



Superintendent's Report

Newark Public Schools
Advisory Board Meeting

February 26, 2013

FINAL

In this Report:

- **District Priorities**
- **High Schools Strategy and Portfolios**
- **High School Application Process**

District Priorities...

This is our **ultimate goal...**

Ensure all students graduate college-ready

All students master academic, social, and emotional skills to succeed in college

...we will get there by dramatically **transforming teaching and learning...**

Develop effective professionals in every classroom

All teachers are professionals who focus on what students learn rather than what they are taught

Cultivate transformational school leaders

Principals maintain laser focus on college readiness for all students and have decision-making flexibility and accountability to drive results

...and creating the **enabling conditions** for this transformation to occur

Re-imagine NPS as a service-oriented team

Central office exists to serve and support schools as the primary unit of change

Provide top tier school options for all students

Every Newark school ensures that all students are on track to graduate college-ready

Engage and involve stakeholders to contribute to college readiness

Families and communities recognize and advocate for great teaching and schools; families actively partner with schools to ensure their students are on the path to college readiness

High Schools Strategy

Overview

The 2009-13 Strategic Plan, *Great Expectations*, charged the Newark Public Schools with developing a comprehensive high school strategy with specific goals and action steps to ensure college and career readiness for our students.

Current Status

Declining high school enrollments and persistent poor student performance necessitates NPS act quickly to ensure its high school portfolios meets the needs of Newark's young people.

Action Step

Build a diverse portfolio of secondary schools that offers a wide range of instructional themes, small learning communities, career academies, partnerships with higher education and business, and multiple pathways to graduation.

High Schools Strategy

Bright Spots in Our District High Schools

East Side High School



Arts High School



University High School



American History High School



Newark Vocational High School

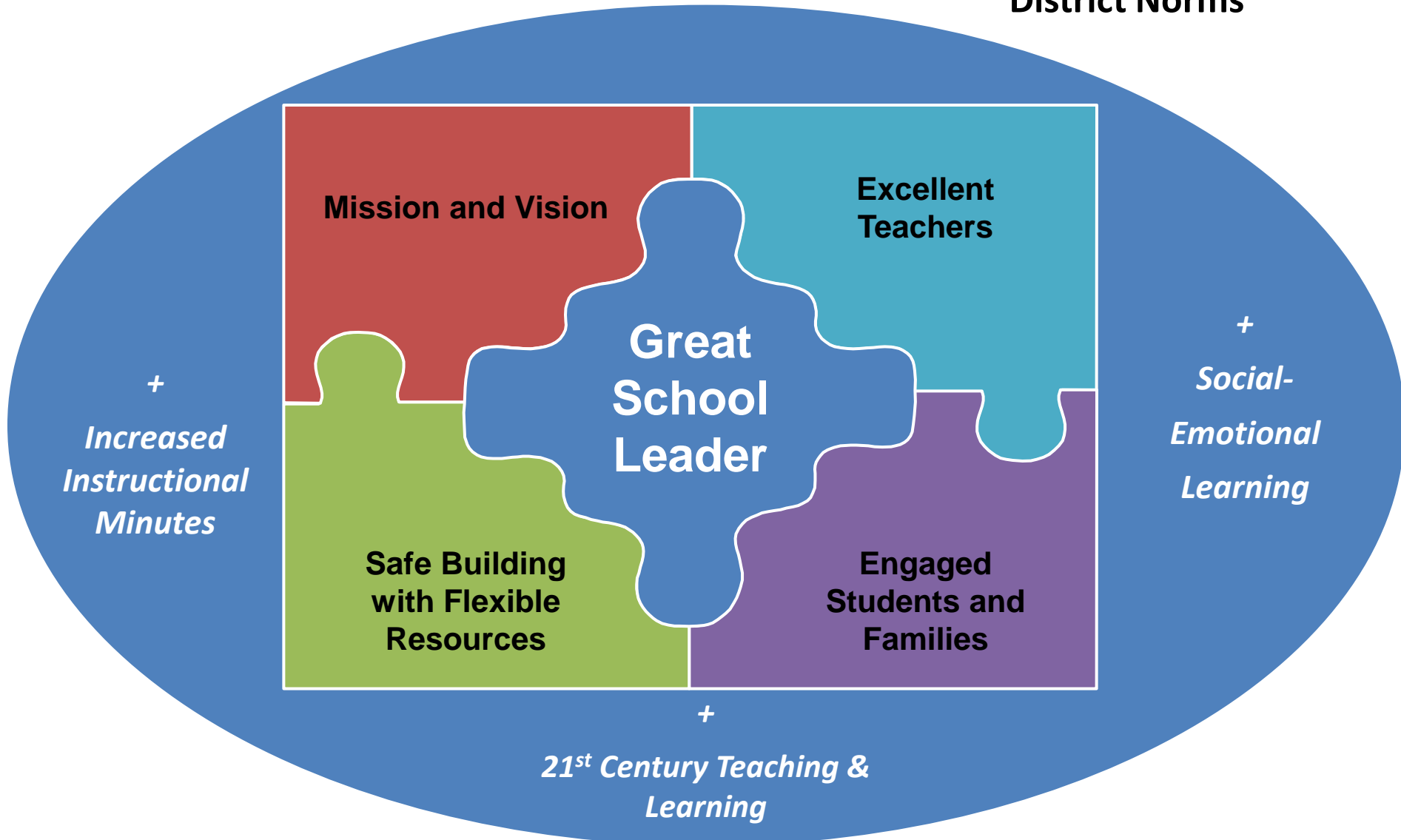


High Schools Strategy

Great Schools of the Future



From District Bright Spots to District Norms



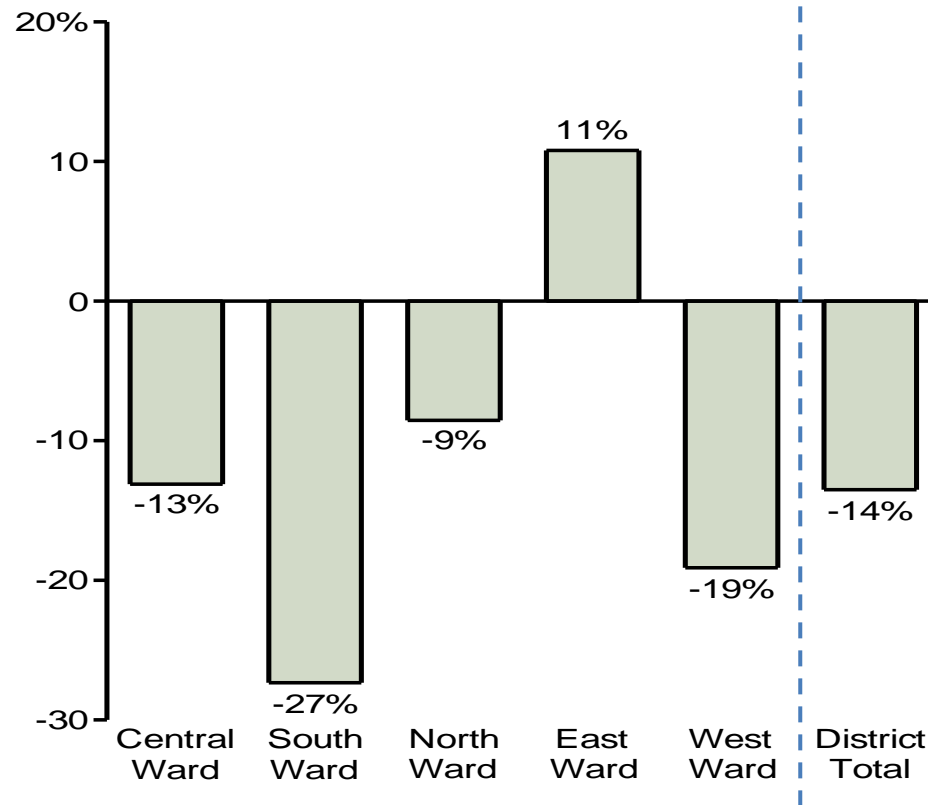
High Schools Strategy

Five Challenges to Overcome

- Declining Enrollment
- Disparate Need
- Safety and Personalization
- Low Performance and Low Growth
- Unmet Student Needs and Unmet Family Demands

Declining Enrollment

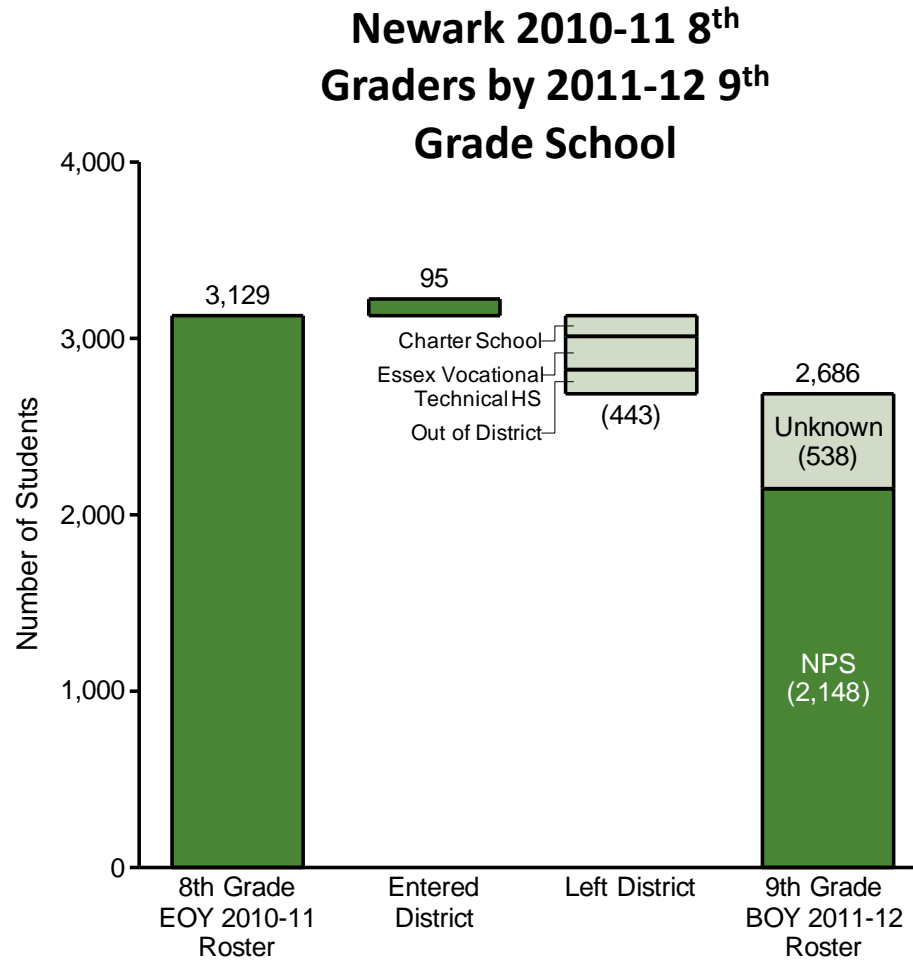
NPS Enrollment Change by Ward
SY2002-03 – SY2012-13



NPS has steadily declined in enrollment in every ward except the East and loses students in the transition from 8th grade to high school

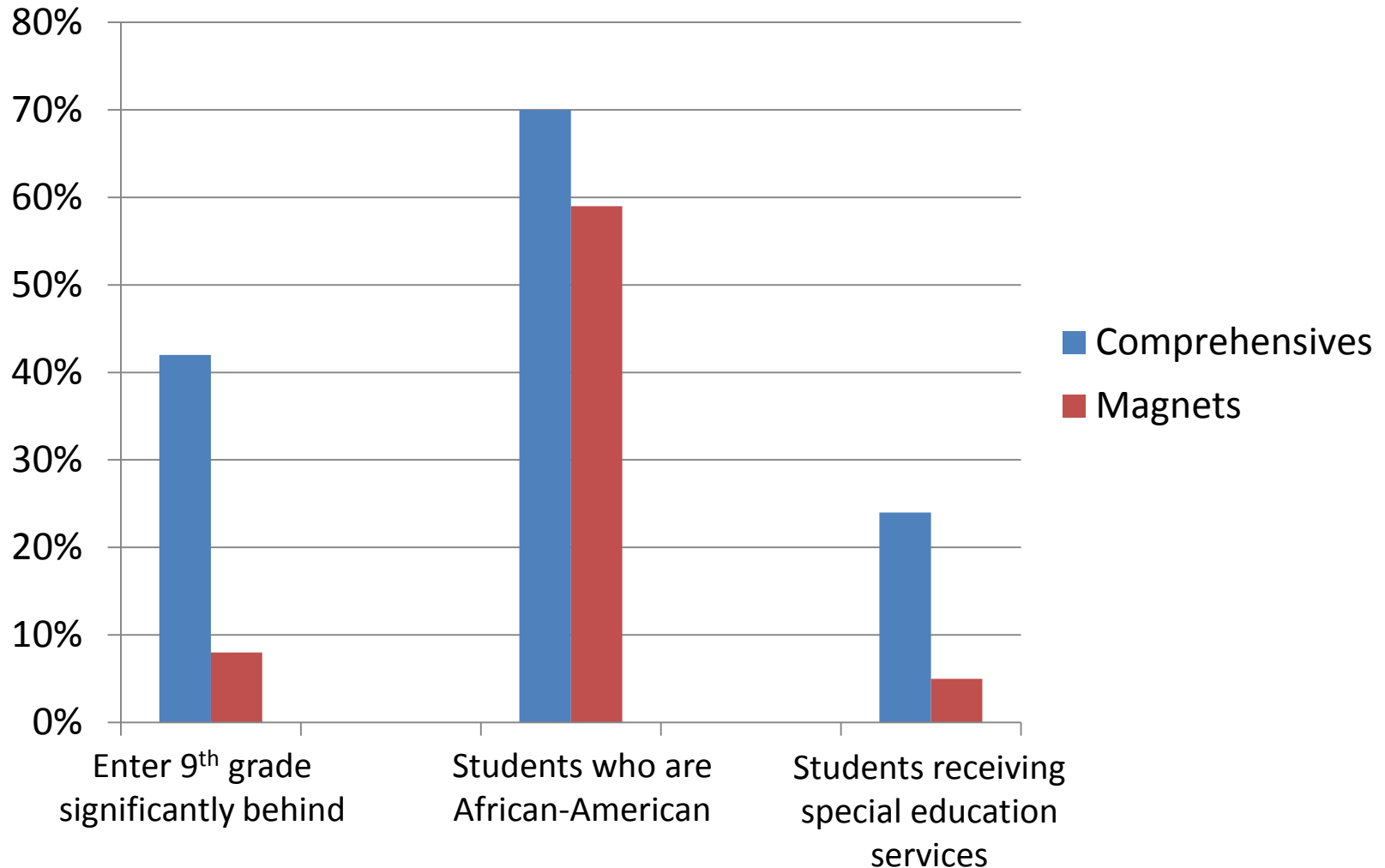
Declining Enrollment

The district also loses students in the transition from 8th grade to high school



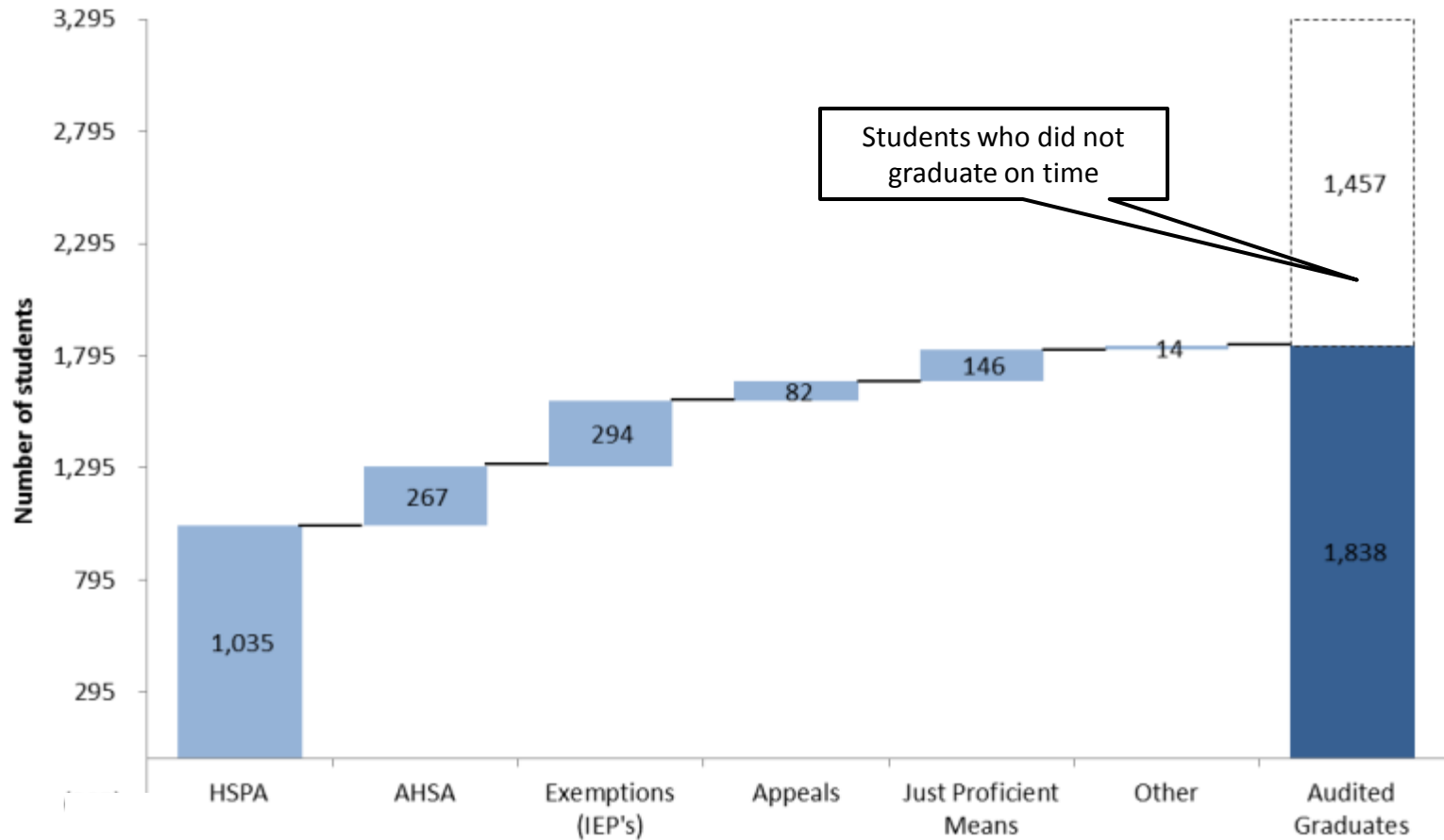
Disparate Need

Magnets do not reflect the racial or socio-economic diversity of the city in part because too few K8 students from NPS meet the entrance criterion



Low Performance and Low Growth

Class of 2011 graduates by assessment designation



Of the 3,295 students in the Class of 2011, 55.8% achieved on-time graduation with only 31.4% of the class graduating via the HSPA

Unmet Student Needs and Unmet Family Demands

Parents desperately want high quality choices:
Nearly 80% of NPS 8th graders applied to magnet schools in 2012

Magnet School Applications by School and Preference, Spring 2012

Note: 3,021 students submitted applications; 2,623 of these students were NPS 8th graders and 398 were 8th graders from outside NPS

Our Vision

All Students, All Schools – All on the path to college-readiness

- College-readiness for all students – including those who start behind
- Racial and socio-economic diversity in all high schools
- City-wide Choice – families and students are empowered to choose among many great options

Fall 2013: Great Schools

- **Create** three separate and distinct high schools at the Barringer campus, each with its own principal and staff
- **Implement** city-wide choice for high schools – and ensure greater diversity across high schools
- **Redesign** Central , East Side, Newark Vocational , Malcolm X Shabazz, and Weequahic; each design will have:
 - Clear “theme” or focus that drives the vision and mission of the school
 - Deeper social and emotional supports for students
 - A clear plan to support students who struggle academically
- **Renew** Westside – this includes re-staffing similar to K-8 Renews, along with facilities upgrades and deeper curricular interventions and support
- **Open** Young Women’s Leadership Academy, Newark’s first all girls school

What We Have Done

Phase One: School Year 2011-2012

- High school progress reports
- ACT to establish a fair and consistent measure of college-readiness
- High School network
- Centralized the magnet enrollment process
- Broadened non-screened magnet middle school programs

Phase Two : October 2012 – February 2013

- Comprehensive High Schools begin process of redesigning
- School-based teams were trained on essential components:
 - Mission and core beliefs
 - Future career pathways
 - School climate
 - Special education
- Student panel advised school-based teams
- School-based teams presented very preliminary design concepts in January

Moving Forward – Get Involved!

Phase Three: March 2013 – August 2013

- Planning teams for each school Marketing and high school choice
 - Feb: Presentations of next phase of design proposals and selection guides published; school-based community engagement and outreach begins
 - March: Planning Teams formed for schools and applications distributed
 - May: Student placement letters distributed and enrollment process begins
 - June: Ongoing-enrollment
 - July: Facilities upgrades

| February | March | April | May |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2013-14 High School options announced (2/25-2/28)• Application available beginning 3/1• Outreach to Non-NPS 8th grade students and families• 8th Grade Guidance Counselors work with students & families | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• City-wide High School Fair 3/9• High School Open Houses, Tours and Interviews• Application deadline 3/22• Spring Break 3/25 - 3/29 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magnet applicants sent to Magnet Principals for ranking 4/1• Principals submit rankings 4/15• Computer matches applicants with schools 4/26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Match letters mailed to students and families (one offer per student) 5/1 |

Phase Four: School Year 2013 – 2014

- Planning for a new set of alternative schools and programs
- Planning for a new set of Career and Technical Education options
- Refinement of High School redesigns
- Analysis of family choice data

High School Application Process

Important Messages for Families

- Selection process expanded to include **ALL District High Schools with 9th graders**
- 100% of 8th graders will participate
- **Participate** in Information Sessions:
 - School Fair
 - Tours
 - Meetings with 8th grade Guidance Counselors
- **Select many choices** on the application (at least 10) – this maximizes the student's chance in getting a match
- There will be **NO** automatic placements into any district high school
- The process will be monitored for 4 weeks beginning March 1st
- 8th Grade Guidance Counselors will be asked to reach out to families who either:
 - Haven't submitted an application
 - Entered a small number of requests

- END -