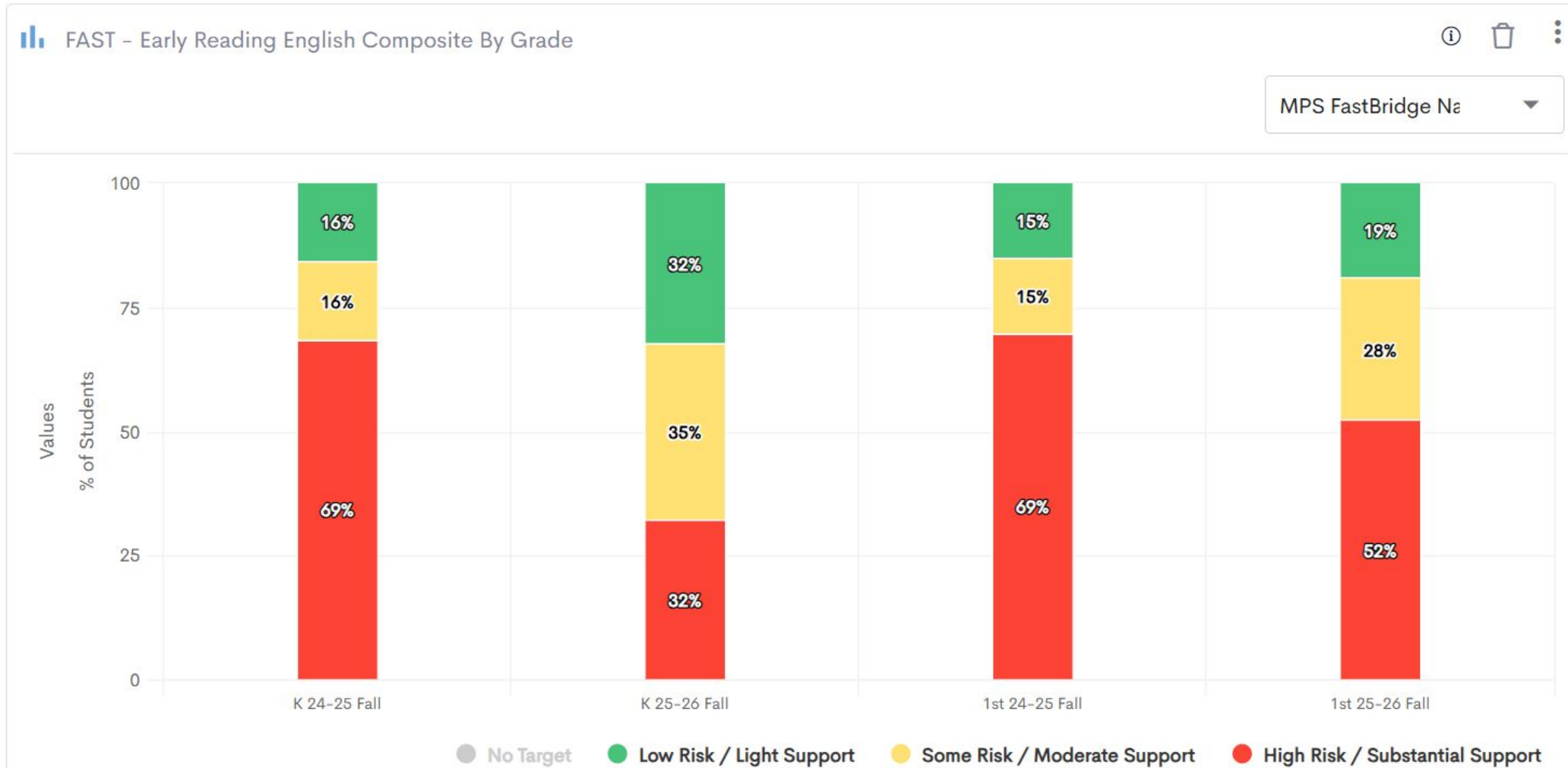
Goal Area 1: Academic Achievement

- The percentage of 2nd-5th grade students meeting or exceeding expected growth on the FAST aReading assessment will increase from 44% (Spring 2025) to 60% by Spring of 2026.
- The percentage of 2nd-5th grade students who qualify for special education meeting or exceeding expected growth on the FAST aReading assessment will increase from 42% (Spring 2025) to 70% by Spring of 2026.
- 2nd-5th grade students who qualify for EL services will increase in their average accuracy on CBM-Reading from 66% (Fall 2025) to 70% by Spring 2026.
- The percentage of 2nd-5th grade students meeting or exceeding expected growth on the FAST aMath assessment will increase from 47% (Spring 2025) to 55% by Spring of 2026.
- The percentage of 2nd-5th grade students who qualify for special education meeting or exceeding expected growth on the FAST aMath assessment will increase from 33% (Spring 2025) to 40% by Spring of 2026.

K-1st Grade Reading Proficiency (earlyReading)



We saw growth in Kindergarten and 1st grade reading over the past year.

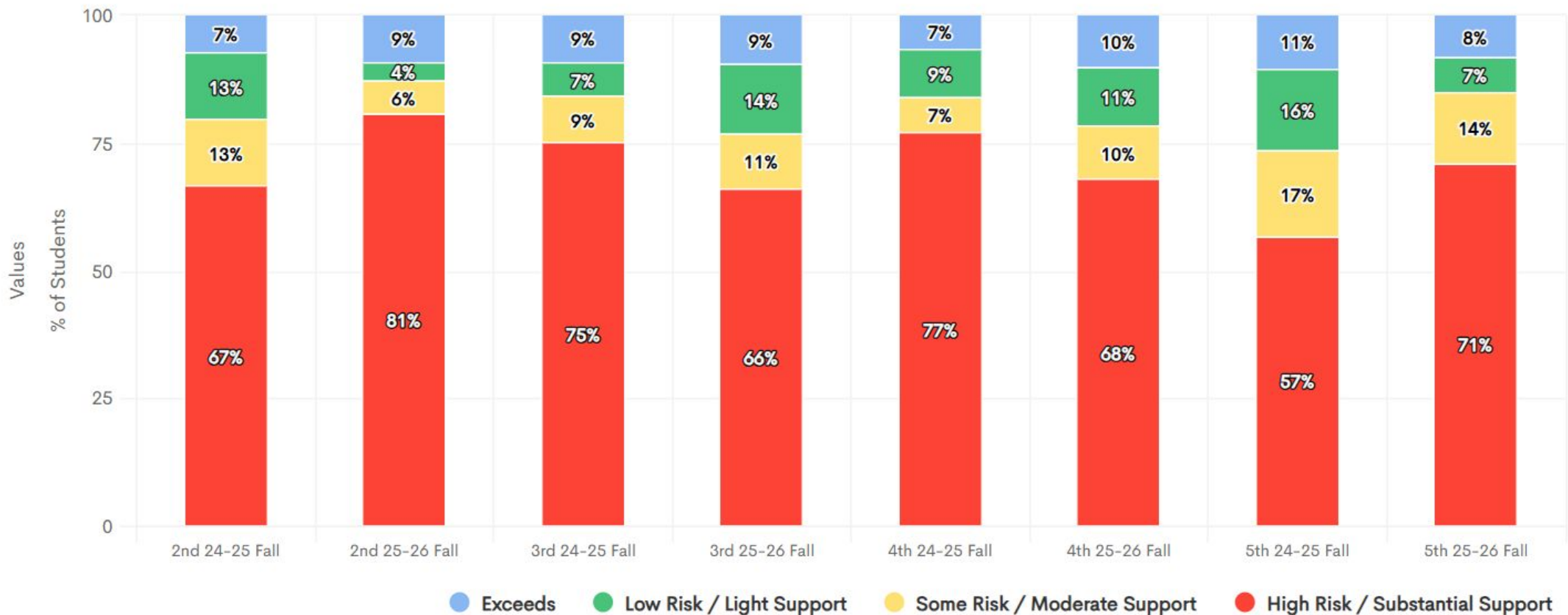


2nd - 5th Grade Reading Proficiency (aReading)



FAST - Fast aReading By Grade

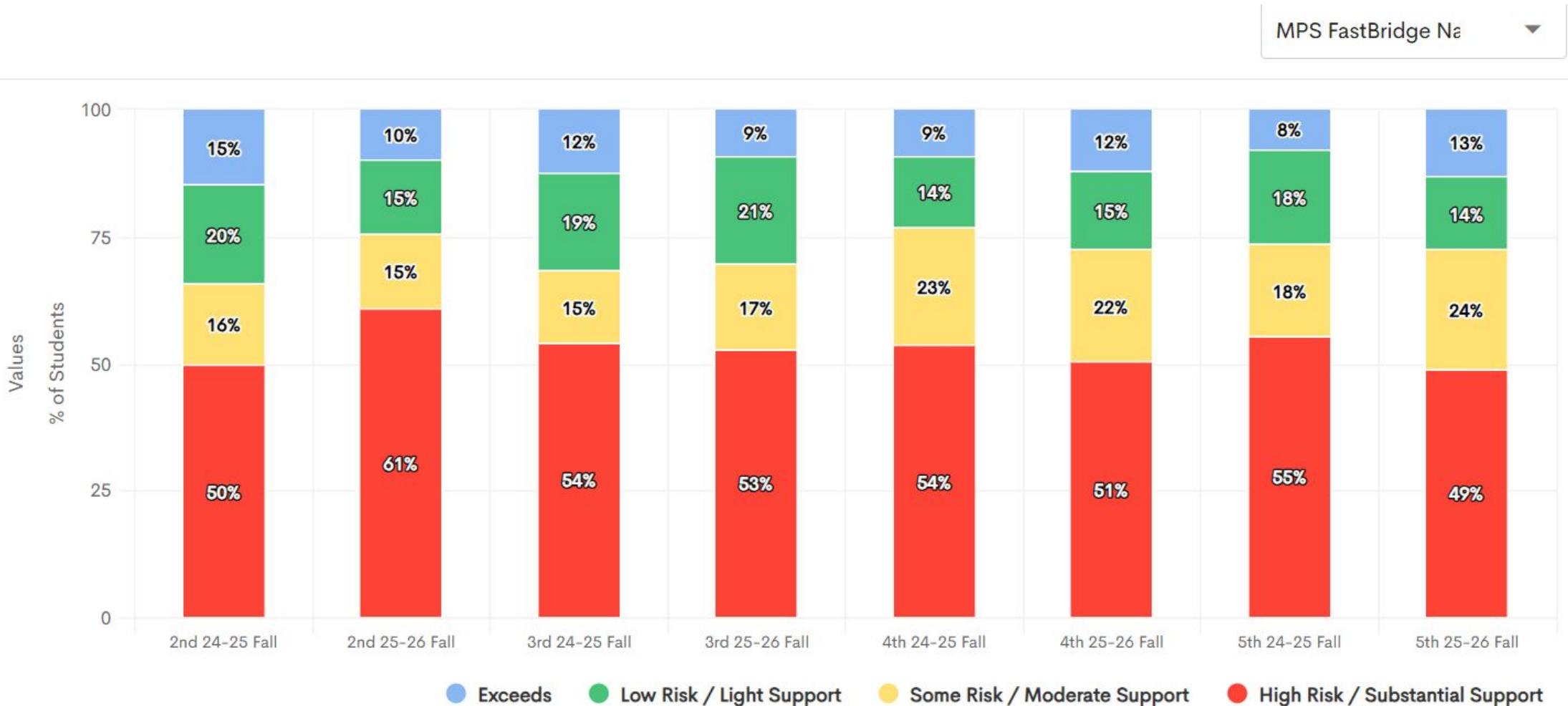
MPS FastBridge Na



2nd - 5th Grade Reading Proficiency (CBM-Reading)



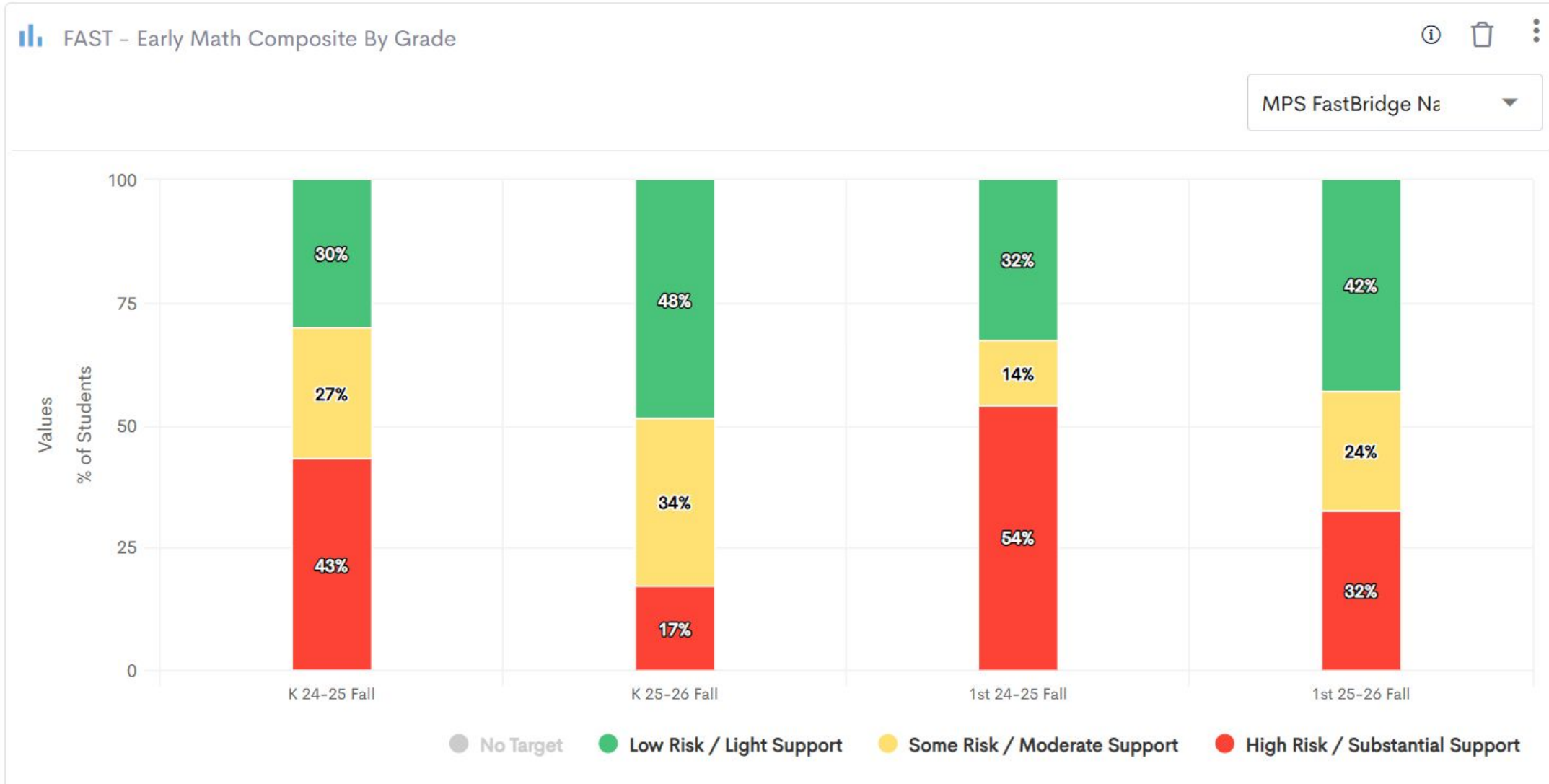
We have seen growth in some areas on students' ability to decode what they are reading.



K-1st Grade Math Proficiency (earlyMath)



We saw growth in Kindergarten and 1st grade math over the past year.

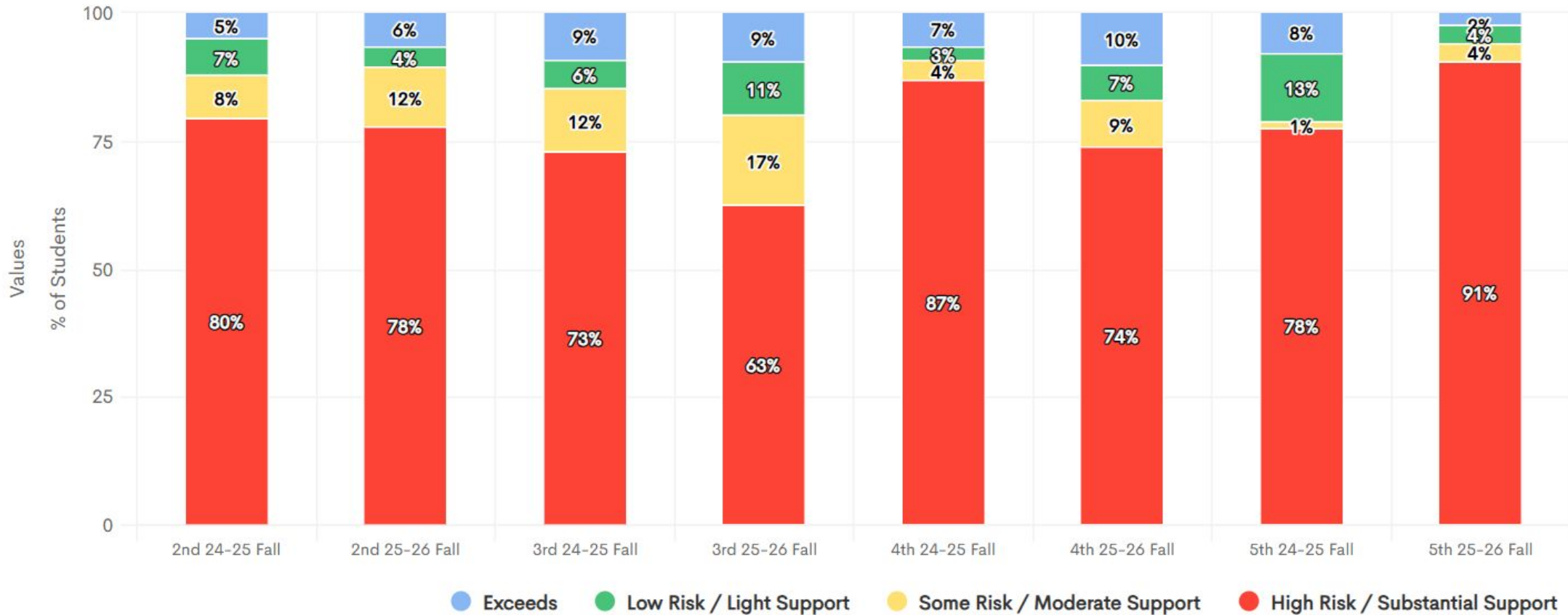


2nd - 5th Grade Math Proficiency (aMath)



FAST - Fast aMath By Grade

MPS FastBridge Na





Goal Area 2: Student Well-Being

By Spring of 2026, the percent of all students who disagree or strongly disagree with the statement "Other students at Whittier care about me" will decrease from 19% to 5%, as measured by the Whittier Student Survey.

Goal Area 3: Effective Staff

2nd-5th grade students who qualify for EL services will increase in their average accuracy on CBM-Reading from 66% (Fall 2025) to 70% by Spring 2026.



Goal Area 4: School and District Climate

To reflect the racial diversity of Whittier students, the community members on Whittier's site council will include $\geq 85\%$ people of color.

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:

- Teacher created assessments
- Observational Data
- Student work/presentations
- FASTBridge
- Capti
- Curriculum Based Measures (Reading)
- Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (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:

- Family-Teacher conferences on October 14th and 15th (fall) and February 13th (winter)
- Quarterly report cards
- Notices of intervention
- Periodic meetings with teachers upon request.





Due to our Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) results for our students, Whittier has been designated as an ESSA Comprehensive Support and Improvement School.

What does this mean?

- We have developed a plan to address the root causes behind the reasons identified in our needs assessment.
- We are receiving support to implement and monitor our school improvement plan.

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.

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

Curriculum and Instruction Support

- Staffing
 - Classroom staff buy-up
 - Social work time
 - Intervention support staff
 - Classroom Support Associate Educators
 - School Psychologist FTE
 - Translation support
 - Spanish Language Instruction
- Professional Collaboration - Extended Time for Planning & Translation

Family Engagement

- Conferences
- Cultural and Academic Family Nights
- Translation/Interpretation for Events
- Supplies for learning and family engagement events

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 activities, curriculum, etc

• **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 school events:

- October 24th: Latino Heritage/Dia de los Muertos Celebración 5pm-7pm
- November 13th: Curriculum Night 5:30-7:00
- December 18th: Winter Wonderland 5:30-7:30
- January (ELL night - specific date pending)
- February 26th: Black History Night 5:30-7:30
- March 12th: Family Reading Night
- April 16th: Somali Heritage Night 5:30-7:00
- June 5th: Wolfpack Party 5:00-7:30

School Staff Information



Principal

Anne Wagemaker

anne.wagemaker@mpls.k12.mn.us

(612) 668-4171

Assistant Principal

Ty Martin

ty.martin@mpls.k12.mn.us

(612) 668-4172

Secretary

Farhiyo Mohamed

farhiyo.mohamed@mpls.k12.mn.us

(612)668-4170

Family Liaison

Sherrick McRae

sherrick.mcrae@mpls.k12.mn.us

(612) 668-4189

Spanish Language AE

Dani Valero

daniela.valero@mpls.k12.mn.us

(612) 668-4190

Somali Language AE

Nuh Mohamed

nuh.mohamed@mpls.k12.mn.us

(612) 668-4192

School Social Workers

Cassie Rollins

cassie.rollins@mpls.k12.mn.us

(612)668-4170

Idil Shirdon

idil.shirdon@mpls.k12.mn.us

(612)668-4170

Sarah Olson

sarah.freeberg-olson@mpls.k12.mn.us

(612) 668-4170

