

# Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion Update

Duluth Public Schools  
Committee of the Whole

October 7, 2025



## *Goals for relocating six Spanish Immersion classrooms from Lowell to Myers-Wilkins:*

- **More Opportunities**

To expand direct access to the Spanish Immersion Program for diverse students in the Myers-Wilkins attendance area.

- **Ease Overcrowding**

To reduce student numbers at Lowell Elementary by moving some Spanish Immersion classes to Myers-Wilkins.

- **Strengthen School Integration**

To help Myers-Wilkins Elementary, identified as a Racially Identifiable School, become a more integrated school community.





## Increased Access

More Myers-Wilkins students are now attending the NV program in their neighborhood school.

- This year, 44% of Spanish Immersion kinders are from MW community.
- Last year, 28.2% of in-district transfer students were from the MW community.

## Relieved Overcrowding

Lowell Elementary enrollment decreased by \*149 students (June '25 = 634 ; Oct '25 = 485)

- Myers-Wilkins gained \*149 students (June '25 = 313 ; Oct '25 = 462)
- According to the staff, Lowell is a much less crowded and chaotic.

## Improved Integration

Changes have resulted in significant progress toward integration goals.

- Percentage of free/reduced meal status students decreased from 86.5% to \*56.9%.
- Percentage of non-white students decreased from 65.8% to \*43.4%.

\*Data pulled from Educlimber October 2, 2025





## ***Building a More Integrated School***


<b>Student Group</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2025-2026</b>
Free/Reduced Meal Status	86.5%	56.9%
Special Education	41.8%	29.4%
American Indian	28.1%	20.6%
Black	23.0%	15.1%
Two or More Races	11.8%	9.2%
Hispanic	1.9%	5.5%
White	34.2%	49.2%




## Addressing Overcrowding

As part of the planning process, an analysis of Spanish immersion enrollment was conducted, which led to 2025-2026 projections for Lowell and Myers-Wilkins Nueva Visión Programs.

The below data shows both the planned projected enrollment with the corresponding actual enrollment as of September 2025.



	MW NV Enrollment	
	Projected 1/2025	Actual 9/2025
K	25	25
1	21	26
2	22	23
3	25	28
4	25	28
5	22	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>147</b>



	Lowell NV Enrollment	
	Projected 1/2025	Actual 9/2025
K	33	35
1	40	39
2	27	26
3	34	29
4	36	26
5	28	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>183</b>



## ***Space Usage & Capacity***

All six MW Spanish Immersion classes located in existing fully functional classrooms.

### **Considerations for class locations:**

- Attempted to locate SI grade levels near English grade level peers
- Placed classrooms in appropriate sized classrooms

### **Adding these classes resulted in some building adjustments:**

- Music room turned into SI kindergarten room (added bathroom)
- Two intervention rooms moved for SI 1st and 2nd grades
- Divided large classroom space into two classrooms for interventions
- Added two smaller spaces in library: one for Community Schools; one an office
- Divided large room on 3rd floor: one classroom; one small group space

### **Looking forward to 2026-2027:**

- Plans underway to evaluate placement of classrooms
  - Specifically SI 3rd grade moving to 3rd floor nearer English programming peers



## Family Engagement

- Myers-Wilkins is unique as the only elementary partnered with Duluth Community School Collaborative (DCSC).
  - One of the strategies under DCSC is Student and Family Engagement.
  - The MW DCSC holds monthly Site Leadership meetings, open to all family, school, and community members.
  - Purpose of this meeting: foster collaborative leadership and improve the school through the Community School model.
- Myers-Wilkins PTO is in the works.
  - MW did not have a PTO so this is a very exciting opportunity for the school community.



## Collaboration

- Joint meetings between Lowell and Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion teachers have been scheduled throughout the school year.
  - Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion teachers will have scheduled PLCs both with their MW English grade level colleagues as well PLCs with grade level Lowell Spanish Immersion partners.
- Teacher professional development days will provide time and space for Myers-Wilkins and Lowell Spanish Immersion grade level teachers to partner in multiple ways.
- Grade level Spanish Immersion teachers will be working together to create curricular documents over the course of the school year.





## Connection

Adding to the daily experience at MW is the full integration of all students in each grade two times per day.

- **Specialist (music, art, PE, media):**
  - All 4 sections of each grade level combine to create 4 different classes for specialist time.
  - Instead of going with their class, English and Spanish classes fully mix up into the red, blue, green, and yellow groups and then go to specialists.
- **Lunch/Recess:**
  - Each grade level goes to lunch and recess together.
  - Example, all 4th grade students in both English and Spanish Immersion classes go together for both lunch and recess.