

To: Board of Education
From: Scott Woods, Superintendent
Date: February 18, 2025
Re: Revised K-5 Recommendation

After carefully reviewing feedback from families and staff, district administration is revising its December 2024 K-5 school reorganization recommendation for the 2025-2026 school year. The updated recommendation to the Board of Education proposes adopting a new organizational model for K-5 schools called Companion Schools. Companion Schools offer many of the same benefits of the previously recommended Grade Level Schools while addressing concerns from families and staff about transportation and other challenges. This plan helps us create a better learning environment while addressing concerns about past proposals.

The recommendation to organize the schools as follows:

- Students currently assigned by boundary or program to Eastlawn and Pleasant Acres will be grouped into Companion Schools with all students in grades K-2 attending at Pleasant Acres and all students in grades 3-5 attending at Eastlawn.
- Students currently assigned by boundary to Broadmeadow and Northview will be grouped into Companion Schools with all students in grades K-2 attending at Northview and all students in grades 3-5 attending at Broadmeadow.
- Administration will bring forward a proposal for the March Board Meeting to shift currently assigned boundaries for some students. It is anticipated that approximately 50 families currently assigned by boundary to Eastlawn or Pleasant Acres will be reassigned to the Broadmeadow and Northview area.
- All students living 1.5 miles or further from their assigned school will be offered transportation services.

The recommended motion for the Board is as follows: *Motion to approve the Companion Schools model as presented with implementation to begin with the start of the 2025-2026 school year.*

Below is additional supporting information regarding five scenarios that have been used to determine this recommendation.

1. Our 2024-2025 Current Organization. This is what is happening in the district right now.
2. What enrollment and staffing would look like for 2025-2026 if no changes are made.
3. What enrollment and staffing would look like for 2025-2026 if we maintain K-5 but apply new boundaries in order to balance enrollment across the schools.
4. Grade Level Schools proposal for 2025-2026. (December recommendation)
5. Companion Schools proposal for 2025-2026. (Current recommendation)

Assumptions:

- Enrollment data is based on January 2025.
- With the exception of *Scenario 1: 2024-2025 Current Organization*, data is “rolled up” one year. This shows what enrollment is projected to look like during the next school year. Consistent with past practice, the current kindergarten numbers are used as the basis for next year’s kindergarten enrollment.
- Boundary changes are preliminary and subject to board approval.

Each model is presented with:

- Enrollment breakdowns by program (monolingual or bilingual) and grade level.
- For each model the number of certified classroom teachers needed for MINIMUM staffing is provided. This does not mean staffing reductions are needed at this time, but, this shows the minimum number of classroom teachers needed based on our current class size guidelines.

Class Size Guidelines:

- K-1, limit of 20 students per class
- 2-3, limit of 23 students per class
- 3-5, limit of 25 students per class

Evaluation Framework:

- A rubric with multiple areas for consideration is included on the final page.
- No value judgments are assigned to this framework; they are provided for consideration.

Note regarding PreK:

- Regardless of any recommendation, PreK students will be housed at Pleasant Acres in the newly renovated and constructed space. PreK student enrollment is not counted as part of the student enrollment of Pleasant Acres.

1. 2024-2025 Current Organization

	Enrollment		
	Total	Monolingual	Bilingual
BM	230		
EL	293	176	117 (Grades 3-5)
NV	216		
PA	290	179	111 (Grades K-2)

	Class Size Averages (Bilingual)						
	K	1	2	3	4	5	School
BM	18.5	19	21.5	22	13	18.5	18.8
EL	17	13.5	13.5	12.5 (20.5)	16 (20.5)	24 (17.5)	14.5 (19.5)
NV	19.5	13	19.5	17	17	18.5	17.4
PA	13.5 (19)	11.5 (17.5)	13.0 (19)	18.0	13.0	17	14.3 (18.5)
RCS	17.1 (19)	14.3 (17.5)	16.9 (19)	17.4 (20.5)	14.8 (20.5)	19.6 (17.5)	16.6 (19)

	Monolingual	Bilingual	Total
Classroom Teachers	47	12	59

2. Maintain Current Organization, 2025-2026 Projection with No Boundary Changes

	Enrollment		
	Total	Monolingual	Bilingual
BM	241		
EL	306	150	120 (Grades 3-5)
NV	218		
PA	286	172	111 (Grades K-2)

	Class Size Averages (Bilingual)						
	K	1	2	3	4	5	School
BM	18.5	18.5	19	21.5	22	13	18.8
EL	17	17	13.5	13.5 (19)	25* (20.5)	16* (20.5)	14.9 (20)
NV	19.5	19.5	13	19.5	17	17	17.6
PA	13.5 (19)	13.5 (19)	23* (17.5)	13.0	18.0	13.0	15 (18.5)
RCS	17.1 (19)	17.1 (19)	14.3 (17.5)	16.9 (19)	17.4 (20.5)	14.8 (20.5)	16.5 (19.3)

	Monolingual	Bilingual	Total
Classroom Teachers	46*	12	58

*EL would need to add one classroom at fifth grade. EL would need to remove one classroom at fourth grade. PA would need to remove one classroom at second grade. Net decrease of one monolingual classroom.

3. Maintain Current Organization, 2025-2026 Projection WITH Boundary Changes

	Enrollment		
	Total	Monolingual	Bilingual
BM	279		
EL	241	121	120 (Grades 3-5)
NV	283		
PA	230	119	111 (Grades K-2)

	Class Size Averages (Bilingual)						
	K	1	2	3	4	5	School
BM	14.7	17	17.3	17.5	22.5	17.3	17.4
EL	18	20	18	24 (19)	18 (20.5)	15 (20.5)	18.3 (20)
NV	20	16.7	16.7	21	25	16.7	18.7
PA	18 (19)	17 (19)	23 (17.5)	18	21	19	19.7 (18.5)
RCS	17.1 (19)	17.3 (19)	18.1 (17.5)	19.8 (19)	22.5 (20.5)	16.7 (20.5)	18.3 (19.3)

	Monolingual	Bilingual	Total
Classroom Teachers	44	12	56

Note: with this change, Pleasant Acres and Eastlawn would become single strand monolingual schools with two strands of bilingual; Broadmeadow and Northview would become three strand monolingual schools.

4. Grade Level Schools; PA K. EL 1-2. NV 3-4. BM 5. 2025-2026 Projection.

	Enrollment	Monolingual	Bilingual
BM	161	120	41
EL	341	268	73
NV	364	285	79
PA	185	147	38

	Class Size Averages (Bilingual)						
	K	1	2	3	4	5	School
BM						24.6 (20.5)	20 (20.5)
EL		19.6 (19)	22.8 (17.5)				20.4 (18.3)
NV				22.5 (19)	23.2 (20.5)		21.3 (19.8)
PA	19.6 (19)						19.6 (19)
RCS	19.6 (19)	19.6 (19)	22.8 (17.5)	22.5 (19)	23.2 (20.5)	24.6 (20.5)	21.7 (19.3)

	Monolingual	Bilingual	Total
Classroom Teachers	36	12	48

5. Companion Schools, 2025-2026 Projection, with Boundary Changes

	Enrollment	Monolingual	Bilingual
BM	262		
EL	262	144	118
NV	265		
PA	268	157	111

	Class Size Averages (Bilingual)						
	K	1	2	3	4	5	School
BM				23	22.3	23.7	23.4
EL				22 (19.5)	25 (20)	24 (19.5)	23.6 (19.6)
NV	18.2	18.2	17.5				18.9
PA	17 (12.7)	17 (19)	21.5 (17.5)				18.1 (15.9)
RCS	17.6 (19)	17.6 (19)	18.8 (17.5)	22.7 (19.5)	23.2 (20)	23.8 (19.5)	20.3 (19.3)

	Monolingual	Bilingual	Total
Classroom Teachers	39	12	51

Evaluation Framework

		1. 2024-2025 Current Organization	2. Maintain Current Organization, 2025-2026 Projection NO Boundary Changes	3. Maintain Current Organization, 2025-2026 Projection WITH Boundary Changes	4. Grade Level Schools; PA K. EL 1-2. NV 3-4. BM 5. 2025-2026 Projection.	5. Companion Schools, 2025-2026 Projection, with Boundary Changes
1	Estimated district-wide class size average for monolingual. (Bilingual Classrooms)	16.6 (19)	16.5 (19.3)	18.3 (19.3)	21.7 (19.3)	20.3 (19.3)
2	Total grade level classrooms needed for minimum staffing.	59	58	56	48	51
3	Allows for possible decrease or reallocation of teaching staff.	No	Yes (-1)	Yes (-3)	Yes (-10)	Yes (-7)
4	Grade level classroom utilization by school.	PA-18 EL-17 NV-12 BM-12	PA-17 EL-17 NV-12 BM-12	PA-13 EL-12 NV-15 BM-16	PA-9 EL-16 NV-16 BM-7	PA-15 EL-12 NV-14 BM-11
5	Largest class size range within a grade level.	8.5	8.5	7	≤1	4
6	Enrollment range. Lowest Enrollment–Highest Enrollment. (Difference)	216-293 (77)	218-306 (88)	230-283 (53)	161-364 (203)	262-268 (4)
7	Allows for <u>all</u> students to remain in the same school for grades K-5?	Yes for non bilingual program students only.	Yes for non bilingual program students only.	Yes for non bilingual program students only.	No	No
8	Allows for grade level peers to be together grades K-5.	No	No	No	Yes	No

		1. 2024-2025 Current Organization	2. Maintain Current Organization, 2025-2026 Projection NO Boundary Changes	3. Maintain Current Organization, 2025-2026 Projection WITH Boundary Changes	4. Grade Level Schools; PA K. EL 1-2. NV 3-4. BM 5. 2025-2026 Projection.	5. Companion Schools, 2025-2026 Projection, with Boundary Changes
9	ILSC requires bilingual classes to be 90% the enrollment of monolingual classes. Is this in place with this model?	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
10	Bilingual students would not be in split grade-level classrooms.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Grade level teachers have at least one partner at their grade level.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
12	Increases transportation.	No	No	Yes 0-2 busses	Yes 6-7 busses	Yes 2-3 busses
13	Allows for greater within grade level teacher collaboration.	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
14	Allows for adding a dual-language (Spanish-English) program.	No	No	No	Yes	Yes