

Duluth Public Schools

Spanish Immersion Expansion Project

Implementation 2025/2026

Committee of the Whole
January 14, 2025





Today, we are sharing information about the creation of a Spanish Immersion programming opportunity at Myers-Wilkins beginning with the 2025/2026 school year.



By the end of today, you should know:

- Project Objectives
- Steps Taken
- Project Data & Information
- Plan Overview
- Next Steps



Project Objectives



Spanish Immersion Expansion Project Objectives:

- Expand greater opportunity and direct access to academic enhancement programming in Spanish Immersion for students from lower socioeconomic and diverse backgrounds within the Myers-Wilkins attendance boundaries.
- Integrate programming opportunities aimed at decreasing the percentage of Protected Class students enrolled at Myers-Wilkins Elementary, which is recognized as a Racially Identifiable School by Minnesota Department of Education.
- Alleviate Lowell Elementary overcrowding by reducing enrollment through relocating a portion of Spanish Immersion to Myers-Wilkins Elementary.



Steps Taken



September - January 2025

Data Analysis

Developed Rough Plan

Met with Various District Staff

Presented to Cabinet

Myers-Wilkins and Lowell Staff Meetings: January 8th

Parent Communication: January 8th

Lowell PTA Meeting: January 9th

Lowell Parent Information Meeting: January 13th

Committee of the Whole: January 14th



Project Data & Information



Data & Information: In-District Transfers

Spanish Immersion Enrollment: Transfers from Other Duluth Elem Schools

CURRENT Students by Grade: 24/25	Kinder		1st G		2nd G		3rd G		4th G		5th G		Total Transfers Still Enrolled	Originally Approved to Enroll by Site	Enrollment Retention % by Site
NEXT YEAR Students by Grade: 25/26	1st G	2nd G	3rd G	4th G	5th G	6th G									
Congdon	2	5%	8	21%	12	31%	8	21%	7	18%	5	13%	42	63	67%
Homecroft	7	18%	4	10%	3	8%	7	18%	7	18%	5	13%	33	45	73%
Laura Mac	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%	3	8%	1	3%	3	8%	8	22	36%
Lester Park	9	23%	2	5%	5	13%	7	18%	6	15%	4	10%	33	41	80%
Myers-Wilkins	10	26%	15	38%	8	21%	9	23%	7	18%	11	28%	60	82	73%
Piedmont	8	21%	0	0%	4	10%	2	5%	3	8%	1	3%	18	24	75%
Stowe	2	5%	0	0%	2	5%	3	8%	1	3%	1	3%	9	11	82%
Lakewood	0	0%	1	3%	0	0%	1	3%	2	5%	6	15%	10	11	91%



- Most Transfers from MW** = 82 originally approved to attend; **60 remain enrolled** (73% retention)
- 2nd most from Congdon** = 63 originally approved to attend; **42 remain enrolled** (67% retention)
- 3rd (tie) from Lester Park** = 41 originally approved to attend; **33 currently enrolled** (80% retention)
- 3rd (tie) from Homecroft** = 45 originally approved to attend; **33 currently enrolled** (73% retention)

*Data from Transfer Approval spreadsheets over last 6 years

Data & Information: Lowell



Lowell K-5 Enrollment Data: Trends											
	SY	School	Total Enrollment	White		Non-White		Free/Reduced Meals		Spec Ed	
				Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
10 Yrs Ago	15-16	Lowell	345	253	73.3%	92	36.4%	167	48.1%	41	11.9%
Current	24-25	English / Ojibwe	313	207	66.1%	106	51.2%	135	43.1%	70	22.4%
		Spanish	329	267	81.2%	62	23.2%	46	13.9%	30	9.1%
		Lowell	642	474	73.7%	168	35.4%	181	28.2%	100	15.6%
Gain: Enrollment over Last 10 Years			297								

[Lowell Enrollment Trend Data](#)

For a more in depth look at the trends, please access data through the link above.

Data & Information: Lowell



- Lowell has experienced an **increase of ~ + 297** students in overall enrollment over the last 10 years from:
 - 2015-2016 345 enrolled students to 2024-2025 642 enrolled students (as of Jan 2025)
- Lowell added a second site budget code in 2019-2020:
 - 520 = English / Ojibwe
 - 521 = Spanish.
 - Enabled 520 to continue Title funding
- Lowell currently = **29 sections (English+Ojibwe+Spanish)**
 - Full time elem specialist schedule = 24 sections (classes)
 - With Lowell having 29 sections, specialist must be doubled up in classrooms as there are no additional spaces to hold the extra specialists classes
 - *Next year, if we do nothing* - Lowell will potentially be forced to grow to 30 sections



Data & Information: Myers-Wilkins



Myers-Wilkins K-5 Enrollment: Trends

	Myers-Wilkins K-5 Enrollment: Trends										
	SY	School	Total Enrollment	White		Non-White		Free/Reduced Meals		Special Ed	
				Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
11 Yrs Ago	14-15	MW	444	201	45.3%	243	54.7%	370	83.3%	71	15.9%
Current	24-25	MW	313	112	35.8%	201	64.2%	264	84.2%	116	37.1%
AVERAGE: Over last 11 years					42.6%		57.4%		84.3%		31.8%
Loss: Enrollment over last 11 years			-131								
Increase: Non-White over last 11 years							9.5%				

[Myers-Wilkins Enrollment Trend Data](#)

For a more in depth look at the trends, please access data through the link above.

Data & Information: Myers-Wilkins



- MW has experienced a **decrease of -29.5% overall enrollment** over the last 11 years from:
 - 2014-15 444 total enrolled students to
 - 2024-25 313 total enrolled students (as of Jan 2025)



- The percentage of non-White students has **increased over the last 11 years by + 9.5%**.
 - 2014-15 54.7% of enrolled students are non-White
 - 2024-25 64.7% of enrolled students are non-White



- MW is a **“Racially Identifiable School” (RIS)** due to high percentage of non-White students.
 - A & I Grant includes five goals related to MW RIS
 - RIS Goal 4 specifically requires a decrease % of Protected Class students at MW

Data & Information: A & I

A & I: MW Racially Identifiable Schools (RIS) Goals

RIS Goal #1: Increase Reading Proficiency

Strategy: Reading Interventionist

Strategy: Reading Intervention Materials

RIS Goal #2: Increase Math Proficiency

Strategy: Math Interventionist

Strategy: Math Intervention Materials

RIS Goal #3: Increase Consistent Attendance

Strategy: SEL Specialist

Strategy: Kinder Instructional Aides

RIS Goal #4: Decrease % of protected class K-5 students at MW

Strategy: Ojibwe Classroom Assistant

Strategy: In-school learning opportunities / field trips

Strategy: Equitable Enrollment Options (EEO)

Strategy: Enrichment / Young Scholars

RIS Goal #5: Professional development: MW Staff

Strategy: Trainings, workshops, resources



Data & Information: A & I Plan

RIS Goal 4 “Key Indicators of Progress” not being met.

- Enrollment of non-White students is increasing, which is contrary to making progress on the requirements of the A & I Plan

Data & Information: Lowell Future Capacity

Lowell Future for Capacity

- Housing projects within Lowell's boundary will most likely cause an even greater enrollment increase in the near future
 - See next slide
- Lowell currently does not have the capacity to accept potential increased enrollment due to being over capacity already.

Data & Information: Lowell Boundary Housing Projects

Lowell Boundary: Multifamily Housing Projects

The Acres On Arrowhead

In Progress 275 Units Opened July 2024

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DULUTH

In Progress 200 Units Opened October 2024

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Planned 70 Units Phase 1 Begins Winter '25

**At Project Completion: 1,180 Apartments + 120 Condos

Present or Very Soon = 545 Units

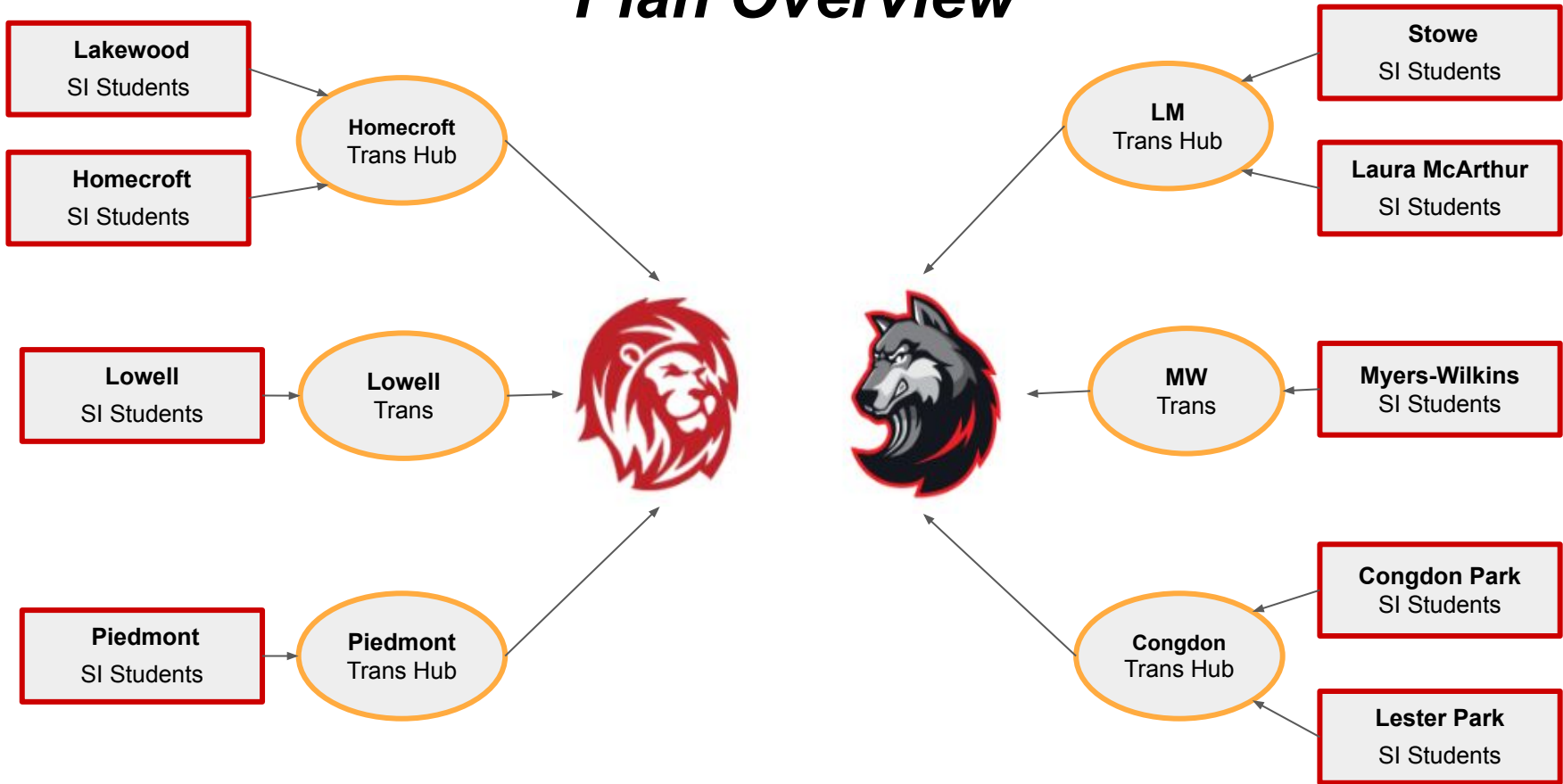
Additional Planned in Near Future = 1,230 Units

**Housing project information obtained from Duluth Housing and associated websites

Plan Overview



Plan Overview



Plan Overview: Myers-Wilkins



Beginning next school year 2025-2026:

- 6 sections Spanish Immersion moving from Lowell to MW
 - 1 section each: K-5
 - Creates 24 sections total at MW
- In-district Spanish Immersion transfers from specific schools assigned to MW Spanish Immersion
 - ~ 150 students from Lowell to MW
 - Stowe, Laura Mac, Lester, Congdon, MW Spanish Immersion attend MW
- Seek adjustment to A & I Plan: Equitable Enrollment Option (EEO)
 - Transfer requests go through established District process
- Align transportation hubs
 - Congdon and Laura Mac hubs will go to MW



Plan Overview: Myers-Wilkins

MW Projected Enrollment 2025-2026

MW				MW Spanish	
Grade	Enroll	Totals	Avg	Grade	Enroll
K	18	54	18.0	K	25
K	18			1	21
K	18			2	22
1	19	56	18.7	3	25
1	17			4	25
1	20			5	22
2	20	59	19.7	6 Sections 140	
2	17				
2	22				
3	15	47	15.7		
3	16				
3	16				
4	18	53	17.7		
4	17				
4	18				
5	18	53	17.7		
5	18				
5	17				
18 Sections		322			



Myers-Wilkins 2025-2026	
Sections	24
Enrollment	462

Projected enrollment based on Jan '25 enrollment. Kinder is average of grades 1-5. Spanish kindergarten is max enrollment accepted: 25 students.

MW Plan: Overview

*MW 2025-2026 Specialist Schedule

Specialist Schedule 24 Sections with:

- 1.0 FTE PE
- 1.0 FTE Music
- 1.0 FTE Art
- 1.0 FTE Media

*Example only: MW will have to plan on which blocks grade levels are assigned to.

		MW			
		PE	Music	Art	Media
DAY 1	8:30-9:15	3A	3B	3C	3D
	9:20-10:05	5A	5B	5C	5D
	10:10-10:55	4A	4B	4C	4D
	11:35-12:20	1A	1B	1C	1D
	12:25-1:10	KA	KB	KC	KD
	1:15-2:00	2A	2B	2C	2D
DAY 2	8:30-9:15	3D	3A	3B	3C
	9:20-10:05	5D	5A	5B	5C
	10:10-10:55	4D	4A	4B	4C
	11:35-12:20	1D	1A	1B	1C
	12:25-1:10	KD	KA	KB	KC
	1:15-2:00	2D	2A	2B	2C
DAY 3	8:30-9:15	3C	3D	3A	3B
	9:20-10:05	5C	5D	5A	5B
	10:10-10:55	4C	4D	4A	4B
	11:35-12:20	1C	1D	1A	1B
	12:25-1:10	KC	KD	KA	KB
	1:15-2:00	2C	2D	2A	2B
DAY 4	8:30-9:15	3B	3C	3D	3A
	9:20-10:05	5B	5C	5D	5A
	10:10-10:55	4B	4C	4D	4A
	11:35-12:20	1B	1C	1D	1A
	12:25-1:10	KB	KC	KD	KA
	1:15-2:00	2B	2C	2D	2A
FTE		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0



Plan Overview: Lowell



Beginning with next school year 2025/2026:

- Lowell reduces enrollment by ~ 140 students
 - From 642 students in 2024-2025 to ~ 506 students in 2025-2026
- 24 sections available at Lowell for specialist schedule after moving 6 sections to MW
 - 24 sections = full time schedule
 - Eliminates double specialists classes at Lowell
- Transfers to Lowell Spanish Immersion will only be approved from specific schools
 - Lowell boundary students
 - Spanish Immersion transfer schools: **Homecroft, Lakewood, Piedmont**
 - Out of District Requests could be approved to attend Lowell SI or MW SI depending on enrollment openings
- Align transportation hubs
 - Homecroft and Piedmont hubs will go to Lowell



Lowell Plan: Overview

Lowell 2025-2026 (Projected)							
Lowell ENG			Lowell Mis		Lowell Spanish		
Grade	Enroll	Total	Grade	Enroll	Grade	Enroll	Total
K	19	38	K	16	K	16	32
K	19		1	16	K	16	
1	20	41	2	17	1	19	38
1	21		3	15	1	19	
2	22	67	4/5	19	2	29	29
2 / 3	22		5	83	3	22	67
3	23				3 / 4	22	
4	28	84			4	23	
4 / 5	28				5	27	27
5	28				9	193	
10	230						



Lowell 2025-2026	
Total Sections	24
Total Enrollment	506

Projected enrollment based on Jan '25 enrollment. Kinder is average of grades 1-5.



Lowell Plan: Overview

*Lowell 2025-2026 Specialist Schedule

Specialist Schedule 24 Sections with:

- 1.0 FTE PE
- 1.0 FTE Music
- 1.0 FTE Art
- 1.0 FTE Media

*Example only: MW will have to plan on which blocks grade levels are assigned to.

		Lowell			
		PE	Music	Art	Media
DAY 1	8:30-9:15	MK	M1	M2	M4/5
	9:20-10:05	S1A	S1B	S1C	S3A
	10:10-10:55	E4	E4/5	E5	S5A
	11:35-12:20	EKA	EKB	SKA	SKB
	12:25-1:10	E1	E1/2	E2	E3A
	1:15-2:00	S2A	S2B	S2C	S4A
DAY 2	8:30-9:15	M4/5	MK	M1	M2
	9:20-10:05	S3A	S1A	S1B	S1C
	10:10-10:55	S5A	E4	E4/5	E5
	11:35-12:20	SKB	EKA	EKB	SKA
	12:25-1:10	E3A	E1	E1/2	E2
	1:15-2:00	S4A	S2A	S2B	S2C
DAY 3	8:30-9:15	M2	M4/5	MK	M1
	9:20-10:05	S1C	S3A	S1A	S1B
	10:10-10:55	E5	S5A	E4	E4/5
	11:35-12:20	SKA	SKB	EKA	EKB
	12:25-1:10	E2	E3A	E1	E1/2
	1:15-2:00	S2C	S4A	S2A	S2B
DAY 4	8:30-9:15	M1	M2	M4/5	MK
	9:20-10:05	S1B	S1C	S3A	S1A
	10:10-10:55	E4/5	E5	S5A	E4
	11:35-12:20	EKB	SKA	SKB	EKA
	12:25-1:10	E1/2	E2	E3A	E1
	1:15-2:00	S2B	S2C	S4A	S2A
FTE		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0



Next Steps



Next Steps: Planning

Mid-January through June 2025



Site Planning: Lowell

Mid-January - June:

- Lowell CIT: Lowell Principal, CIT Members (others as needed)
- Plan for transition of 6 sections of SI moving from Lowell
- Space usage, logistics, scheduling, communication

Site Planning: MW

Mid-January - June:

- MW CIT: MW Principal, CIT Members (others as needed)
- Plan for transition of 6 sections of SI moving to MW
- Space usage, logistics, scheduling, communication

District Support with Planning: District

Mid-January - June:

- District Staff: provide ongoing support in the transition process
- Coordination: Human Resources, Facilities, Transportation, Food Service, TLE

