



Due to Declining Enrollment in Southwest Denver, Recommendation Made to Consolidate DSST: Henry & DSST: College View Middle Schools

Student enrollment in various pockets across the city has seen significant declines over the past few years. Due to numerous demographic shifts and exacerbated by the global pandemic, the Southwest part of the city is projected to be hit hardest with enrollment declines in the coming years. As a result of these trends, DSST is recommending a consolidation of its two middle schools in the southwest region - DSST: Henry and DSST: College View.

DSST Public Schools, in partnership with DPS, has committed to our students and families to deliver a world class education, but running a high quality middle school becomes impossible when enrollment numbers are too low. The staff required to run an excellent program at an under-enrolled school is fundamentally unsustainable, as has become the case at the DSST: Henry campus. The DSST Board will consider this recommendation at its November 19th Board meeting. In the event that a decision is made to consolidate schools, DSST: Henry students who would like to attend DSST: College View will have a spot.

Bill Kurtz, CEO of DSST Public Schools, shares "I am disappointed that this difficult decision is in front of us, and want to be clear that DSST is invested in the students and families of Southwest Denver. I want to reaffirm our commitment to providing a high quality education, and students will remain at the center of any decision."

"DSST: Henry and DSST: College View are consistently putting students at the center of decision making. As difficult as a decision as this is, consolidating these two schools in a time of declining enrollment is the right thing for the students and families of Southwest Denver. There is strength in numbers, both in community and potential for academic and extracurricular opportunities. Maximizing the potential of our students and their future should always be the lens from which we make these decisions," adds Angela Cobian, Southwest representative for the Denver Board of Education.

DPS Superintendent Susana Cordova has also shared "We appreciate the transparency and partnership with DSST as they made this difficult decision. I believe they are working in the best interests of the students and families in Southwest Denver. We must all do our part to

keep students at the center of our decisions as we navigate declining enrollment in parts of Denver and a global pandemic. I look forward to seeing excellent continuing results from the combined DSST: Henry and DSST: College View campus."

In the case of a consolidation, DSST: Henry would complete the 20/21 school year in its current location, but in the 21/22 school year students who are interested would move to the College View campus. DSST is committed to working individually with families in the coming months to determine the next steps that are best for their students. The decision made on the 19th will ensure that families have time to research and consider options in advance of the DPS choice window which runs from Jan 15-Feb 15, 2021.

For any DSST-specific inquiries, please email [Stefanie Gilary](#), Manager of Communications.

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