

Reflecting on your student

Please sit at a table with a worksheet

Use the worksheet at your table to reflect on the ideal school experience for a student close to you. This could be your own BVSD student, yourself as a student, or a student you know.

Once you have reflected on those questions below, find one person in the room to share with.



Questions:

1. What are the ideal academic experiences you want for your student?
2. How do you want them to be supported throughout the day?
3. Outside of the classroom, what opportunities do you want for your student?



We'll get started at 6:40 p.m.

**Resilient Schools: Responding to declining
enrollment
Community Engagement Session**



We must **LISTEN**
Before we **LEAD**



Points of Pride



Accredited with Distinction

For the second year in a row (2024 & 2025), BVSD is the only Metro Denver school district to be **Accredited with Distinction** – The Colorado Department of Education's **highest honor**.



9 Governor's Distinguished Improvement Awards

26 John Irwin School of Excellence Awards



Highest percent of BVSD students **meeting/exceeding standards** in English Language Arts and Math on **CMAS** since 2014.

Objectives

This is not a meeting where decisions are being finalized.

Instead, this is an opportunity to:

Learn and share some of the challenges the district is navigating

Reflect on what matters most for students

Engage in conversation about potential tradeoffs

Gather your input to help inform next steps

You will have multiple opportunities during this experience to share your voice



What Engagement Will and Will Not Do

Engagement will:

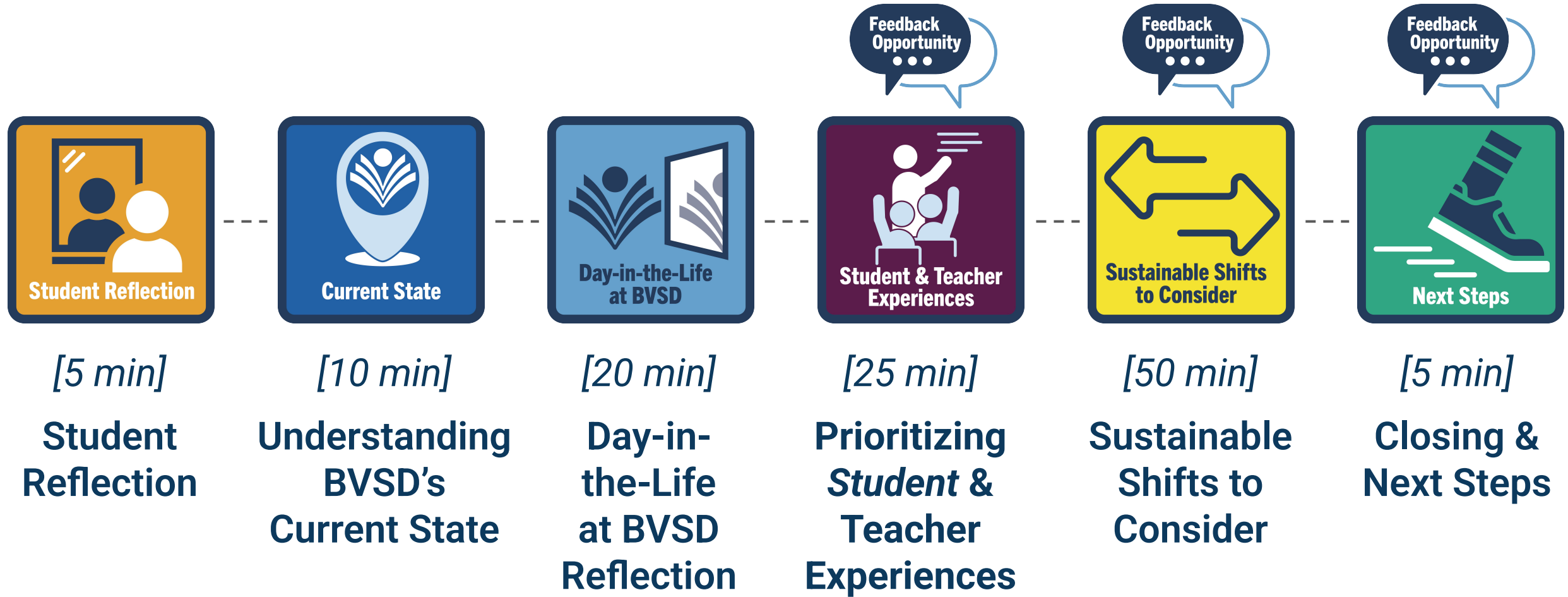
- Build understanding of the problem
- Gather input on values, priorities, and tradeoffs
- Inform development of school adjustment options and Board of Education decision making of Education

Engagement will not:

- Guarantee preservation of specific schools
- Delay action
- Transfer decision-making authority away from the Board of Education



Agenda

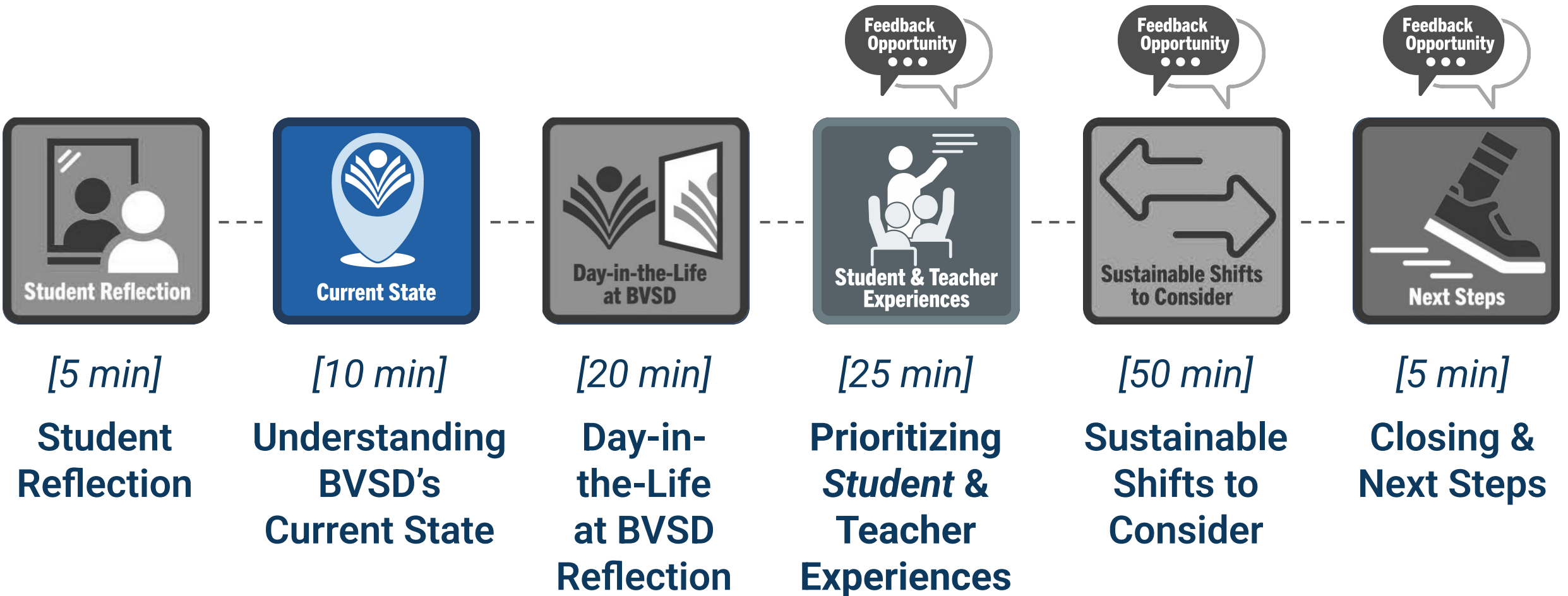


Let's make this time positive and productive

- Put the student experience at the center of our conversation
- Assume good intentions
- Focus on ideas to build long-term solutions
- Think broader than your child or your school
- Listen to understand not just respond
- Share the air
- Respect our time together and each other



Agenda





Current State

Student Reflection

Current State

BVSD
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Background

- Declining number of births (national, state, & local trend), leading to shrinking population under age 10
- Growing population over age 60
- Dwindling housing opportunities due to low inventory, people aging in place
- High cost of living
- More housing opportunities in surrounding districts

THE DENVER POST

BUSINESS > REAL ESTATE • News

Colorado has the four most expensive housing markets in U.S. not on a coast

Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins and now Greeley make the real estate list

Daily Camera

Boulder County report: 80+ population to grow faster than all others

UPDATED: July 6, 2024 at 6:21 p.m.

THE DENVER POST

January 13, 2026

Colorado public school enrollment sees biggest drop since 2020 as graduation rate continues to improve

TIMES-CALL

NEWS > EDUCATION

St. Vrain Valley enrollment falls slightly for third year

PUBLISHED: December 18, 2025 at 4:19 PM MST

GOLDEN TRANSCRIPT

Jeffco enrollment falls to historic low as families move

District records smallest kindergarten class ever; officials point to rising home costs driving young families out

Updated Dec 3, 2025

Student Reflection

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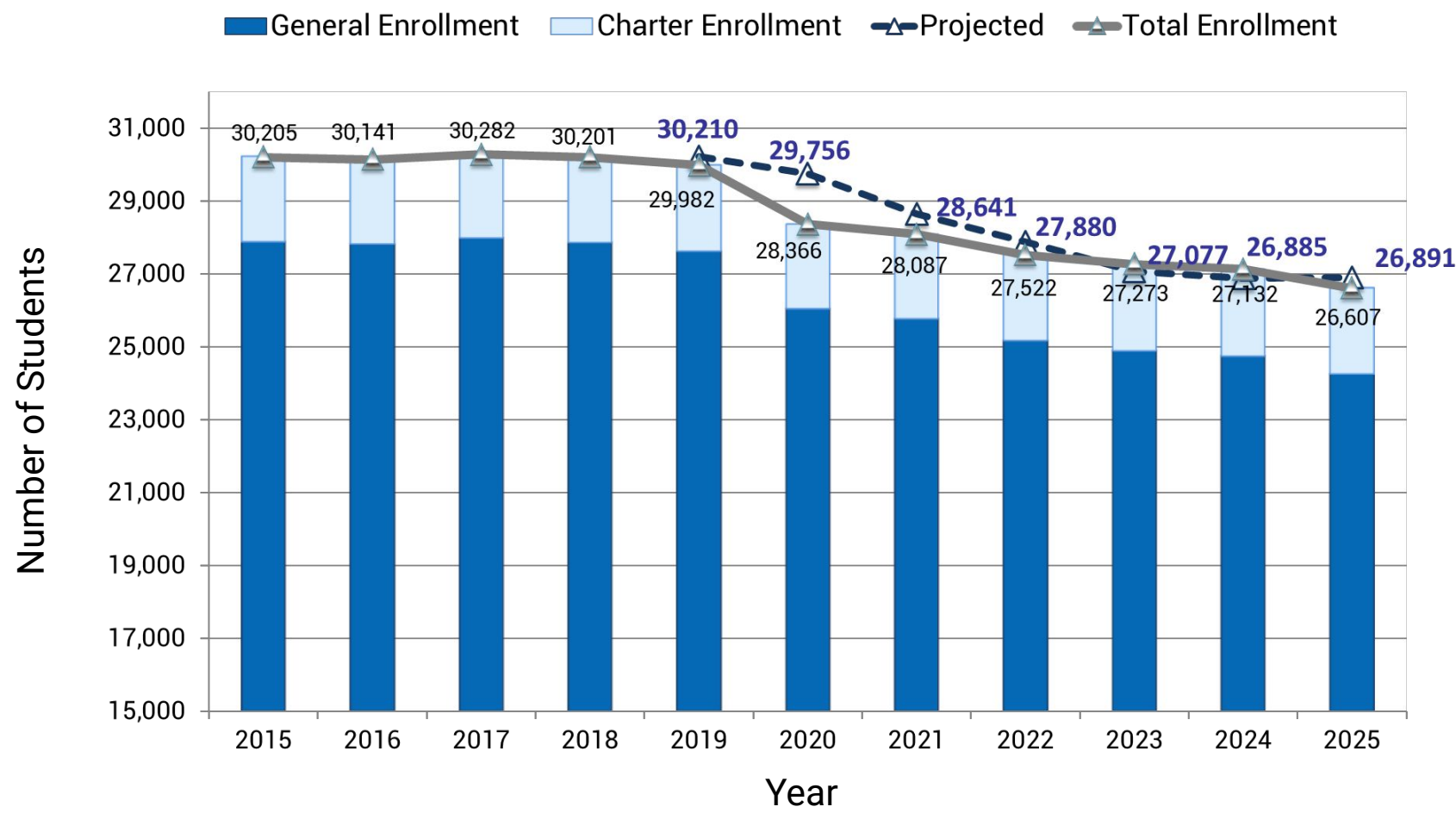
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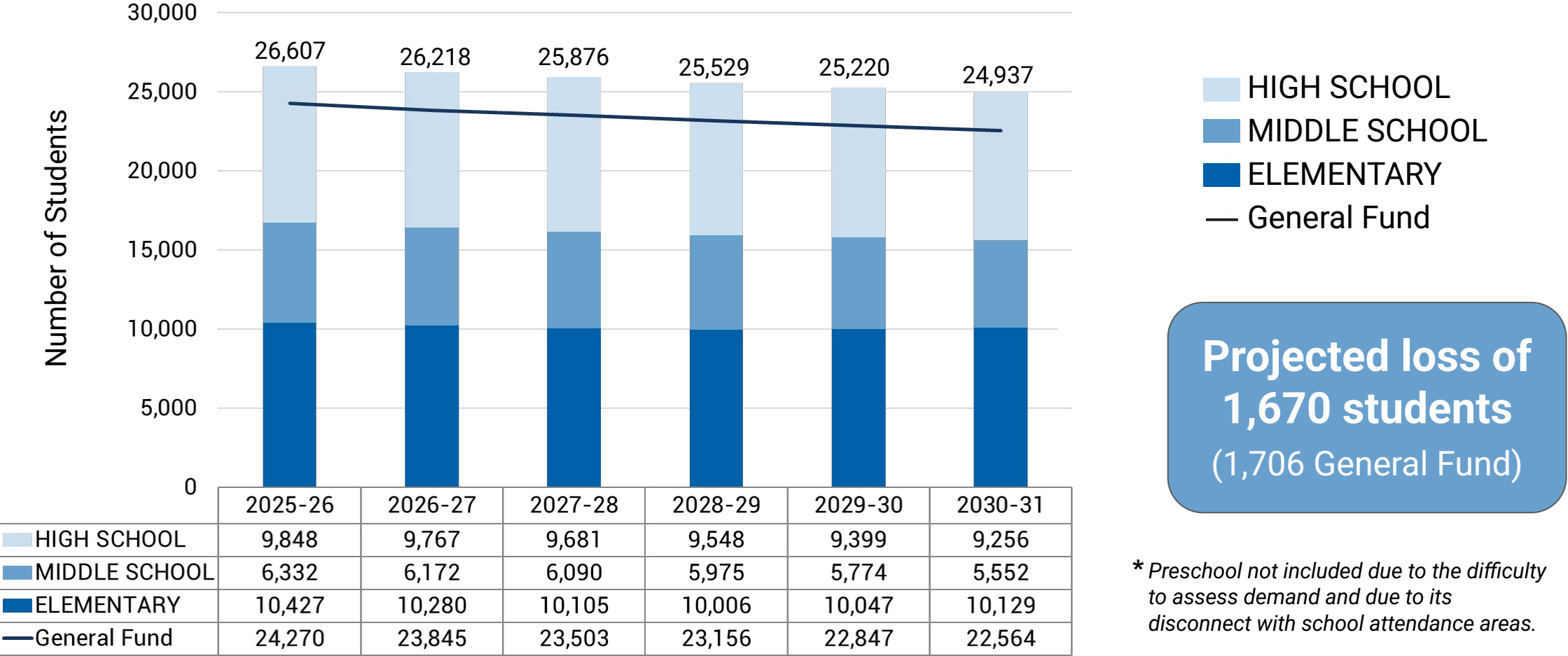
What Has Happened Over the Past 10 Years



Takeaways

- Decline of 3,675 students since 2017
- Continued overall decline of -1.9%
- Decline steeper than projected (-0.9%)
- Decrease in new, non-English speaking students

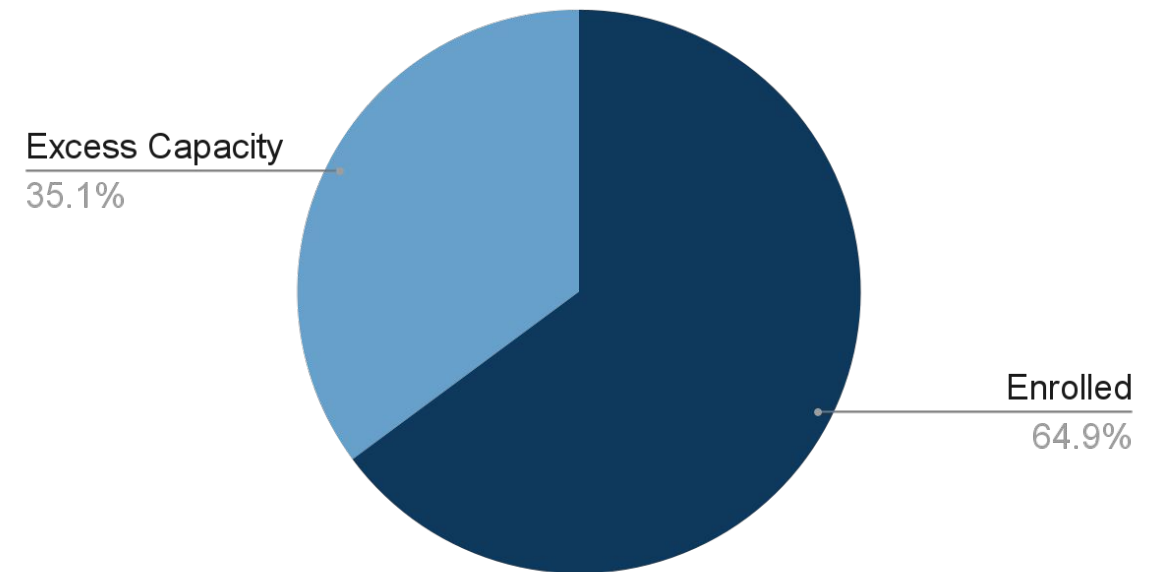
Overall Enrollment Projected to Decline



BVSD Elementary Building Capacity

- BVSD has the capacity to serve 14,543 K-5 students in our non-charter schools.
- We currently serve 9,732 (SY 25-26) K-5 non-charter students.
- The utilization rate is 67% with 4,811 open seats (SY 25-26).
- Projected to go to 9,433, or 65% in 5 years with 5,110 open seats.

BVSD Projected Utilization 2030-31



5-year Elementary Enrollment Projections

ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT TRENDS

- **Boulder**

- Continued enrollment declines

- 8 of 14 (57%) schools projected to be at or below 2 classes per grade level with a regional building utilization of 59%. Two additional schools are projected to be near the threshold for only two classes per grade level.

- **Louisville-Superior**

- Continued enrollment declines

- 3 of 6 (50%) schools projected to be at or below 2 classes per grade level with a regional building utilization of 64%

- **Lafayette-Erie**

- Slow enrollment growth

- One school projected to be at or below 2 classes per grade level with a regional building utilization of 82%

- **Broomfield**

- Continued enrollment declines

- 2 of 4 (50%) schools projected to be at or below 2 classes per grade level with a regional building utilization of 74%

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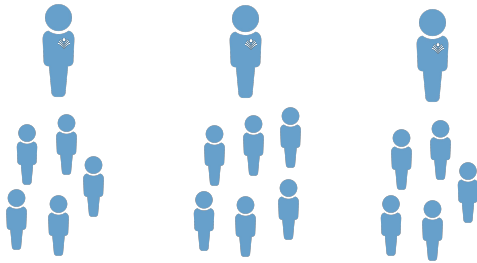


Elementary School Programmatic Impacts

Three Round (~450)

(3 classes per grade level)

Grade 1

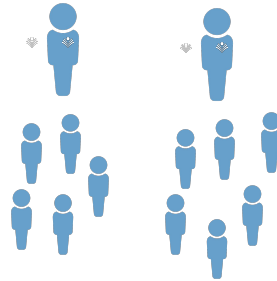


- ABC Specials rotation
- Instrumental music
- Ideal for programming
- Dedicated counselor, Specials teachers, Teacher Librarians, & Special Education teachers

Two Round (~300)

(2 classes per grade level)

Grade 1



- Traveling teachers
- Scheduling complexity & limitations
- Programming limitations

One Round (~150)

(1 class per grade level)

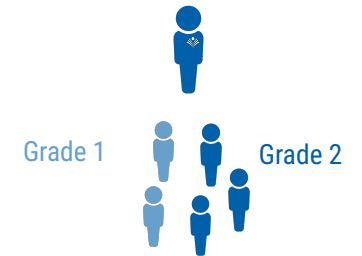
Grade 1



- Limited teacher collaboration
- Lack of flexibility to shift students
- More programming limitations

Multi Grade

(<1 class per grade level)



- Yearly change
- Complex planning for teachers

Student Reflection

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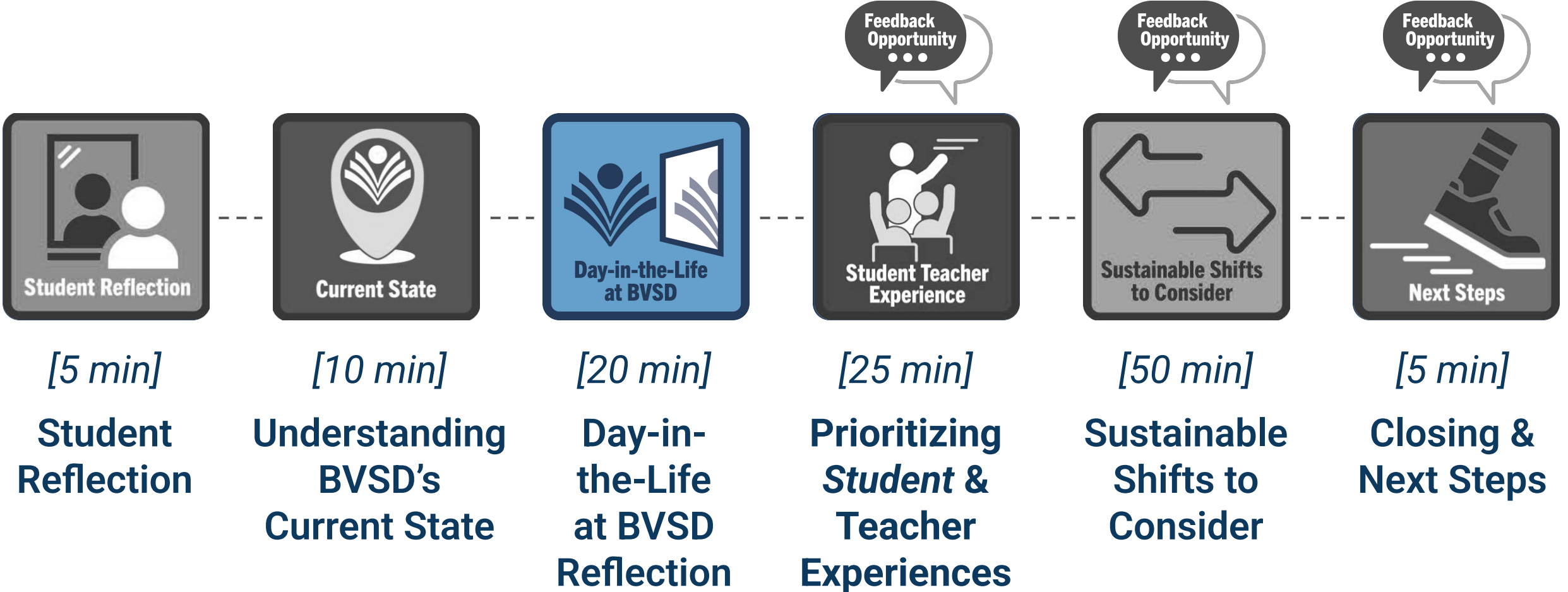
Student & Teacher
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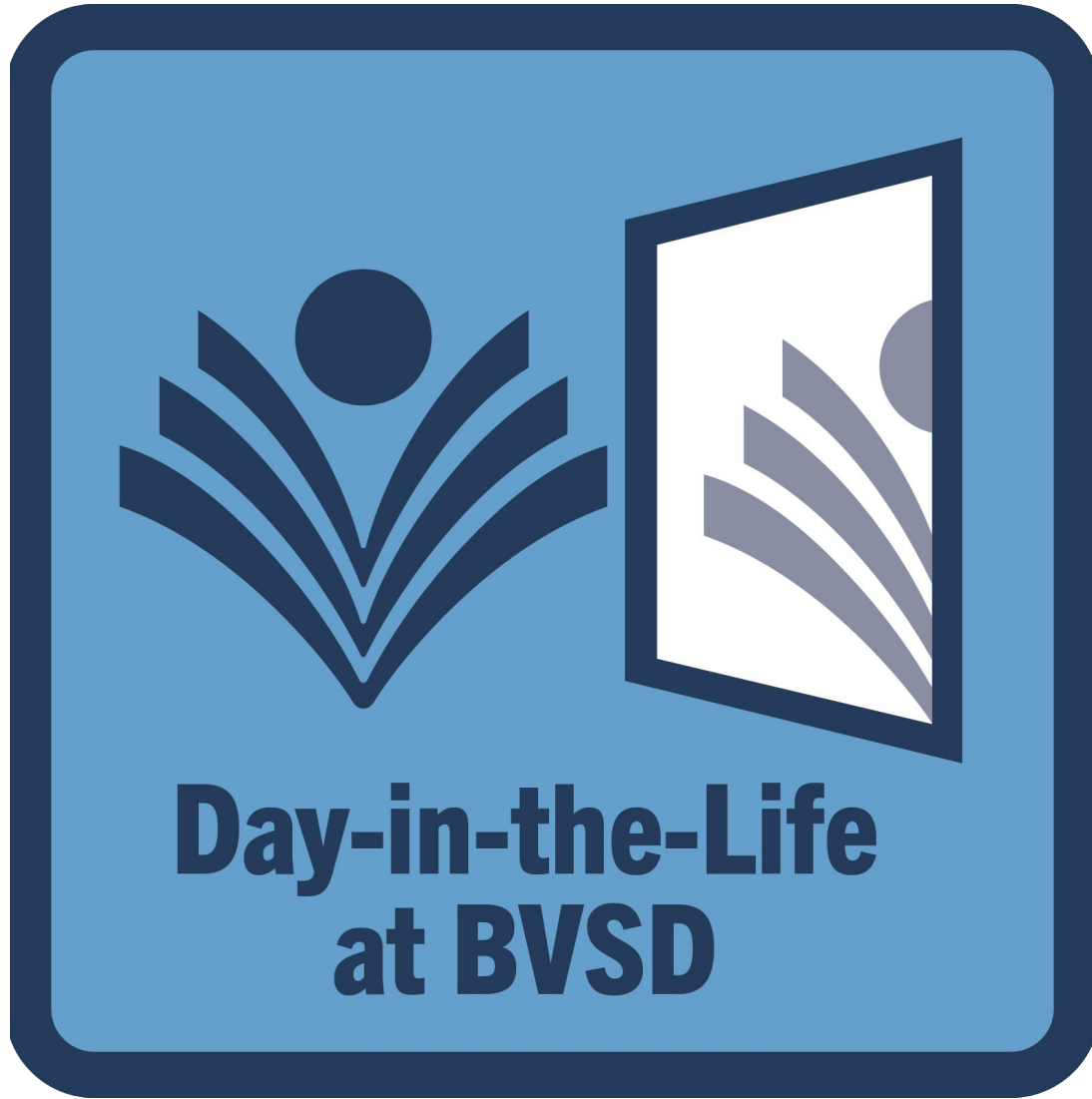
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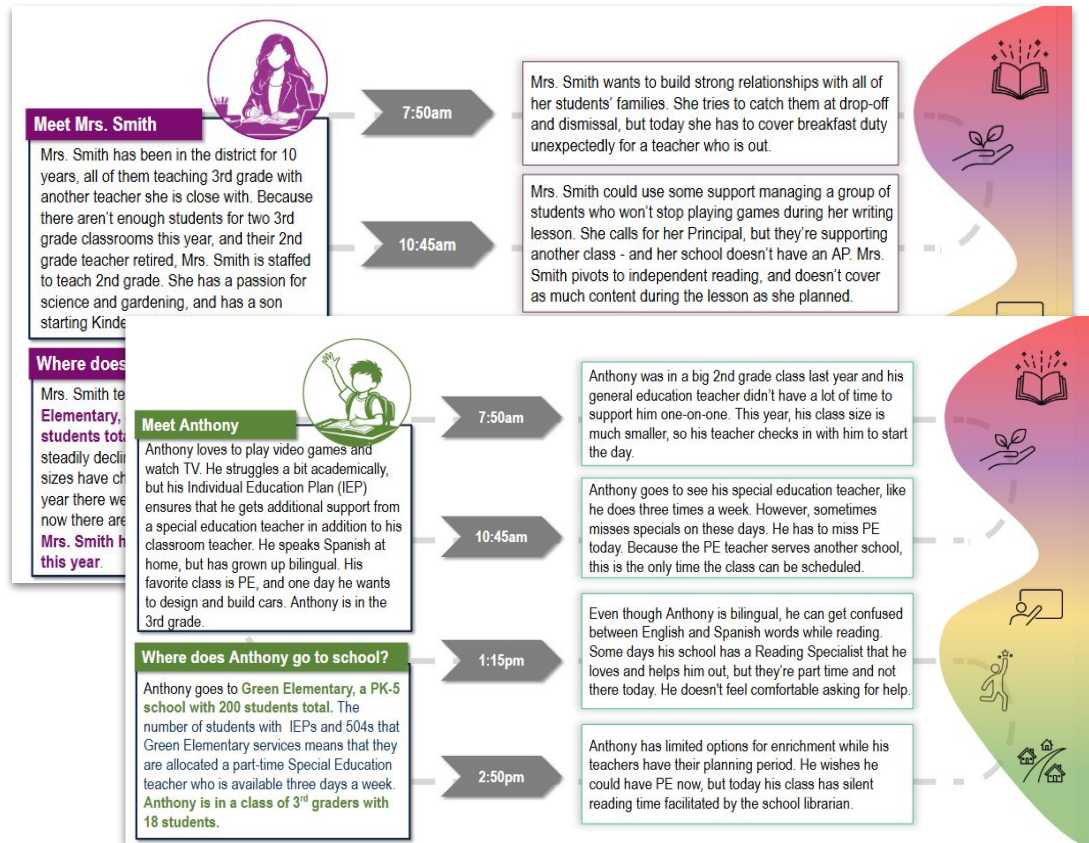
A day in the life of BVSD students and teachers

Reflecting on experiences at under-enrolled schools in the district

At each table, you have several profiles. These represent the experience of teachers and students in under-enrolled schools.

Table Activity:

- [10min] Explore your student profiles
- [10min] Discuss the student profiles at your table



Real BVSD student & teacher experiences

- These are composite profiles - each student or teacher may represent the day to day experience of multiple students or teachers
- Profiles are reflective of our on-the-ground observations, principal conversations, and takeaways from teacher focus groups
- Some experiences may be more reflective of your own school experience than others—but all experiences are being felt at under-enrolled school in our community



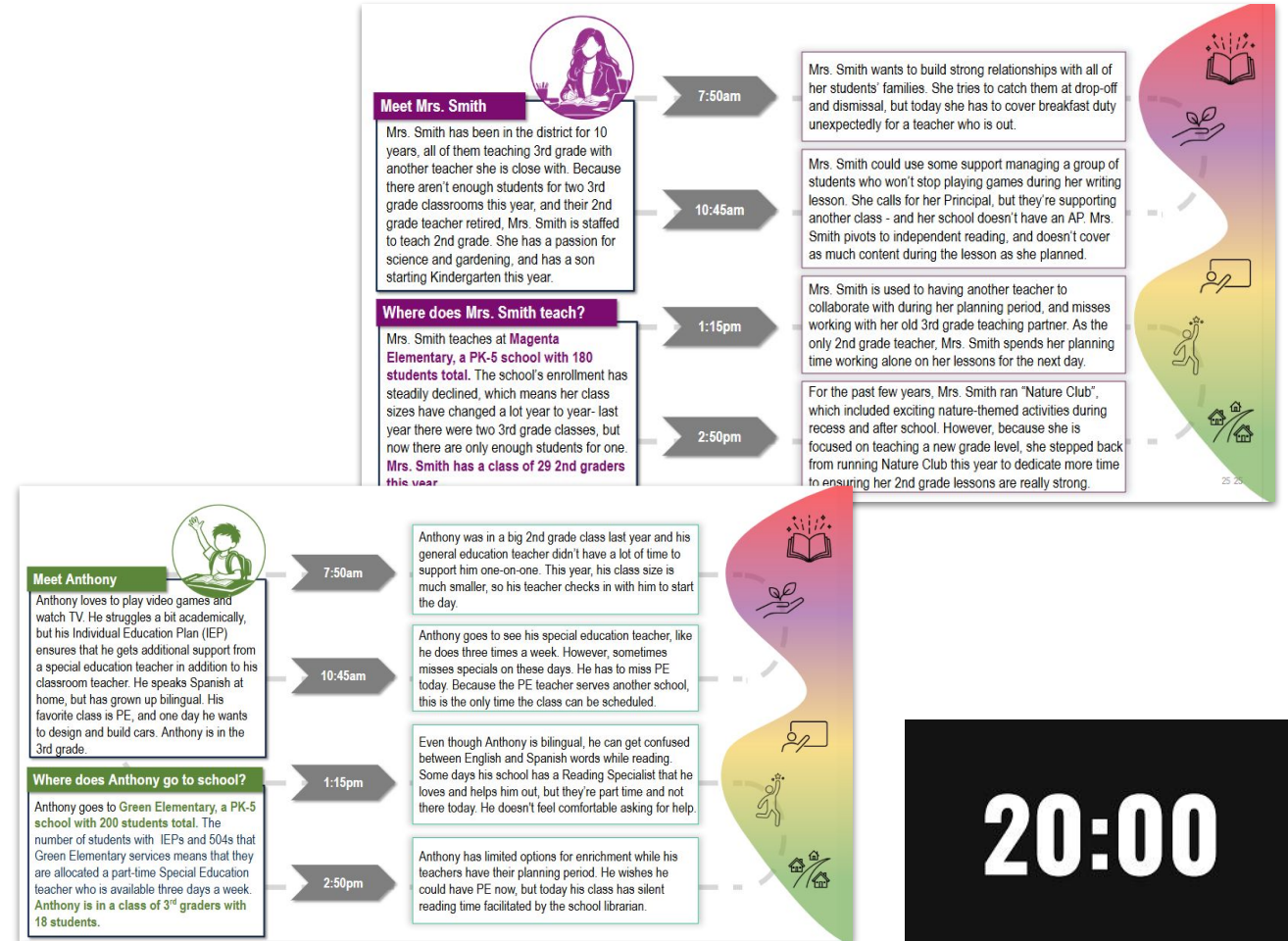
A day in the life of BVSD students and teachers

After you explore each profile, discuss:

Notice: What stands out about their experience?

Share: Have you, or a student or teacher close to you, experienced any of these challenges?

Compare: How is their experience different from or similar to what you wanted for your student?



20:00

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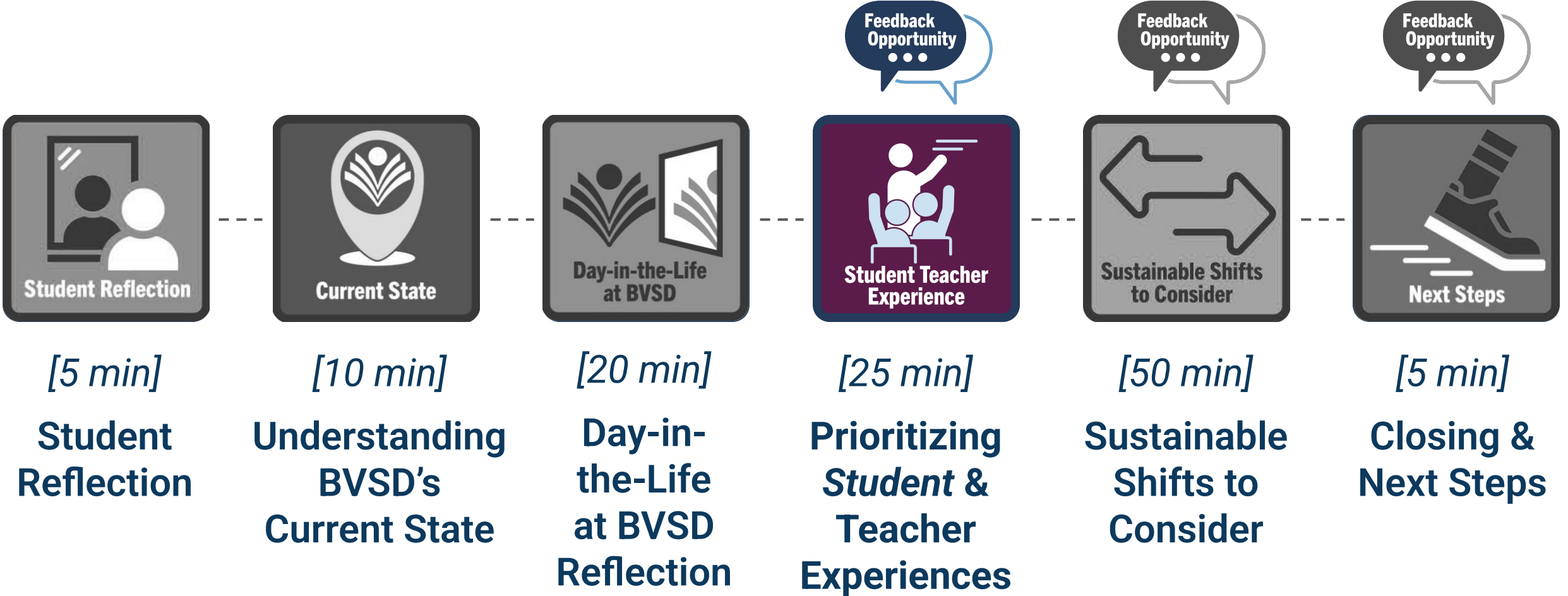
Whole group sharing

Table Facilitators share one of the following:

- Something your group **noticed**
- An experience that **resonated**
- A **wondering** or **question**
- A **key takeaway** or **insight**



Agenda



Student Reflection	Current State	BVSD Day-in-the-Life	Student & Teacher Experiences	Sustainable Shifts to Consider	Next Steps
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Student & Teacher Experiences

Feedback Opportunity
...

We've identified a set of common challenges that students and teachers face in under-enrolled schools

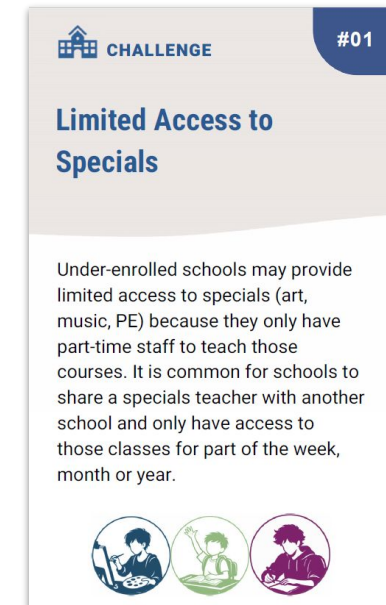
At each table, you have a **set of 12 experience cards** that reflect the challenges you read about in the “Day in the Life”

Table Activity:

[10min] Read through the experience cards

[15min] Identify the **top five** experiences you think are the most critical to solve for at your table

Note: Have something to share that's not in the set of cards? Fill out a **Wildcard**



25:00

Student Reflection

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Whole group sharing

Feedback
Opportunity

Table Facilitators share out:

What was the top priority for your group?



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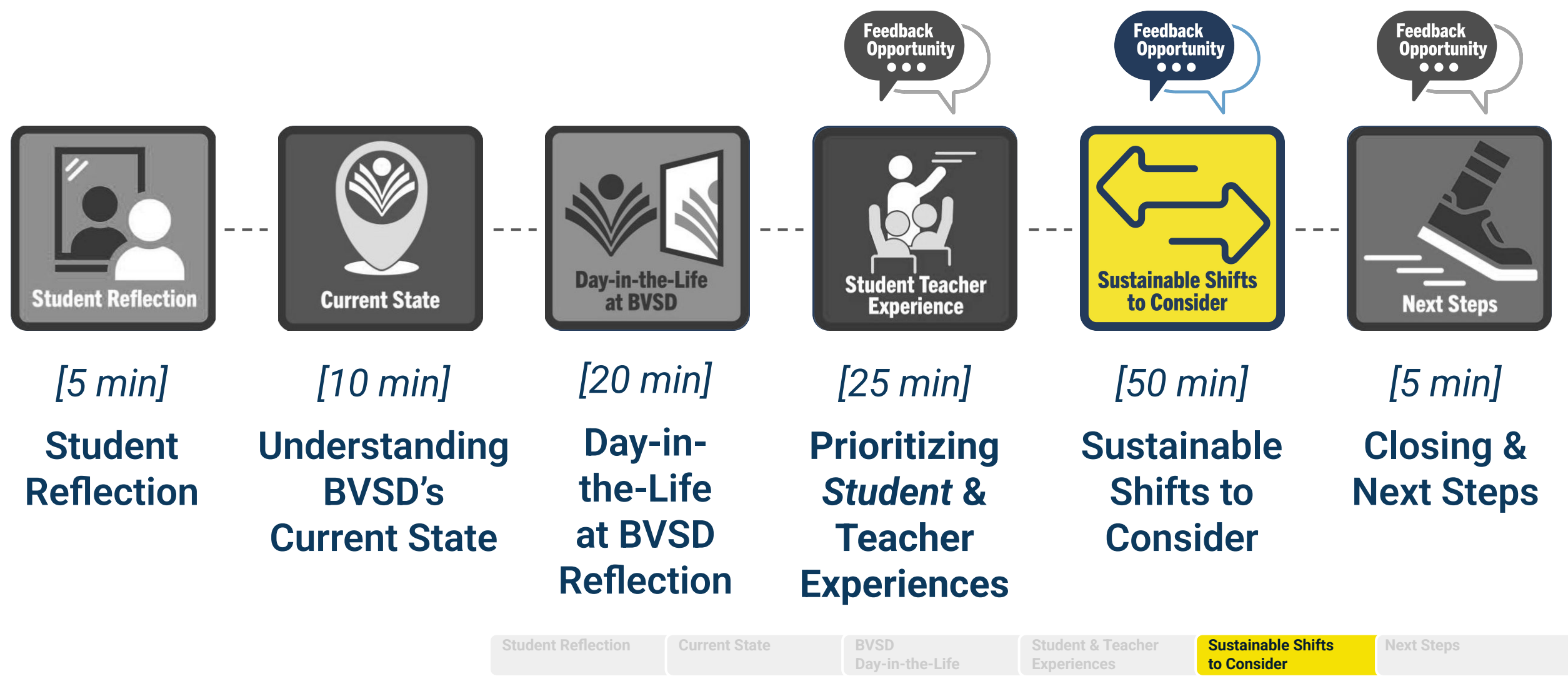
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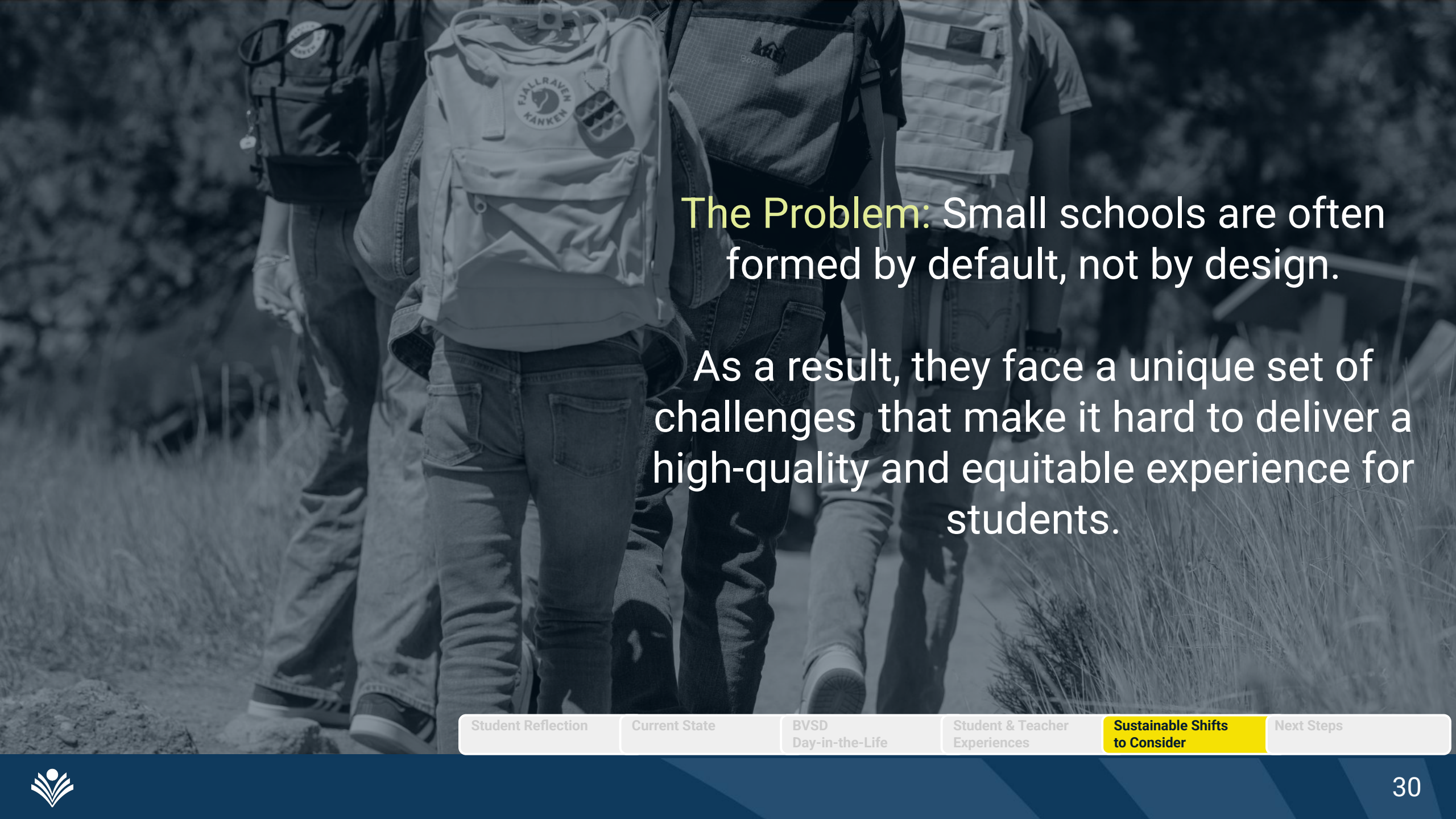
BVSD
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A black and white photograph of several students walking away from the camera on a dirt trail. They are wearing backpacks; one prominently features the 'Fjallraven Kanken' logo. The background is a blurred natural setting with tall grass and trees.

The Problem: Small schools are often formed by default, not by design.

As a result, they face a unique set of challenges that make it hard to deliver a high-quality and equitable experience for students.

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Boulder Valley's work so far

“Making it work”

*Strategies for minimizing challenges
using existing resources*

Increase Enrollment

*Strategies for bringing students and
families into under-enrolled schools*

Sustainable Shifts

*Longer-term shifts to district schools
and programs to address root cause
challenges*

Boulder Valley's work moving forward

Student Reflection

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BVSD Response To Date

2021-22

- Created Long Range Advisory Committee (April 2022)

2022-23

- LRAC metrics and recommendations (June 2023)

2023-24

- Parent enrollment survey (Sept. 2023)
- 1st annual Place to Be Showcase (Oct. 2023)
- 1st Annual Trend Report (Feb. 2024)
- Initiated Heatherwood Community Engagement (Mar. 2024)
- Updated enrollment-related policies

2024-25

- Approved Heatherwood focus program (Sept. 2024)
- New enrollment dashboard (Sept. 2024)
- New commuter Choice Enrollment preference (Oct. 2024)
- Place to Be Showcase (Oct. 2024)

2025-26

- Adopted new attendance boundaries (Sept. 2025)
- Long range planning worksession (Oct. 2025)
- Place to Be Showcase (Oct. 2025)
- Launched community engagement (Jan. 2026)

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Defining Goals

Future decisions should:

- Maintain and improve learning outcomes for all students
- Distribute students so all schools have the right level of students/resources to maintain high-quality learning experiences
- Stabilize overall enrollment by retaining current students and attracting new students to the district
- Maximize all efficiencies to address ongoing fiscal challenges

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Options for Board Action

	Meets Goals?
~~Allow schools to stay “small”~~	✗ Does not redistribute students/resources ✗ Does not generate additional enrollment ✗ Not fiscally efficient
Introduce or expand focus programs	● Potential to redistribute students/resources ● Potential to attract additional out of district enrollment ● Potential to improve fiscal efficiency
Grade reconfiguration, e.g. K-2 & 3-5 or convert K-8s to elementary and middle	✓ Redistributes students ● Potential to redistribute resources ● Impact on fiscal efficiency is uncertain; options are fundamentally different
Relocate focus programs	✓ Redistributes students ● Potential to attract additional out of district enrollment and/or generate additional resources for a school (if co-located) ● Potential to improve fiscal efficiency
Consolidate two or more schools into one building (existing or new)	✓ Redistributes/consolidates students and generates more resources for the receiving school ✓ New building has the potential to retain and attract students ✓ Improves fiscal efficiency
Close one or more schools and distribute students to multiple schools	✓ Redistributes/consolidates students and generates more resources for the receiving school ✗ Does not generate additional enrollment ✓ Improves fiscal efficiency





**Feedback
Opportunity**



Turn & Talk

**Independent
Study**

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INTRODUCE OR EXPAND FOCUS PROGRAMS

Introduce or expand focus programs

Benefits

What are the benefits to taking this action?

- Can attract new students to the school
- Can address unmet needs in the community

Considerations

What should be considered?

- May take students from other BVSD schools, creating enrollment issues elsewhere
- School may still be vulnerable to future enrollment decline



Turn & Talk at your tables

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1. What **hopes** do you have regarding what these shifts could bring to students?
2. What **fears** do you have regarding these shifts?

05:00

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Please rate on a scale from 1-5 (Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree) your agreement with the following statements:

1. I believe this action is a move in the right direction to solve the challenges of under-enrolled schools.
2. I want to learn more about this action.

05:00

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Grade Reconfiguration

Benefits

What are the benefits to taking this action?

- Class sizes can be more consistent
- Teachers have more peers to collaborate with
- It can avoid a school closure
- Focuses age-appropriate resources
- Allows for the possible sharing of certain staff members

Considerations

What should be considered?

- Adds a transition year for the impacted students
- It doesn't change overall enrollment in these schools
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RELOCATE FOCUS PROGRAMS

Relocate focus programs

Benefits

What are the benefits to taking this action?

- More efficient use of buildings
- May make focus schools more accessible to more families

Considerations

What should be considered?

- Students families and staff would potentially need to change locations
- New location doesn't guarantee success
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Consolidate two or more schools into one building

Benefits

What are the benefits to taking this action?

- Increases school and grade level size
- Can create a sustainable school size for the long term
- Students and families are able to move to the new school together

Considerations

What should be considered?

- Requires one school to transfer students
- Loss of familiar school home for some students and families



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Close one or more schools and distribute students to multiple schools

Benefits

What are the benefits to taking this action?

- Can create a sustainable school size for the long term
- Supports enrollment at multiple schools

Considerations

What should be considered?

- Loss of familiar school home for some students and families
- School communities are not able to transition to the same school, together



Turn & Talk at your tables

Benefits

What are the benefits to taking this action?

- Can create a sustainable school size for the long term
- Supports enrollment at multiple schools

Considerations

What should be considered?

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Independent Study

Benefits

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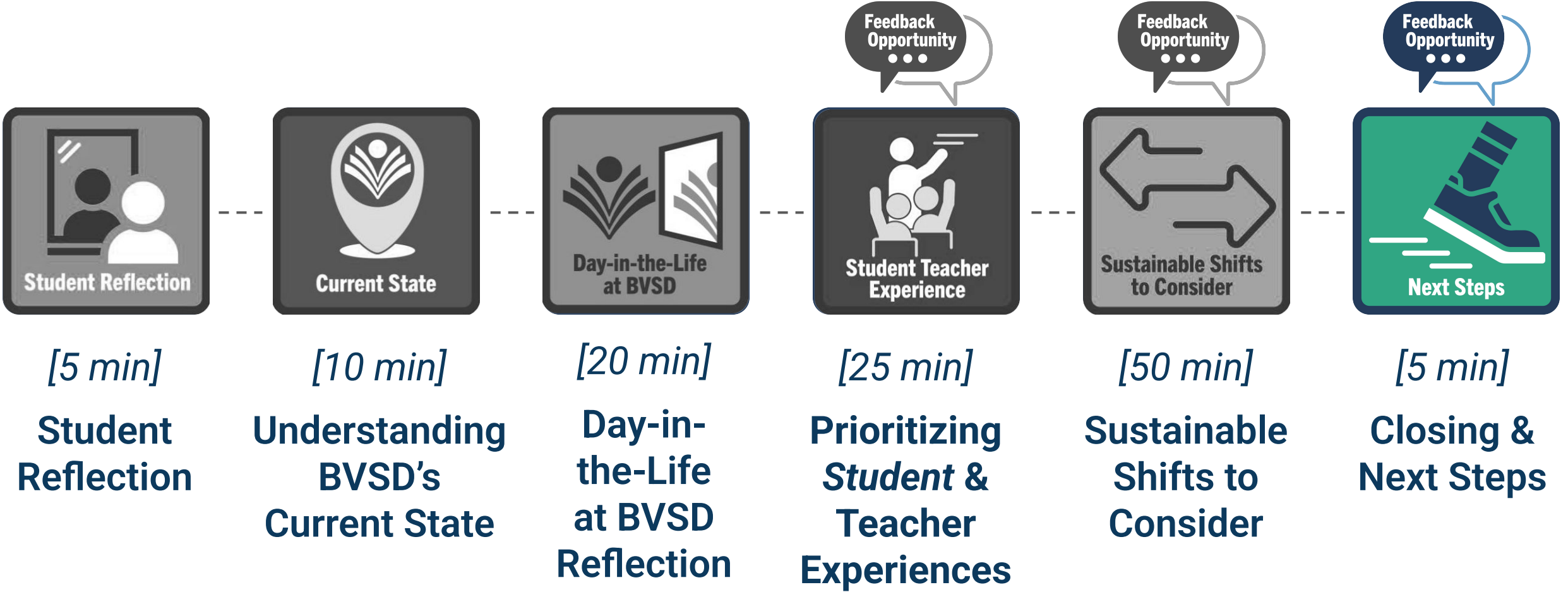
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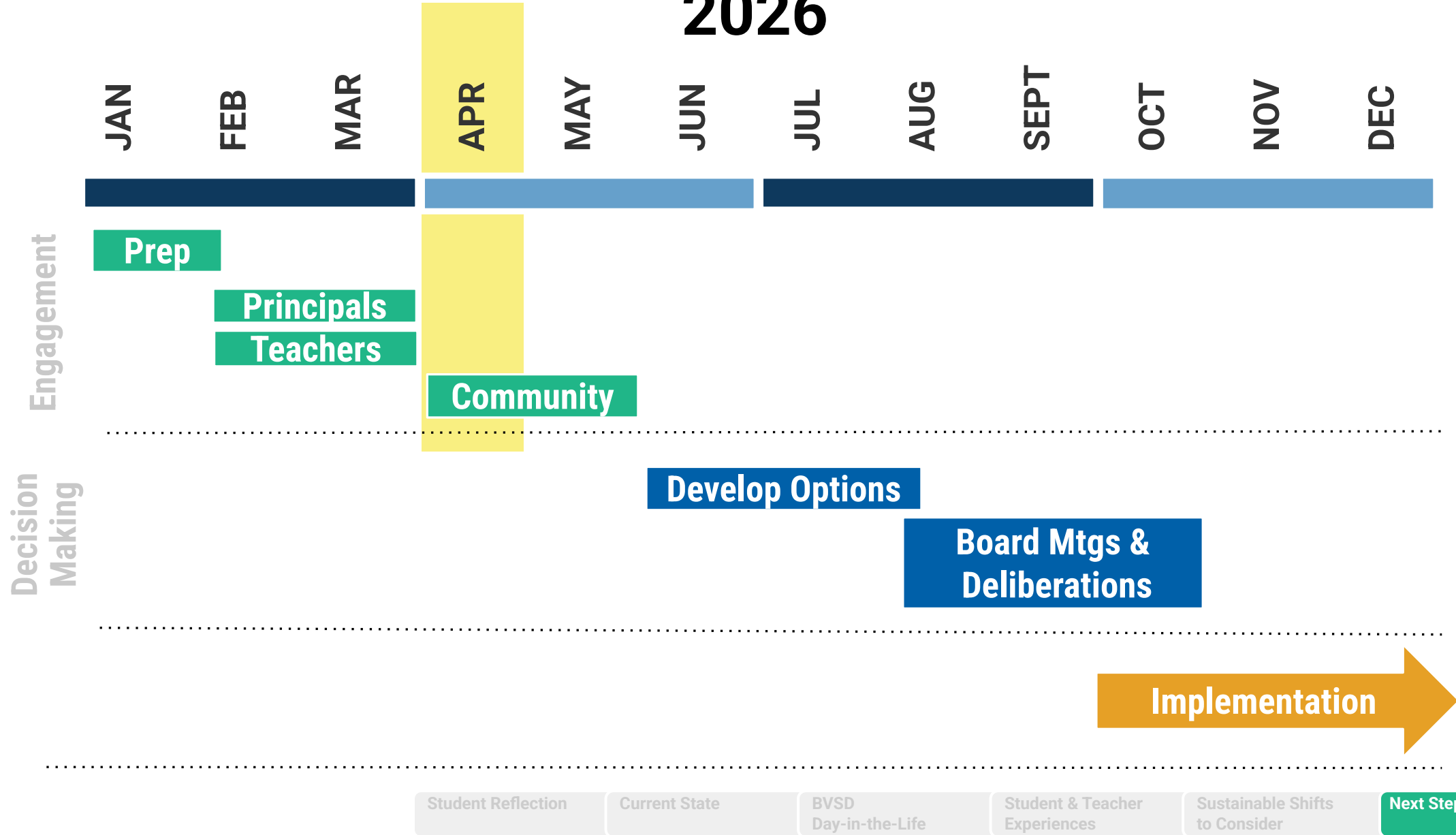
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2026



Thank you for participating in today's session! Please complete this survey to share any additional thoughts or feedback you have with our team.

<https://bit.ly/BVSDengagement>

Or scan the code

