

# Benefits of the MPS Comprehensive District Design

April 2020

Boundary changes are only one element of this *comprehensive* plan, one tool to reach our final goal of a well-rounded education for all students, no matter their race, culture or zip code. Following are the key levers to long-term reduction of the achievement gap and how students benefit:

## 1) Boundary changes benefit students through:

- Better integrated schools racially and economically, on average
- Balanced enrollment resulting in fewer under-enrolled schools and more funding for programming and advanced learning
- Stabilized staffing as enrollment fluctuations decrease; contractual changes protect against layoffs in high poverty schools
- Stronger connections to the surrounding community and its resources, which increases family involvement

## 2) Revising enrollment/placement policies benefits students through:

- A simplified enrollment process that makes it easier for disenfranchised families to get into the schools that will be best for their students
- Making it easier for students to attend schools in their neighborhood
- Making MPS accountable for equitable treatment of students and families in this process

## 3) Enhancing the transportation process benefits students through:

- Modified bell times that free up buses so afterschool enrichment is possible at schools that didn't have it before
- Realized savings to invest in strengthening magnet and community school programming
- Shorter walk zones in neighborhoods where parents were concerned about their children's safety

## 4) Strengthening community schools benefits students through:

- Greater focus on literacy and math in K-2 by investing in professional teacher development in how to build foundational skills and teach to honor all cultures
- Realized savings from transportation invested in: instrumental music for Grade 5; STEM in all K-8 buildings; advanced academics for grades K-8; ethnic studies as grad requirement; required professional development in teaching to honor all cultures; family engagement; mental health supports; and increased access to grades 6-8 athletics
- A mandate for community schools to better reflect their school's students and community, including in their approach to social and emotional learning
- Stronger connections to the surrounding community and its resources, which increases family involvement
- Prioritizing teacher professional development and additional resources/materials for schools

with higher numbers of students with low academic achievement

- The opportunity for students receiving Special Education services to attend a school near their homes or to participate in the magnet school lottery process

#### **5) Investments in magnet programs benefits students through:**

- The ability to place magnets in the center of the city, making them more accessible to students from across the district and minimizing transit time for students
- Integrated learning through themes and innovative practices
- Leveraging infrastructure of city resources through strategic magnet placement
- Global studies magnet that emphasizes ethnic studies and service learning; a districtwide understanding of ethnic studies at elementary level
- Investments in arts programming that leverages Minneapolis commitment to arts
- STEM/STEAM magnets that strengthen district math/science foundation
- Dual Language K-12 magnets that honor and strengthen our Spanish-speaking and Hmong-speaking families
- Montessori magnets that provide an experiential and inquiry-based education for K-5

#### **6) A focus on improving school climate and culture benefits students through:**

- Making our schools more welcoming for all students and families
- Ensuring site councils represent school communities
- Required equity and restorative practices training that addresses disciplinary discrepancies
- Mutually understood culture and climate standards, along with accountability tools for how all district staff, parents, and students effectively and positively engage with each other
- Plans to support teacher recruitment and retention at high poverty schools, which will also reduce staffing instability at these sites
- Expansion of “Grow your Own” programs and increased investment in teacher-of-color recruitment and retention
- Stabilized enrollment and staffing, less “churn”

#### **7) An intensive five-year capital improvement plan benefits students through:**

- More than \$200 million worth of physical upgrades over five years to schools to meet the enhanced programming needs for STEM/STEAM, performing arts, CTE programming, and school co-locations

#### **8) Realigning funding to make MPS more financially sustainable benefits students through:**

- Helps us begin solving for repeated deficits and all the related negative side effects
- Availability of funding for long-term academic investments
- Increased market share as MPS improves academically through those investments

## Additional CDD Benefits to Northside MPS Students

<b>1) Hall becomes a STEM magnet</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Plan proposal includes \$1 million in upgrades to fit STEM programming</li> </ul>
<b>2) Franklin becomes a STEAM magnet</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of arts programming as well as robotics arena</li> </ul>
<b>3) Bethune becomes an Arts magnet</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased instrumental music opportunities                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Staffed with a full-time instrumental music teacher in SY20-21</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Capital Plan proposal includes upgrades on arts spaces</li> </ul>
<b>4) North High programming enhanced</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase instrumental music opportunities                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Staffed with a .5 instrumental music teacher in SY20-21</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increased funding to enhance advanced academic coursework</li> <li>• Proposed CTE Center featuring: engineering, computer science, information technology, robotics, web and digital communications</li> </ul>
<b>5) Hmong culture and language strand</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flows from Olson to Henry</li> </ul>
<b>6) Stabilized, balanced enrollment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows Northside schools to grow academic programming</li> <li>• Stronger enrollment reduces chances of closing schools</li> <li>• More consistency, calmer school environments</li> </ul>