Community Needs Assessment 2025

COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Saint Paul Public Schools

SPPS Community Education

Mission

Community Education seeks to improve quality of life by providing lifelong learning opportunities for all members of the community.

Vision

Saint Paul Public Schools Community Education will advocate and provide positive, meaningful educational experiences for citizens of all ages by linking community needs and resources, supporting academics, and promoting the development of life skills, thereby enhancing the quality of our communities.

Values

Lifelong learning is based on the belief that people are learners at every age and are entitled to pursue educational opportunities that are meaningful to them.

Why a Needs Assessment was Designed

- Staying relevant and true to our Mission, Vision and Values.
- Best practice to reassess community and program needs
- Fiscal responsibility
- Partnerships and resources exploration

Key Players in Design

- Supervisors of Community Education programs
- Family Engagement Department
- Research, Evaluation and Assessment department
- CE Advisory Council
- Director of Community Education

Key Stakeholders

Parent Advisory Councils

Community Partners

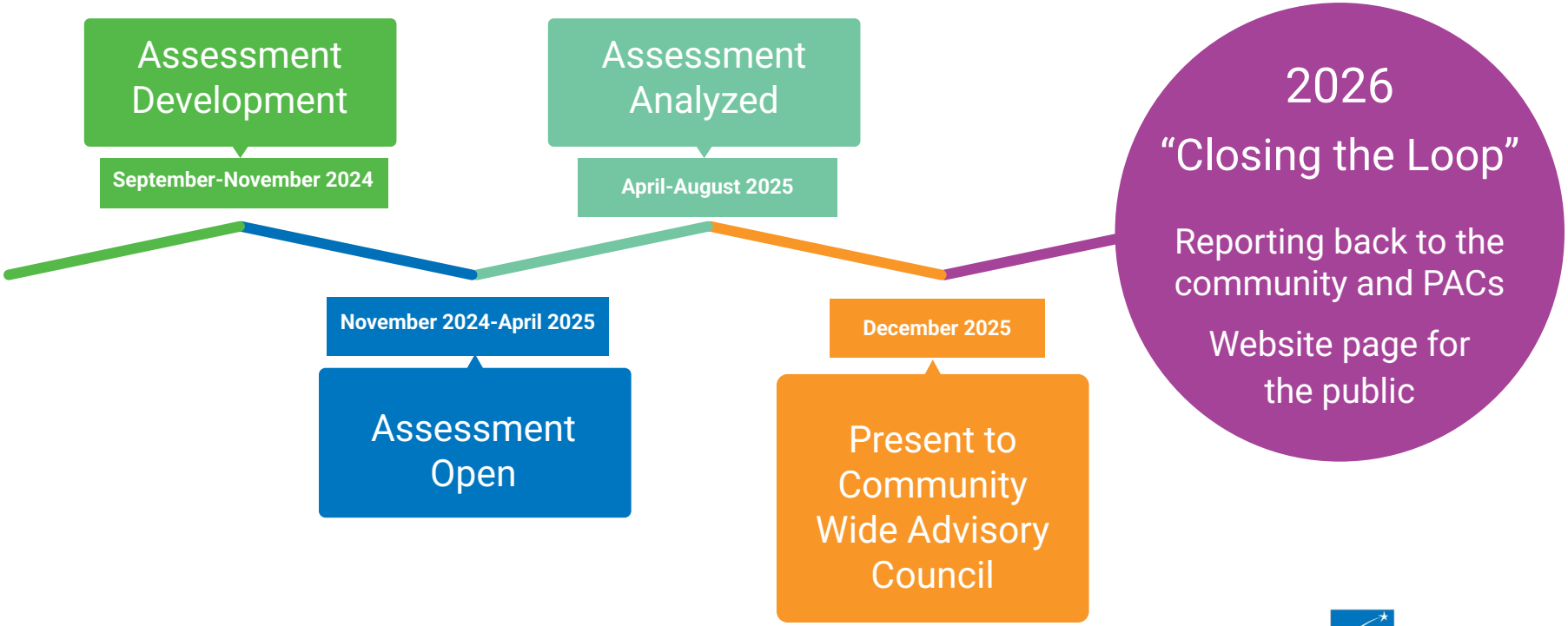
Community Members

Students, Families, Staff and Community

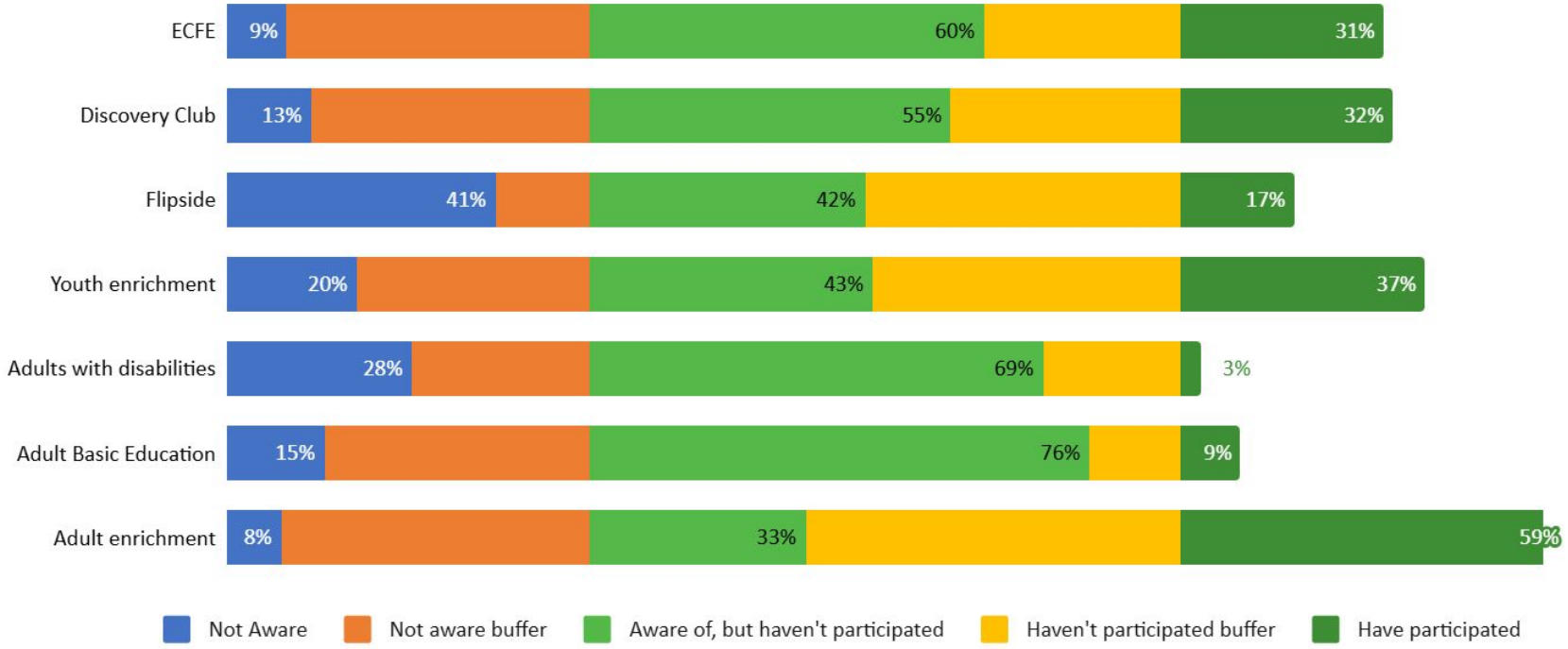
Primary Components of Assessment

- Familiarity of CE programs
- Preferred program location and method
- Resources needed/wanted
- Overall experience rating
- Reasons for not participating
- Open ended questions for additional feedback
- Opportunity for people to join the advisory council

Assessment Timing



Survey Results of Awareness & Participation



1,300 Surveys Completed 8 Parent Advisory Council Meetings Attended

PAC Proposals

- Strategic marketing and outreach enhancement
- Targeted events and organizational partnerships
- Enhancing program content, staffing and accessibility
- Develop culturally relevant and accessible programs

Adult Interests

- Strong demand for Arts & Crafts (esp. sewing, painting, creative work)
- Fitness & Pickleball — calls for intermediate/league-style options
- Languages — Spanish, more in-person language
- Tours & DIY home repair remain popular
- Music lessons, holistic wellness, and estate planning

(top things that bubbled up on numerical data: art/music, fitness/dance, culinary, health/wellness)

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

- High demand for ESL/English language learning
- Job readiness: resume, interview prep, networking
- Transportation support needed for access
- Interest in STEM/science/math refreshers
- Requests for career pathways

(top things that bubbled up on numerical data: people not aware of program, transportation, location, don't understand registration process)

Adults with Disabilities

- Social opportunities — games, improv, 'speed friend-making'
- Music & Dance programs
- Hands-on activities: robotics, weaving, bowling
- Field Trips
- Self-advocacy for semi-independent adults

(top things from numerical data: art, cooking, fitness, field trips, games)

ECFE

1. **Increase Awareness & Outreach:**

-Continue past practices for ECFE Marketing

-Expand outreach within hospitals and clinics, libraries, and more

2. **Provide Programming to Meet Evolving Needs of Families:**

- Expand options specific to families of children ages Birth - 3 Years
- Continue focus on culturally/language specific classes and Family Literacy

3. **Limit Participation Barriers:**

- Maintain transportation options

- Provide classes at a variety of times, with varied commitment durations

4. **Expand Education and Support for Caregivers**

- Meet families where they are

- Expand links to community partners and additional outside supports

Youth Programming (DC, Flipside, Youth Enrichment)

- STEAM: robotics, coding, art, theatre, music and dance high interest
- Adult/Child paired activities
- Sports including pickleball
- Life skills like cooking and finance
- Middle and High School activities

(Numerical data: DC activities for 3-5 grade, community service projects, community walking trips, family events. Youth: art/music, drivers ed, fitness & safety, aquatics)

Marketing/Registration

Enrichment Marketing

- All 144,000 St. Paul households receive a catalog for $45k+ (length and postage rate variables).
- A shorter catalog and LERN route distribution options are possibilities for future.
- Nationally catalogs account for 70% of enrollment.

Online Marketing

- Continuing the weekly enrichment emails, peachjar, district communications, ect.
- Up online social post frequency of highlighting classes, enrollment openings and reminders.
- Eleyo development of app would be needed for upkeep/tech support and financial capacity.

Community Outreach

- Translations created as needed for specific program marketing.
- Working with community partners/media to advertise to specific communities.

Barriers

- Common barriers: cost, scheduling conflicts, lack of awareness, and location.
- Transportation and language issues.
- Some programs not available at all schools.
- Financial feasibility and access to programming.
- Child care needed to participate.
- Translation support needed for registration.
- High demand classes have waitlists.

Feedback Summary

1. Common barriers: childcare, capacity, time conflicts
2. Expand adult enrichment: pickleball, DIY/tools, estate planning, wellness, music
3. Continue ABE's focus on ESL, job readiness and wrap-around services
4. Create disabilities modules: Social Nights, Music & Dance, Makers Lab
5. Refresh youth enrichment: STEM, arts, sports, life skills
6. Prioritize culturally/language specific classes and Family Literacy in ECFE
7. Use digital-first communications with opt-in print and strong social presence

Strategic Recommendations

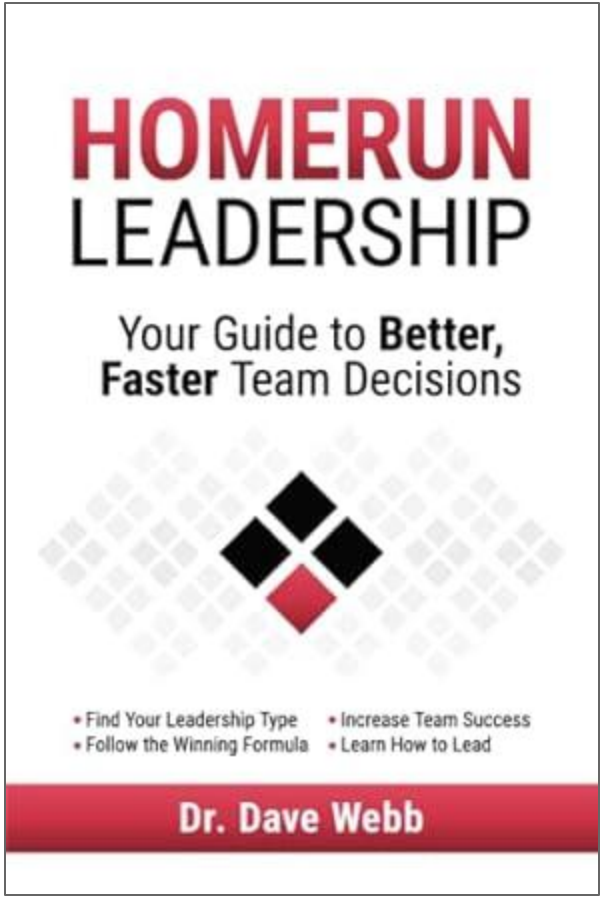
1. Expand program availability across more schools.
2. Increase offerings of popular classes and new classes.
3. Boost awareness through email and catalogs.
4. Address cost and scheduling barriers.
5. Enhance culturally reflective programming.
6. Prioritize in-person and instructor-led formats.
7. Strengthen partnerships with pediatricians and community orgs.

It's Your Turn!

https://homerunvision.com

Enter Room Code

Room Code: CZODXQ



Community Education Program Updates

COMMUNITY EDUCATION
Saint Paul Public Schools

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Fall Updates

- Classes offered in online, in-person, hyflex, and coached models
- July – October hours up 23% from the prior year (compared to statewide hours being up 10 percent)
- Job training in IT, healthcare, CDL, workplace safety, and education
- Value-added one day trainings in PCA, CPR, customer service, driver's permit, and job readiness
- Six full classes of math at Saint Paul College
- Starting to see impact of immigration policies



HUBBS CENTER
Adult Basic Education
SPPS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

MINNESOTA'S Best
2022 GOLD WINNER

HUBBS CENTER VOTED BEST FOR ADULT LEARNING



Community Programs

Fall 2025 Enrollment (Season to Date)

- Adult Enrichment: 4729
  - 413 classes
- Como Planetarium: 743
  - 17 Classes
- Flipside After-School: 1607
  - 7 Schools
- Freedom School After-School: 483
  - 3 Schools
- Youth Enrichment - 3101
  - 263 Classes



Fall Highlights

- 91.7% Enrichment Class Run Rate (to date); 693/755
- Puzzle Competition
  - 38 Adult teams, 9 Adult/Child teams
- Artist's Circle Art Fair
- Refurbished Gymnastics Space at Central HS
- Marvelous Mitten Makers distribution
  - 99 boxes sent to 36 Schools/Programs; Over 5800 items
- 42 youth receiving free drumming classes through YDA program

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

Classes Offering: 79

- 62 Day; 17 night; 1 online
- Drop In Classes: 2/week at current sites; 2/week at libraries

Enrollment: 938

- 18-19: 958 (98 classes)
- 19-20: 1115 (90 classes)
- 22-23:589 (76 classes)
- 23-24: 551(107 classes)
- 24-25: 685 (100 classes)

New Outreach Partnerships

- St. Paul Public Library
- MN Children's Museum
- Residency Programs
- Family Connection Center
- United and Children's Hospitals





Discovery Club (DC)

Program Goal

- Discovery Club will intentionally communicate Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to parents and families through newsletters, emails, bulletin boards, family nights, and other activities.

Two New Sites Opened this School Year

- Bruce Vento and Community Education Center at J.J. Hill

Fall Enrollment

- Current: 1,284
- Last Year (same time): 1,174
- Current Waitlist: 168
  - *Enrollment has grown by 110 students*

Fall Highlights

- November all-staff training featured a guest speaker on active calming stations.
- Several sites have led community service projects including food shelf donation drives and fundraising for Children's Hospital.

Community Education Center at J.J. Hill

Building Updates

- Pottery studio carpet removed & asbestos abatement
- Nature Pre-K outdoor classroom fenced in & outdoor furniture installed
- 8 new TVs with Apple TVs installed
- 70% building painted

Programming

- Adult Basic Education
- Adult Enrichment
- Adults with Disabilities
- Discovery Club
- Early Childhood Family Education
- Nature Pre-K
- Youth Enrichment

Events

- Fall Neighbor Night - 234 community members attended
- Spring Neighbor Night - Friday, May 1st

Upcoming

- Health Education programming
- New flooring throughout building

