

BPS Long-Term Facilities Plan Implementation: Summer 2026 Update


July 8, 2026

Objectives



- Present preliminary analysis of student transitions as a result of closures and mergers between SY2022-23 and 2024-25
- Share preliminary student assignment information from recent closures and mergers
- Outline how the district has supported schools throughout the merger/closure process

BPS Long-Term Facilities Plan



Vision:

Collectively, we want students to learn in school buildings with spaces that support: rigorous & culturally affirming learning experiences, wellness & enrichment, and a supportive network of caring adults.

The Current Situation

- **Our buildings are too old.** Nearly 2/3 of BPS schools were built 80+ years ago.
- **Our buildings often lack ideal learning spaces.** 73% lack proper art spaces, 67% lack proper science labs, and 53% lack proper auditoriums or cafeteriums.
- **Enrollment has declined ~14% in the last decade**, in line with nationwide trends.

LTFP Implementation Update

- We have taken a **multi-pronged approach to realize our vision**; this includes mergers & closures along with targeted new builds and renovations.
- The district **had 114 total schools when LTFP implementation work began** in SY2023-24.
- Since implementation work began, there have been **3 mergers and 10 closures, impacting roughly 4,000 students** at the time of School Committee approval.
- As approved by School Committee, **the total number of schools will fall to 100** by the conclusion of SY26-27.
- Based on enrollment data, the district set a **target of 95 total schools by 2030**.

The 18-month cycle of the Long-Term Facilities Plan



We are
here

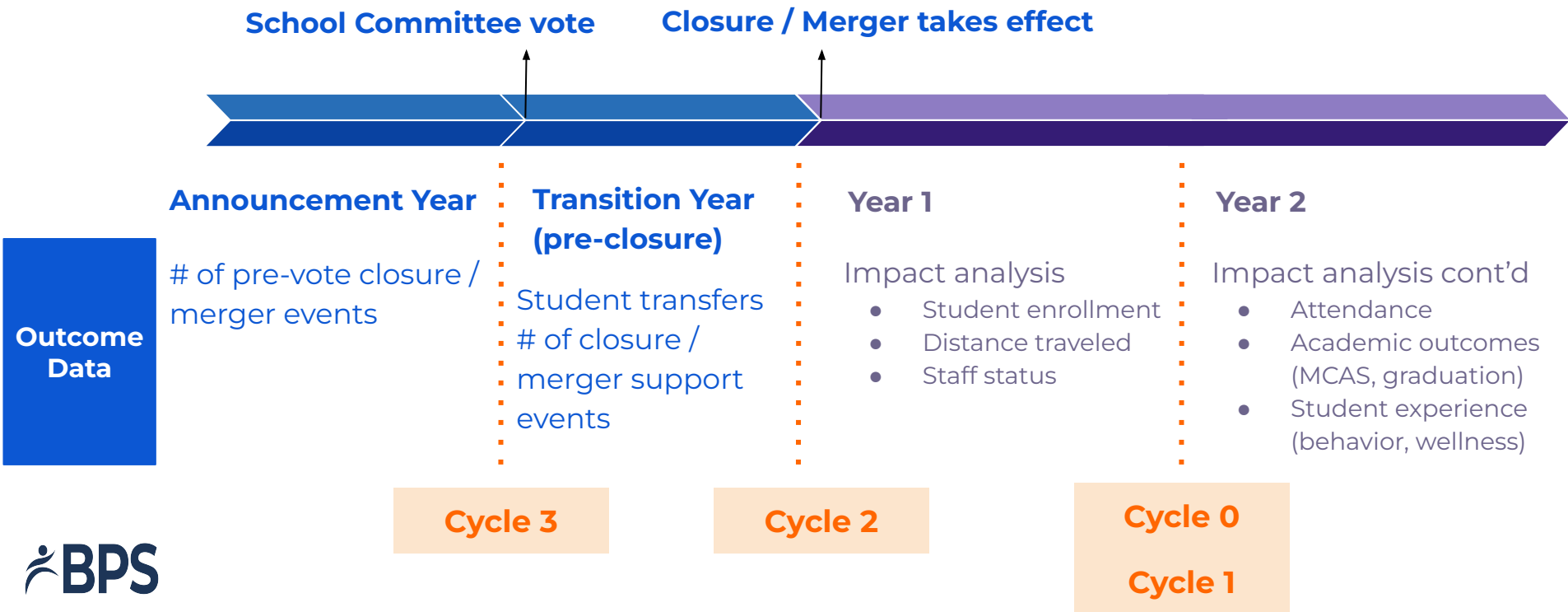
	SY22-23	SY23-24	SY24-25	SY25-26	SY26-27
Cycle 0 <i>Shaw-Taylor, Sumner-Philbrick</i>	Closure / Merger Vote	Transition	Shaw-Taylor Opens	Sarah Roberts Opens	
Cycle 1 <i>West Zone, Frederick</i>		Closure / Merger Vote	Transition	C1 Schools Close	
Cycle 2 <i>Dever, Excel, Lyon High, Community Academy, Clap-Winthrop</i>			Closure / Merger Vote	Transition	C2 Schools Close Frederick Elementary Opens
Cycle 3 <i>Lee Academy, Another Course to College, CASH, Henderson Upper</i>				Closure / Merger Vote	Transition

Key

18-month cycle



Outcome data become available at different points in the process



LTFP Cycles 0-2 (2022-23 through 2024-25): Student Impact



Schools Included in Cycles 0-2 Student Impact Analysis



Mergers			Closures		
School	Year Announced / Cycle	Enrollment at time of announcement	School	Year Announced / Cycle	Enrollment at time of announcement
Philbrick Elementary	2022-23 (Cycle 0)	115	Frederick Pilot Middle	2023-24 (Cycle 1)	327
Sumner Elementary	2022-23 (Cycle 0)	536	West Zone ELC	2023-24 (Cycle 1)	113
Shaw Elementary	2022-23 (Cycle 0)	187	Dever Elementary*	2024-25 (Cycle 2)	443
Taylor Elementary	2022-23 (Cycle 0)	358	Excel High*	2024-25 (Cycle 2)	324
Clap Elementary*	2024-25 (Cycle 2)	142	Lyon Pilot High*	2024-25 (Cycle 2)	96
Winthrop Elementary*	2024-25 (Cycle 2)	238	Community Academy*	2024-25 (Cycle 2)	61

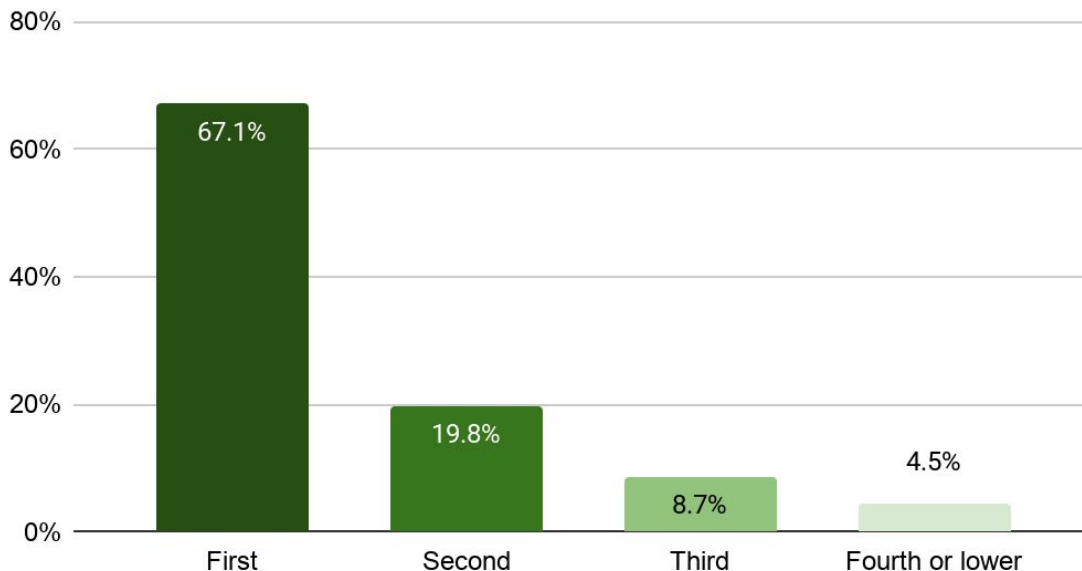


*For Cycle 2 schools, the analysis in this section includes students who transferred following the conclusion of the announcement year.

Nearly 90% of students who transferred in district were assigned to their first or second choice



Choice ranking of assigned welcoming school

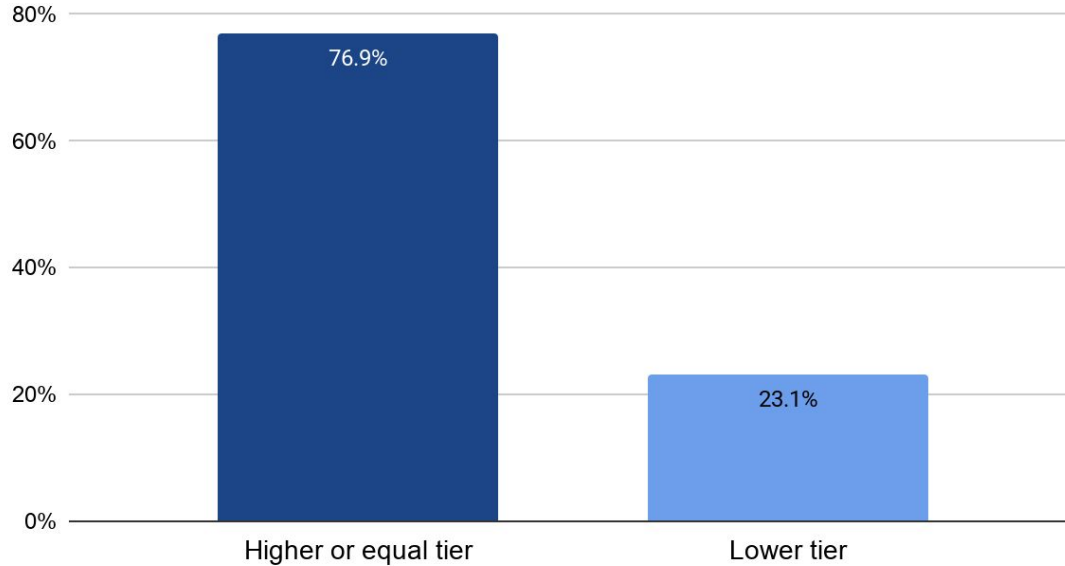


Note: This includes 403 students who ranked at least one school during the school choice process to transfer schools. Students who chose to stay at their merging school or received a placement outside of the school choice process are not included.

More than 75% of students went to a school with an equal or higher School Quality Framework (SQF) tier



SQF tier of welcoming BPS schools

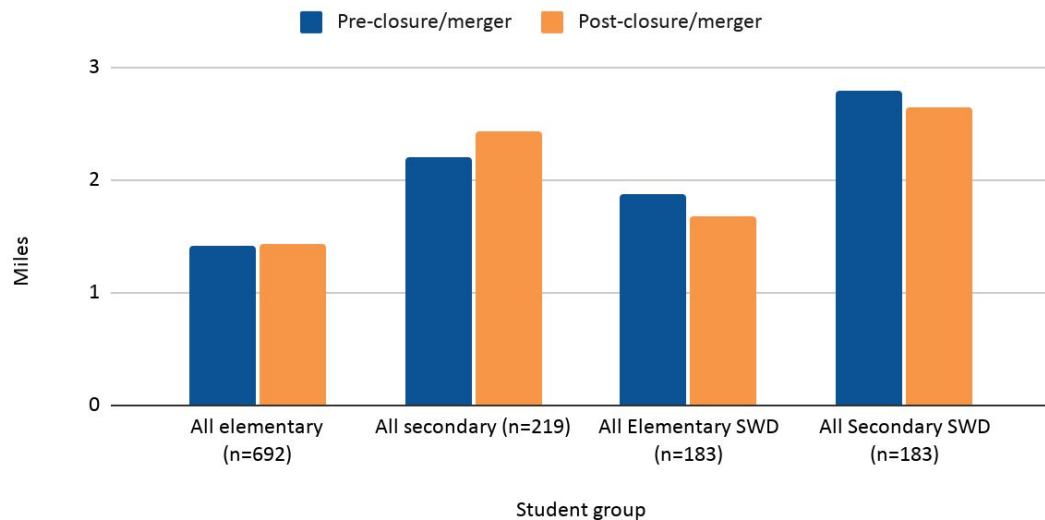


Note: This includes 221 students in schools with a prior year SQF available for comparison at time of announcement. This data does not include Community Academy and the West Zone ELC because they did not have a SQF tier score at the time of announcement.

Students are traveling similar or slightly shorter distances to their new schools



Median driving distance to school before and after closure/merger, by grade band and disability status



In comparison to merging/closing schools, with some neighborhood variation (see appendix):

- Elementary students travel similar distances to welcoming schools
- Students with disabilities travel slightly shorter distances to welcoming schools

Students in Cycle 2 who chose to stay in their schools through the closure/merger



School	Students Updates
Dever	263 students enrolled in K2-6th grade in SY2025-26 82% assigned to one of their top 3 choices
Clap & Winthrop (merging to become the Frederick Elementary Fall 2026)	- Clap: 144 students enrolled at the time of the merger - Of the 126 non-6th graders, 118 are assigned to the Frederick (94%) - Winthrop: 270 students enrolled at the time of the merger - Of the 247 non-6th graders, 231 are assigned to the Frederick (94%)
Excel	- No 9th-10th grade in SY25-26; 11th graders transferring to new schools in SY26-27 - All 12th graders received a diploma (Class of 2026)
Lyon	- No 9th-11th grade in SY25-26 - All 12th graders received a diploma (Class of 2026)
Community Academy	- No 9th grade in SY25-26; most 10th-11th graders transferring to new schools in SY26-27 - Most 12th graders received a diploma (Class of 2026)



Note: All SY26-27 assignments are in flux between registration Round 2 and Round 3 and throughout the summer and are subject to change.

Teachers and counselors impacted by Cycle 0 and 1 mergers and closures left BPS at rates similar to or below the districtwide avg.



Teacher and Counselor Retention in Year Following Merger / Closure

	Remained in BPS		Left BPS
	Stayed in School	Transferred In-District	
Districtwide 5-Year Average¹	92.4%		7.6%
Merging Schools² (n=122)	75.4%	16.4%	8.2%
Closing Schools² (n=43)	N/A	95.3%	4.7%

1. Districtwide data for teacher retention includes teachers and guidance counselors. Cycle 0 and 1 schools do not have guidance counselors; therefore, subgroup results reflect teachers only.
2. Merging schools include Shaw/Taylor and Philbrick/Sumner (cycle 0). Closing schools include Frederick and West Zone (cycle 1).

LTFP Cycle 3 (2025-26 through 2026-27): Student Impact (*Preliminary*)



The majority of students choosing to transfer prior to closure date are assigned to their top choices (as of Round 2).



School	Students who submitted a transfer form by the Round 2 deadline	% received their top 3 choices
Henderson Upper	121 8th, 9th and 10th graders (75% of all 8th, 9th and 10th)	89%
Another Course to College	57 9th and 10th graders (48% of all 9th and 10th)	83%
Community Academy of Science & Health	28 9th and 10th graders (20% of all 9th and 10th)	64%
Lee Academy	26 K0-2nd graders (24% of all K0-2nd)	96%



Note: This analysis includes students who ranked at least one school during the school choice process to transfer schools. Students who are staying at their current school or received a placement outside of the school choice process are not included.

Secondary students are transferring to schools with more access to Early College and Career & Technical Education (CTE) pathways



		Advanced Courses ¹	Early College	CTE (Ch. 74)	CTE (Non-Ch. 74)
Cycle 3 Closing Secondary Schools	ACC	✓			
	CASH	✓			
	Henderson Upper	✓			
Welcoming Secondary Schools	English	✓		✓	
	Madison Park	✓	✓	✓	
	New Mission	✓	✓		✓
	Ruth Batson Academy	✓	✓		
	TechBoston	✓	✓		✓

1. Advanced Courses refer to Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Dual Enrollment courses.

How We Support School Transitions



Providing targeted supports to impacted communities through increased capacity, funding, and resources



- Dedicated Capital Planning Senior Project Manager
- Individualized communication and placement process for students with IEPs to ensure continuity of services
- School Leader Mentor(s)
- School-Based Transition Coordinator
- Programmatic expansion to support student needs (e.g., NeXT program)

- Stipends for transition coordinator and/or design teams (e.g., Academic, School Culture)
- Joint community events (mergers) and legacy planning (closures)
- Building upgrades to support new schools (e.g., new playground, new building in some cases)

- School Leader Playbook
- Talking points and FAQs for families & staff
- High School Fairs (secondary)
- HR Resume Support and Interview Workshops
- “Pop up” Welcome Services Sessions

Building joint community through mergers & the legacy of closing schools



Next Steps



- Continue to support:
 - Students and staff in transition;
 - Welcoming schools; and
 - School moves for a successful start to SY 2026-27
- By winter:
 - Full report on the impact of closures and mergers on students; and
 - Present Cycle 4 recommendations to the School Committee, informed by updated enrollment projections

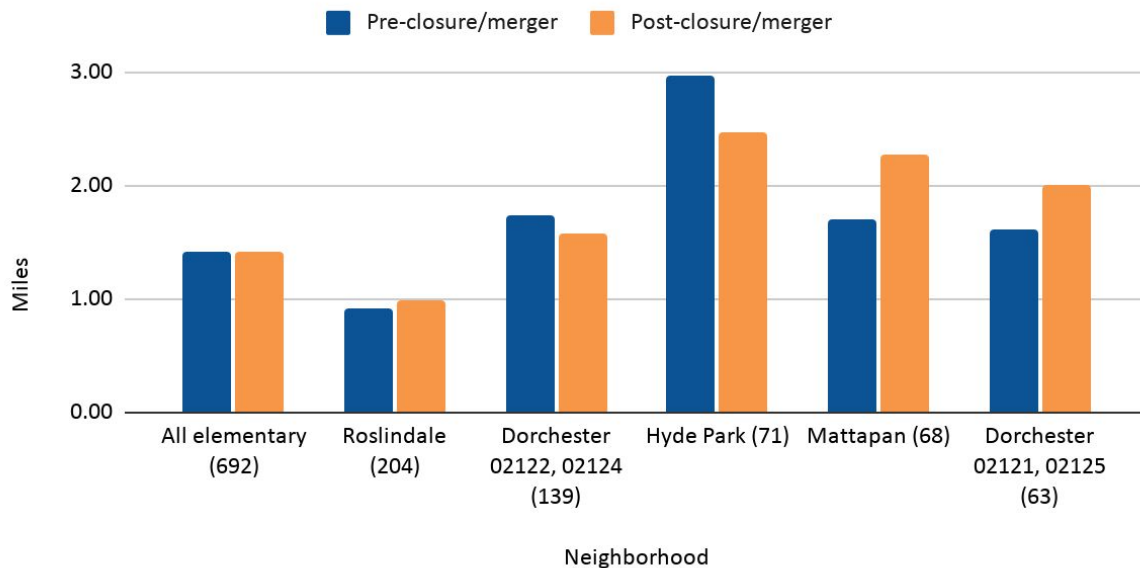
Appendix



The median driving distance to welcoming schools for elementary students is similar to that of merging/closing schools, but varies by neighborhood



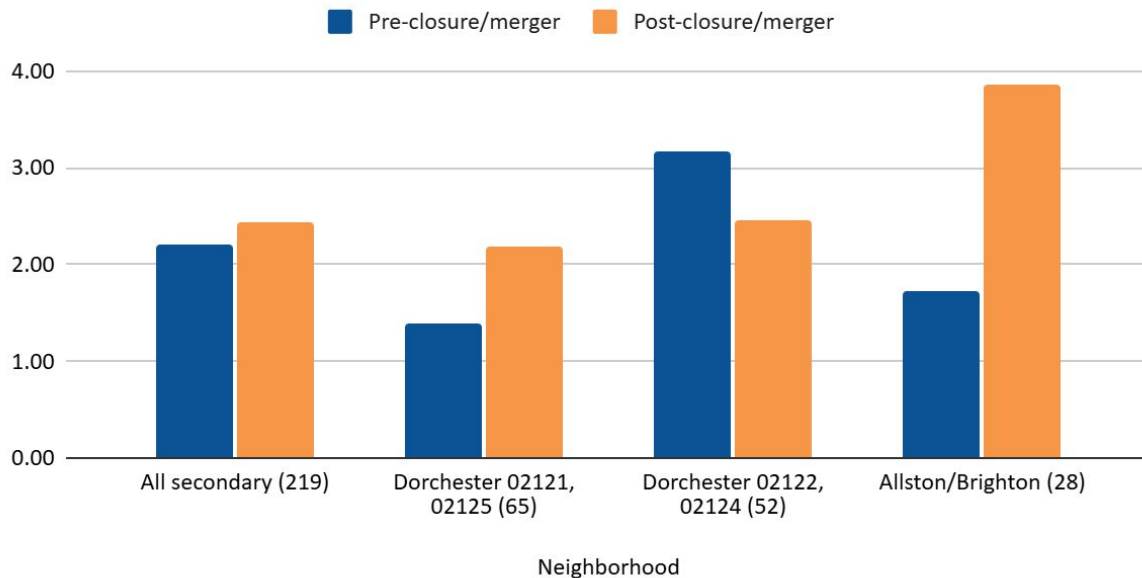
Median driving distance to school before and after closure/merger,
elementary students only



The median driving distance to welcoming schools for secondary students is similar to that of merging/closing schools, but varies by neighborhood



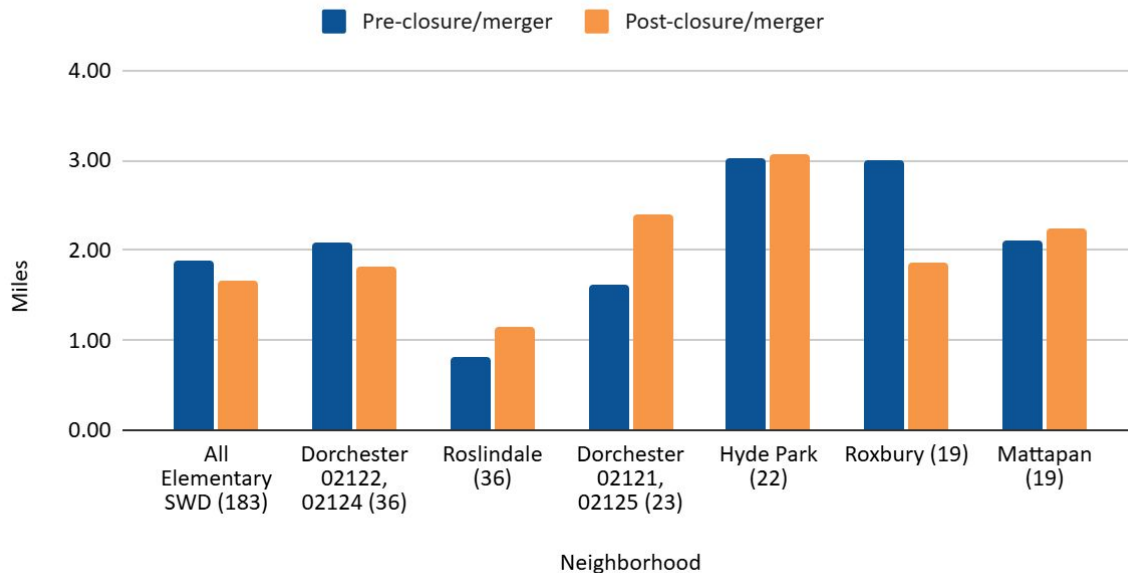
Median driving distance to school before and after closure/merger, secondary students only



The median driving distance to welcoming schools for elementary students with disabilities is less than that of merging/closing schools, but varies by neighborhood



Median driving distance to school before and after closure/merger, elementary students with disabilities



The median driving distance to welcoming schools is similar to that of merging/closing schools, but varies by neighborhood



Median driving distance to school before and after closure/merger, secondary students with disabilities

