Public Hearings:
Closure of Kingsley Elementary School

January 2026

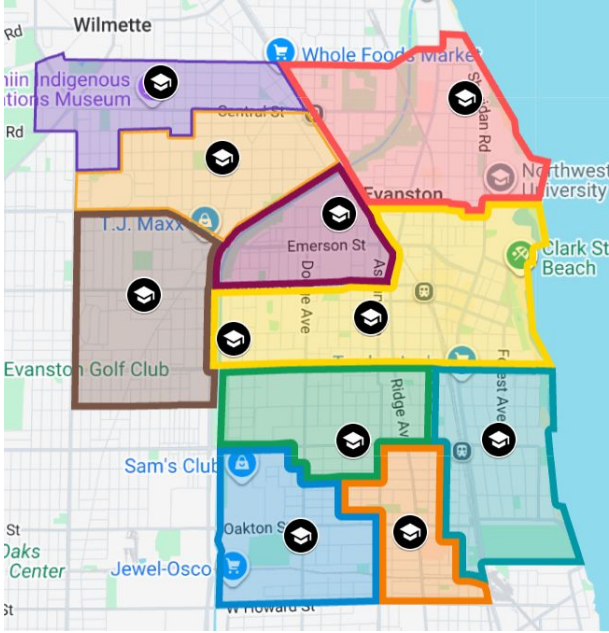
EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

Kingsley School Closure Scenario

1A-R2 Close Kingsley

Kingsley closes after the 2025-26 school year.



Strengths

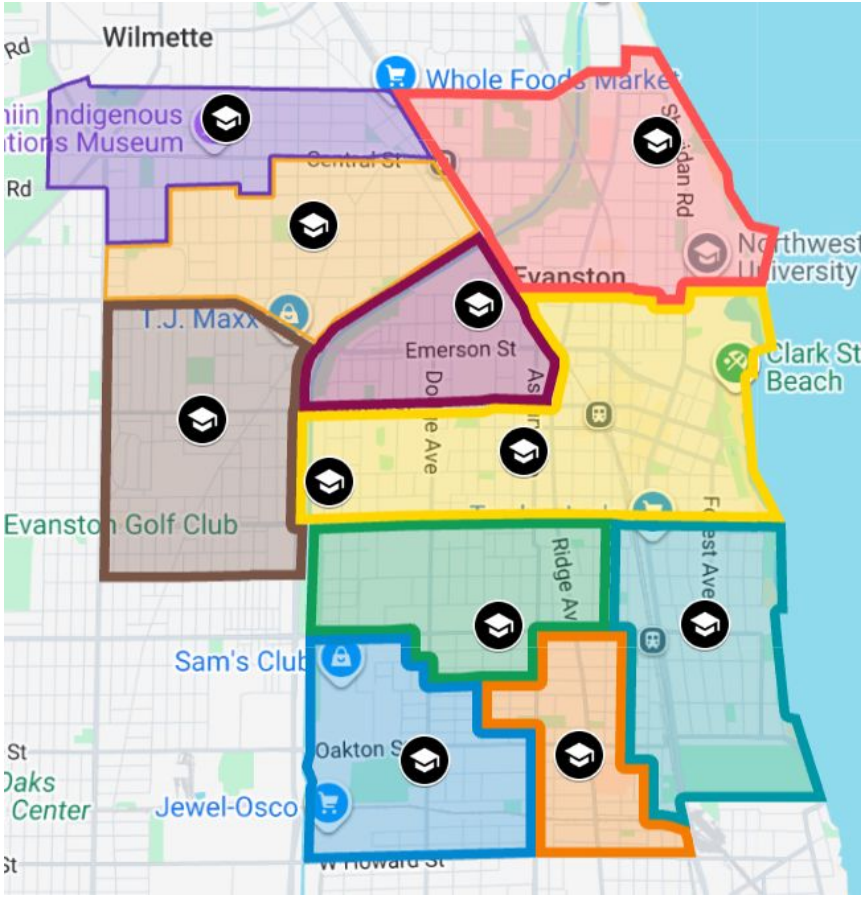
- School is in close proximity to the new Foster School.
- The closure and reassignment can be achieved with minimal on hazard crossings and creates transportation savings (approx. $300,000).
- Maintains boundaries similar to the Board-approved 2026-2027 boundaries.
- Building was successfully leased in a previous closure.

Challenges

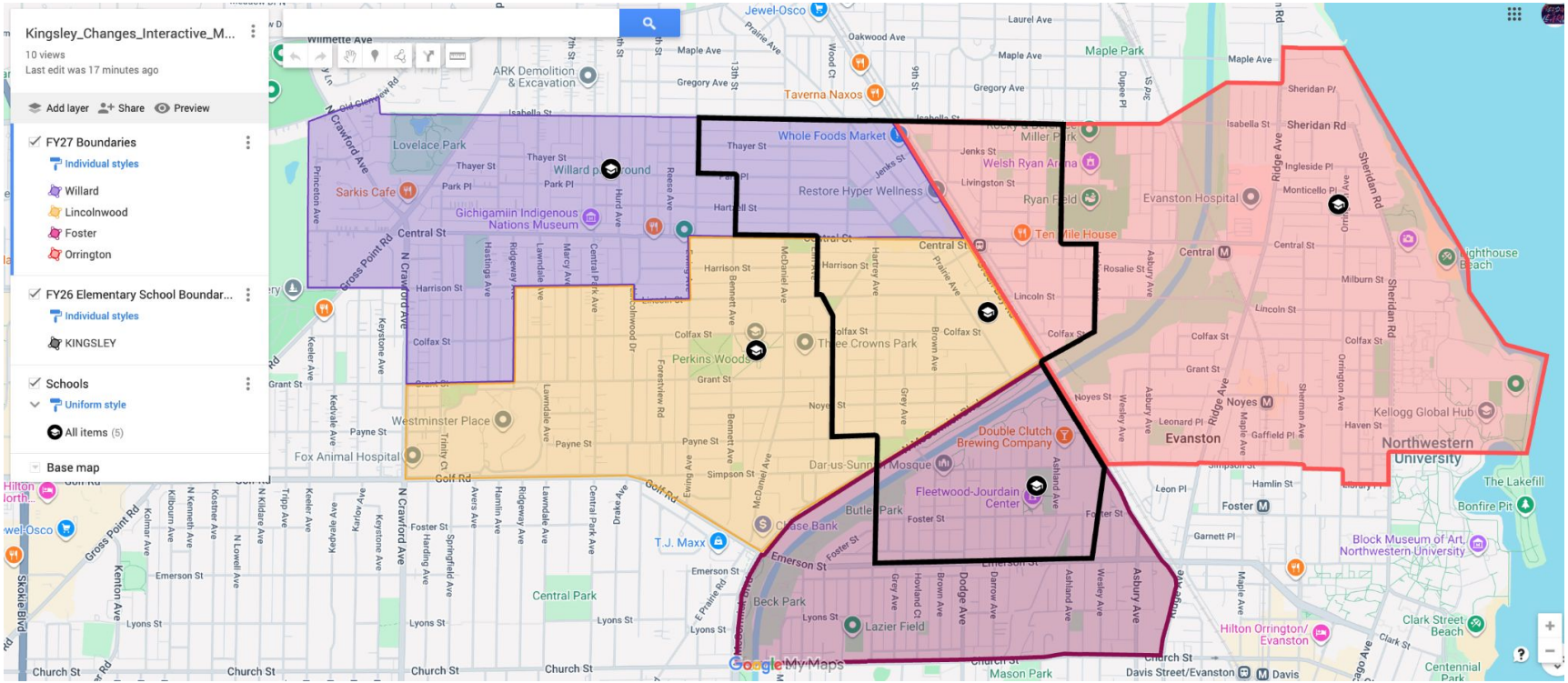
- Schools with Title I designation have an average utilization rate of 72% compared to 59% for non-Title 1 schools (excludes Foster).
- The property is adjacent to a District middle school, which requires additional consideration for type of reuse.

Note: 10/1/25 enrollment data used for modeling as well as revised capacities.

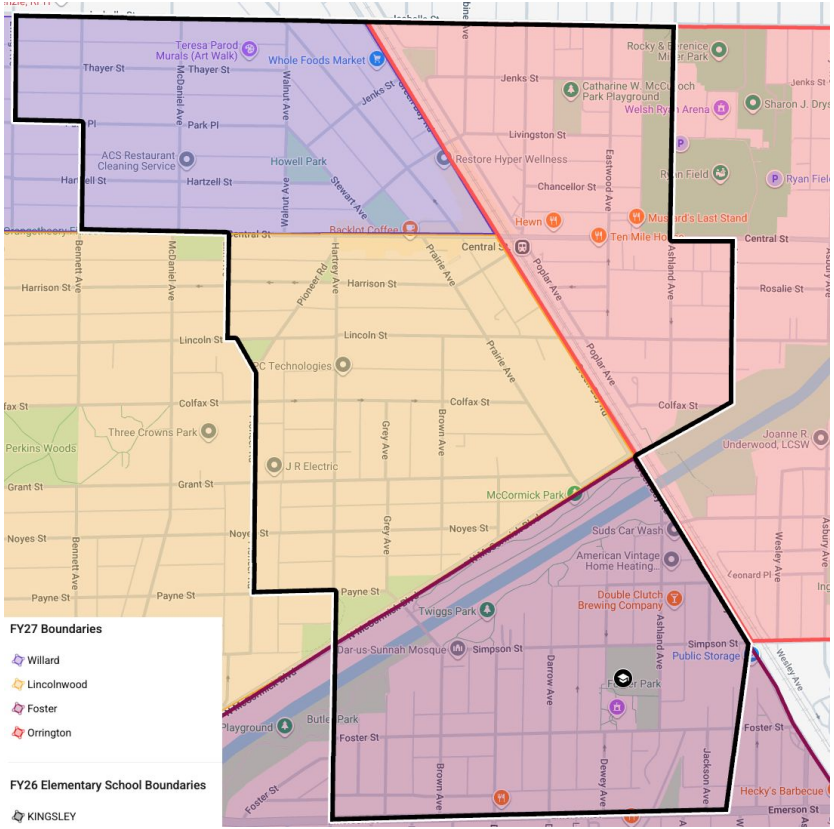
Proposed District Wide Boundaries as of 2026-27



Haven Feeder Pattern with Kingsley Overlay



Proposed Boundaries: Kingsley Assignments



Boundary Exceptions

Previous Exception	Recommendation	Explanation
Foster Exception	**Yes with a condition**	Students who live in Foster but attend another D65 K-5 elementary school during the 25-26 school year will be assigned to Foster school for 26-27 and a family may complete a permissive transfer to stay at their 25-26 school and the District is to accept this request **until the grade level is at enrollment capacity**. (Board recommendation and commitment, 3/7/22 and 3/14/22)
7th and 8th Grade Legacy	**Yes**	Legacy status would allow current sixth and seventh graders to remain at their current middle school through graduation.
Bessie Rhodes Exception	**Yes**	Kindergarten through fourth grade students at Bessie Rhodes are assigned to Foster School through fifth grade. Families may complete a return to home school request if they wish to exit Foster. (Bessie Rhodes Resolution, 6/10/24)

Building community within receiving schools

- Ongoing SEL support for students through Culture & Climate, FACE, and social work teams
- Coordination with IES and Multilingual teams to develop student centered academic transition plans
- Student-Centered Scheduling
- Open Houses and Meet & Greets
- Enrollment Information/Support Sessions
- School Spirit “swag bags”
- Student Buddies/Mentors
- Community Building
    - Collaboration with parent groups
    - Outreach from receiving schools
- End of Year Celebrations



Open House Dates - Open to All Families!

Dawes Elementary
February 19, March 19

Dewey Elementary
February 23, March 26

Foster Elementary
February 4

Lincoln Elementary
February 12, March 26

Lincolnwood Elementary
February 19, March 19

Orrington Elementary
February 19, March 19

Oakton Elementary
February 26, March 19

Walker Elementary
February 19, March 19

Washington Elementary
February 23, March 23

Willard Elementary
February 24, March 19

King Arts
Jan. 13 and 22, Feb. 10 and 19

Chute Middle School
February 19, March 26

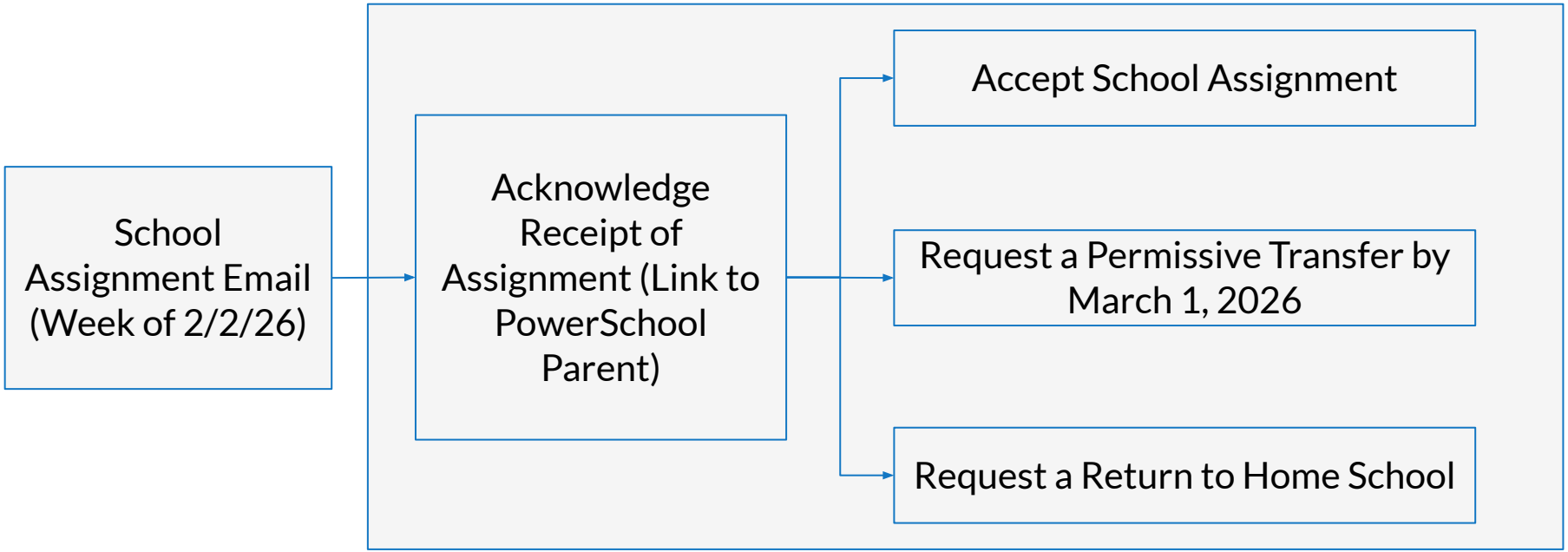
Haven Middle School
January 28, March 25

Nichols Middle School
February 25, March 25

D65 School Open Houses

district65.net/registration

School Assignment Email Options



Families must complete this process by March 1, 2026.

School Assignments Pending Closure

Date	Action	Explanation
Week of February 2, 2026	**School Assignment**	Districtwide 2026-27 Student Assignment Letters sent to families sharing the student assignment for next school year and defines the process to accept the assignment or apply for a permissive transfer or a return to home school request.
Week of February 9, 2026	**Q&A Support at Most Impacted Schools**	District staff are at Kingsley, Bessie Rhodes, and Willard to answer questions about school assignments, family options, permissive transfer requests and return to home school requests.
March 1, 2026	**Permissive Transfer Application Window Closes**	All permissive transfer requests **must** be submitted 11:59 PM on March 1, 2026 to be considered for the 2026-27 school year.
April 1, 2026	**Initial Determinations Communicated**	Initial permissive transfer request determinations shared with families (accept request, decline the request, or waitlist the request): TWI determinations sent for rising 1st-4th & 7th-8th, permissive transfer applicants **only**

Remaining Public Hearing Dates

Date	Time	Purpose
January 21, 2026	6pm	Public Hearing #1
January 22, 2026	9:30am	Public Hearing #2
January 22, 2026	7:15pm	Public Hearing #3
January 22, 2026	8:45pm	Special Meeting to vote on closure of Kingsley Elementary following the 2025-2026 school year

All hearings will be held at the Joseph E. Hill Education Center (1500 McDaniel Ave).

Public comment sign up will begin 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

Spanish interpretation will be provided.

KINGSLEY