



**TO:** School Board Members

**FROM:** Peter Mau, Assistant Superintendent

**DATE:** September 28, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Resolution to Close Open Enrollment for Grades 7-9 for the 2026-2027 School Year

### **BACKGROUND**

We staff our buildings based on our projections. These projections are calculated by looking at the “capture rate” from grade to grade over the last five years. However, it isn’t an exact science. This year, we are at, or very near, our school board parameter for class size in grades 7 and 8. High school works a little differently because electives tend to mix grades, not be grade-specific. This affords us some flexibility to manage class size from grade level to grade level. However, that flexibility is limited in 9th grade where there are more required classes. With higher-than-projected enrollment in 9th grade, that flexibility has become limited. Furthermore, we use a team model in 9th grade to support students’ transition to high school. With higher-than-anticipated enrollment in 9th grade, it has become difficult to maintain the integrity of the model.

### **Proposal**

While we will continue to welcome resident students, to help manage enrollment, the administration recommends closing to open enrollment in grades 7-9. This is a regular practice among several Minnesota school districts permissible under Minnesota Statute 124D.03. A school district may close open enrollment at a grade level if the number of open enrollments at that grade level is more than 1% of the total enrollment.

### **Rationale**

- This is a regular practice among several Minnesota school districts.
- It is permissible under Minnesota Statute 124D.03. A school district may close open enrollment at a grade level if the number of open enrollments at that grade level is more than 1% of the total enrollment.
- For each grade, we meet the criteria under MN Statute 124D.03.
  - Grade 7 - approximately 20% of the total enrollment is from open enrollment.
  - Grade 8 - approximately 20% of the total enrollment is from open enrollment.
  - Grade 9 - approximately 24% of the total enrollment is from open enrollment.

### **Additional Information**

- This proposal does not limit District 197 residents from enrolling in Grades 7-9.

### **RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION**

*Please see the attached resolution.*