

TO: School Board Members

FROM: Peter Mau, Assistant Superintendent

DATE: June 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Resolution to close open enrollment for grades 5 and 6 for the 2025-2026 school year unless certain conditions are met by August 1, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

Both of our middle schools currently have class size averages slightly over 31 in grades 5 and 6. Our board-approved class size parameters state that 75% of core classes won't exceed 31.

It has been a long-standing goal of the school district to increase enrollment, and we have been successful. Districtwide enrollment is at or above pre-pandemic levels. Current 2024-2025 middle school enrollment is 1,567. This time last year, enrollment was 1,529, and in the 2023-2024 school year, it was 1,498.

While we don't typically close open enrollment this early, there are no clear enrollment patterns for summer enrollment that give us confidence that our enrollment will increase enough to warrant adding teachers. Financially speaking, we are currently running as efficiently as possible in grades 5 and 6.

However, given the time of year, if we receive sufficient enrollment to warrant it by August 1st, we could add staff to accommodate the additional students. Legal counsel drafted resolution language that would allow us to enroll additional students if certain conditions are met.

Proposal

To manage enrollment, we propose closing grades 5 and 6 to open enrollment. 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.

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.
- In Grade 5, approximately 16% of the total enrollment is from open enrollment. In Grade 6, approximately 21% of the total enrollment is from open enrollment. For both grades, we meet the criteria under MN Statute 124D.03.
- We are slightly over the maximum class size in some Grade 5 and 6 classes.

Additional Information

- This proposal does not limit District 197 residents from enrolling in Grades 5 or 6.

RESOLUTION:

Please see the attached resolution.