

Pre-K Community Working Group

Dr. Jennifer Burton

Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Regular Board Meeting

September 8, 2026



Strategic Accelerators



**Student
Success in All Areas**

**The CSD Student
Experience: Preparing to
Lead a Better World**



**Building and
Sustaining an Engaging
and Inclusive Culture**

**The CSD Cultural
Experience: Connections,
Culture, and Community (C3)**



**Cultivating and
Retaining High-Quality
Professionals**

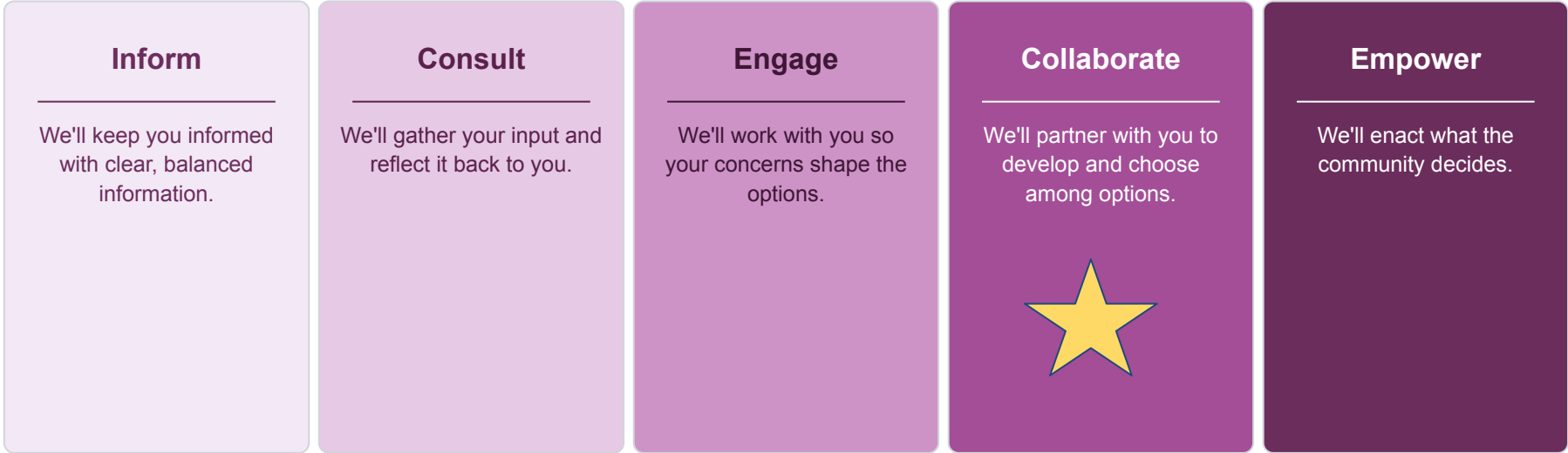
**The CSD Staff Experience:
From Hire to Retire**



**Organizational
Effectiveness and
Excellence**

**The CSD Sustainable
Experience: Future Ready
Classrooms**

Community Engagement Spectrum



increasing public influence →

Adapted from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation



MEMBERSHIP

Who We Are

Includes at least one parent from College Heights, every K-2 school, and Decatur Housing leadership.

ROLE 01

Design

Bringing community perspective as we design engagement and data collection mechanisms.

ROLE 02

Sensemake

Bringing community perspective as we sensemake and identify key patterns.

ROLE 03

Co-Design

Bringing expertise into the room as we design and run these public processes together.

Phase 1: Organize



TIMELINE

[July 7] – [August 26]

Plan engagement and prepare existing data

QUESTION WE'LL ANSWER TOGETHER

How should community engagement in subsequent phases look like?

HOW WE'LL ENGAGE

Working Group Kickoff

ENGAGEMENT TRACKS

Working Group

- Co-design engagement strategy

Collaborate

School Board

- Briefed on plan

General Public and Pre-K Staff

- View public announcements about the project at the end of the phase

Inform

COMPILING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Find relevant background information for the project and create public-facing materials to explain the project context

Close the loop with the Convoca Portal: Share the project context and engagement timeline

Phase 2: Learn



TIMELINE

[August 27] – [September 16]

Gather priorities, hopes, and concerns to establish the starting picture.

QUESTION WE'LL ANSWER TOGETHER

What are families' priorities, hopes, and concerns for pre-k — and where are the gaps in pre-K access today?

HOW WE'LL ENGAGE

Convoca Portal

Survey

Working Group Sensemaking Session

ENGAGEMENT TRACKS

Working Group

Mobilize networks; contribute to sensemaking

Collaborate

School Board

Updated on progress

General Public and Pre-K staff

Convoca Portal + survey to provide input; view themes at the end of the phase

Consult

SENSEMAKING

Find the initial themes and patterns across everything we hear.

Close the loop with the Convoca Portal: Report back “here's what we heard” — share key patterns publicly

Phase 3: Create



TIMELINE

[September 17] – [October 7]

Turn what we heard into a shared set of goals.

QUESTION WE'LL ANSWER TOGETHER

What goals will help us respond to the patterns that have emerged, and accommodate the needs of pre-k families?

HOW WE'LL ENGAGE

Convoca Portal

Focus Groups

Working Group Sensemaking Session

ENGAGEMENT TRACKS

Working Group

- Turn Phase 1 themes into goals; deliberate trade-offs

Collaborate

School Board

- Updated on progress

General Public and Pre-K staff

- Convoca Portal and focus groups to provide input; view goals at the end of the phase

Engage

SENSEMAKING

Goal-oriented: cluster the themes into a shared goal set and surface where priorities compete.

Close the loop with the Convoca Portal: “You said → these are the goals” — show how themes became goals before options are drawn.

Phase 4: Refine



TIMELINE

[October 8] – [November 7]

Develop concrete options and priorities that respond to the goals.

QUESTION WE'LL ANSWER TOGETHER

What concrete options and strategies best meet those goals, how do we prioritize? (locations, models, partnerships)

HOW WE'LL ENGAGE

Convoca Portal

Working Group Session to Finalize Community Priorities

ENGAGEMENT TRACKS

Working Group

- Co-develop and pressure-test options against goals

Collaborate

School Board

- Updated on progress

General Public and Pre-K staff

- Convoca Portal to provide input; view options at the end of the phase

Engage

SENSEMAKING

Highlighting and prioritizing outcomes from the goals created

Close the loop with the Convoca Portal: “Your goals → these options” — make the goal-to-option link visible and traceable.

Phase 5: Finalize



TIMELINE

CSD & board decision – mapping to voices

Feedback on the options → a community-informed final recommendation.

QUESTION WE'LL ANSWER TOGETHER

Which option best reflects the community's values — and how does that connect to final decisions made?

HOW WE'LL ENGAGE

Convoca Portal

Working Group Deliberation

Board of Education Meeting Announce
Recommendation

ENGAGEMENT TRACKS

Working Group

- Deliberate finalists; help shape the recommendation

Collaborate

School Board

- Receives community-grounded recommendation; decides

General Public and Pre-K staff

- Convoca Portal to provide input; view recommendation at end of phase

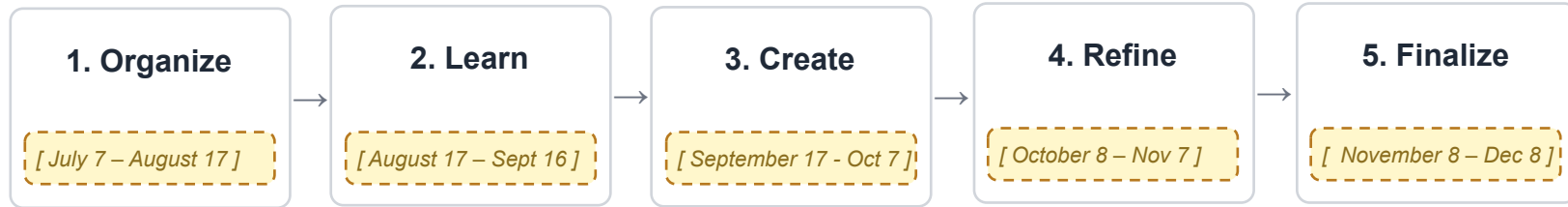
Engage

SENSEMAKING

Decisions made by CSD staff and board have links to findings from the community working group.

Close the loop with the Convoca Portal: Final update — “you said → we heard → here's the recommendation, and why.”

Overall Timeline



● Working Group

Recurring sessions in every phase (goes deepest)

● School Board

Updated on progress

● General Public

Survey / portal / focus group touchpoint each phase

● Convoca Portal

Report-back closing every phase

Start ~ [July 7] · End ~ [December 8]

Pre-K Survey



English

Somali

Spanish

Dari