



Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates

BALD EAGLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Presentation
April 22, 2026



Statement of Findings:

- The Bald Eagle Area School District is experiencing a long-term decline and aging of its population, with student enrollment stabilizing around 1,400–1,500 students through 2030.
- The district currently has excess capacity at both the elementary and secondary levels. This creates an opportunity to increase operational efficiency and reinvest savings to modernize instructional spaces, bring facilities into code compliance, right-size buildings and staffing, and align educational programming and instructional strategies with best practices that prepare students for post-secondary education, military service, or the workforce.

What are the Challenges for Under Enrolled Elementary Schools?

Financial Inefficiency

Declining enrollment and the fixed costs associated with operating multiple schools in a rural district create elevated per-student expenses, placing ongoing pressure on the Bald Eagle Area School District's budget and limiting flexibility for reinvestment.

Staffing and Program Limitations

The district's size and geographic context constrain staffing flexibility and program expansion, often requiring educators and administrators to serve multiple functions while limiting the range of academic and extracurricular opportunities available to students.

Underutilized Facilities

Several district facilities operate below capacity due to enrollment trends, resulting in continued maintenance and operational costs that are disproportionate to actual student use.

Community and Morale Impacts

Discussions around resource constraints, building usage, and long-term viability can impact staff morale and generate community concern, particularly in a district with strong local ties to its schools.

Planning and Long-Term Sustainability Challenges

Ongoing demographic shifts and financial constraints complicate long-range planning efforts, making it challenging for the district to strategically modernize facilities, sustain programs, and ensure long-term stability.

Best Practices for School Planning Consider:



Elementary schools operating with 75% to 90% of their seats filled are considered to be efficient. However, there are sound reasons why elementary schools may operate with as low as 70% of seats utilized. These reasons may include location, geography, unique populations, non-traditional educational programs, and/or for cultural reasons.



As the utilization of elementary schools begins to rise to 90% or fall to 75%, they should be monitored closely for increasing inefficiencies.



With more than 90% or less than 75% of the seats filled an elementary school is typically considered inefficient. Students in buildings with these utilization rates often have different educational experiences than students in elementary schools in the same district that are operating efficiently.

Best Practices for School Planning Consider:



Secondary schools operating with 70% to 85% of their seats filled are considered to be efficient. There are sound reasons why secondary schools operate with as low as 65% of seats utilized. These reasons may include location, geography, unique populations, middle school teaming, large and diverse academic programs, non-traditional educational programs, and/or for cultural reasons.



As the utilization of secondary schools begins to rise to 85% or fall to 65% of seats utilized, they should be monitored closely for increasing inefficiencies.



With more than 85% or less than 65% of the seats filled a secondary school is typically considered inefficient. Students in buildings with these utilization rates often have different educational experiences than students in secondary schools in the same district that are operating efficiently.

Options Considered:

Option I: Status Quo

Option II: Bring all 3rd-5th graders to Wyngate and Utilize the current K-2 spaces in Wingate and remaining schools as primary centers.

Option III: Maintain Grade Alignment. Merge one or two of the elementary schools with Wingate and shutter the school(s) that merged into Wingate.

A. Maintain K-5 - Combine Howard and Wingate and Shutter Howard

B. Maintain K-5 - Combine Port Matilda and Wingate and Shutter Port Matilda

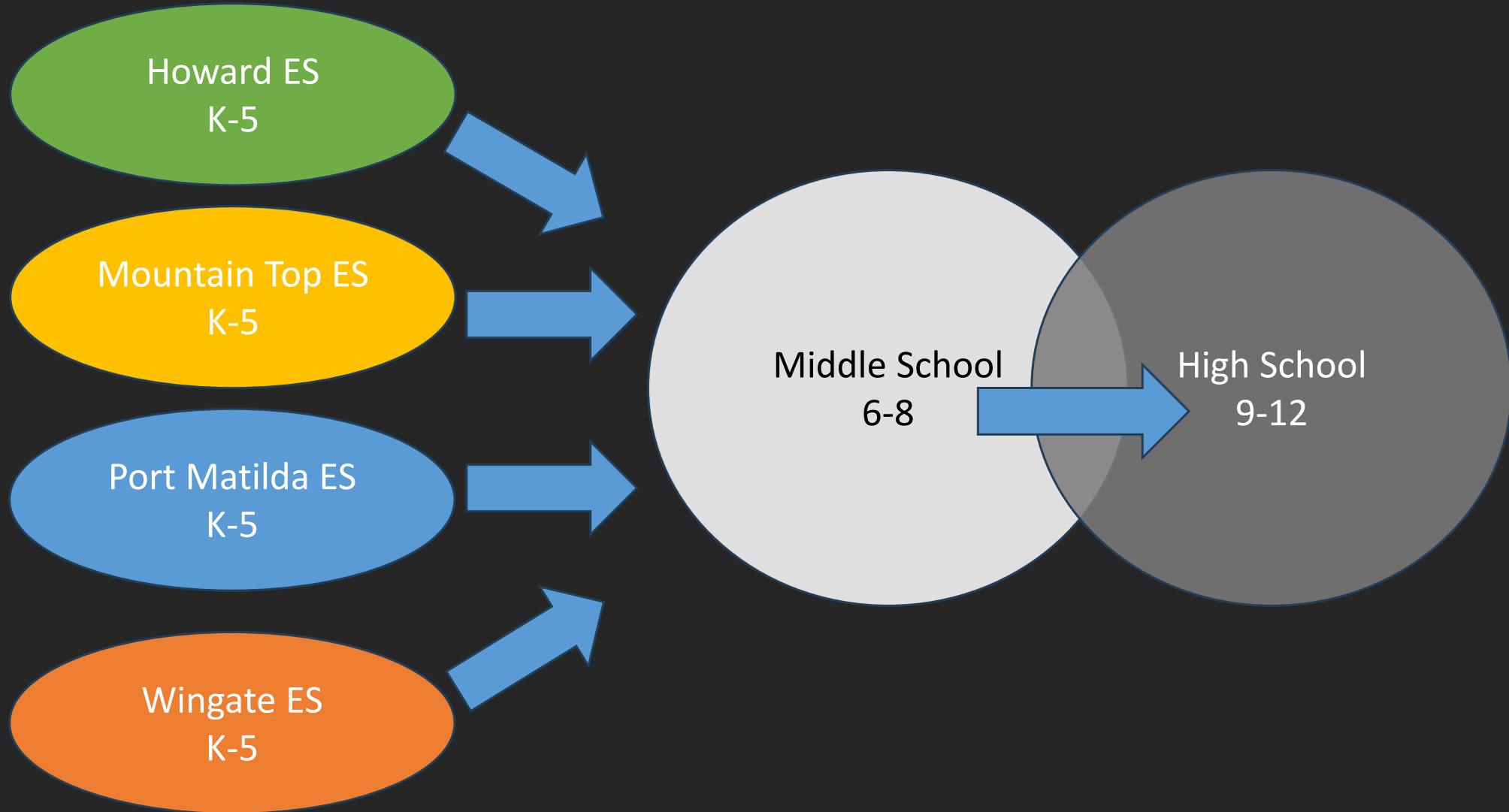
C. Maintain K-5 - Combine Mountain Top and Wingate and Shutter Mountain Top

D. Maintain K-5 - Combine Howard and Port Matilda and Wingate and Shutter Howard and Port Matilda

Option IV: Maintain K-5 Combine all Elementary Schools in Wingate - Shutter Howard, Mountain Top, and Port Matilda

Option I:

Status Quo: K-5, 6-8, 9-12. Maintain all schools.



Option I:

Status Quo: K-5, 6-8, 9-12. Maintain 4 elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school.

Benefits:

Multiple K–5 elementary schools allow districts to create age-appropriate, community-centered learning environments that strengthen relationships, support early learning best practices, and meet the developmental needs of young students. While inefficient, this model provides students the shortest average bus rides.

Challenges:

Operating two of the three K–5 elementary schools under-enrolled increases costs, limits instructional flexibility, complicates staffing and program delivery, and restricts a district's ability to reinvest in modern facilities and best-practice elementary instruction.

Option I:

Status Quo: K-5, 6-8, 9-12. Maintain 4 elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school.

Option Capacities:

School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Howard El Sch	150	14	19	19	16	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	58.00%
Mountaintop Area El Sch	200	22	10	25	14	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	52.00%
Port Matilda El Sch	175	14	16	19	15	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	53.71%
Wingate El Sch	475	61	53	63	55	70	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	365	76.84%
Bald Eagle Area MSHS	1,549	0	0	0	0	0	0	115	124	116	122	118	122	115	832	53.71%
District Total	2,549	111	98	126	100	110	105	115	124	116	122	118	122	115	1,482	58.14%

The district will only utilize 58% of its total capacity.

Three elementary schools and the middle/high school utilize 52% to 58% of capacity.

Option I:

Status Quo: K-5, 6-8, 9-12. Maintain 4 elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school.

Costs and Savings:

10 Year Capital Maintenance Plan

Bald Eagle Area School District	SCHOOL YEAR										25-Mar-26
School	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	Future	Total/Building
Howard ES	\$ 390,280	\$ 64,291	\$ 2,696,810	\$ 68,881	\$ 10,433	\$ 60,180	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,143	\$ -	\$ 3,330,018
Mountain Top ES	\$ 938,445	\$ 2,074,484	\$ 4,143,170	\$ 279,205	\$ 874,325	\$ -	\$ 66,413	\$ -	\$ 5,480	\$ -	\$ 8,381,522
Port Matilda ES	\$ 2,855,296	\$ 762,482	\$ 375,680	\$ 76,985	\$ 1,689,526	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,307	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,777,275
Wingate ES	\$ 819,363	\$ 567,574	\$ 460,257	\$ 752,290	\$ 901,452	\$ 78,807	\$ 7,523,076	\$ -	\$ 41,492	\$ 951,493	\$ 12,095,803
Bald Eagle MS/HS	\$ 224,383	\$ 2,280,723	\$ 878,159	\$ 189,194	\$ 189,194	\$ -	\$ 1,466,994	\$ 22,302,683	\$ -	\$ 2,419,049	\$ 29,950,379
Needs by Year	\$ 5,227,767	\$ 5,749,553	\$ 8,554,075	\$ 1,366,555	\$ 3,664,929	\$ 138,988	\$ 9,056,482	\$22,319,990	\$ 86,115	\$ 3,370,542	

Costs have been projected to start Summer 2027 or 2028*

1 st Five Years	20% Soft Costs	Total Cost
Howard	\$3.2 Million	
Mountain Top	\$8.3 Million	
Port Matilda	\$5.7 Million	
Wingate (** 7 Years)	\$11.1 Million	
Total	\$28.3 Million	\$5.7 Million
		\$34 Million

Long Range Planning (Approximately 8-10 Years)

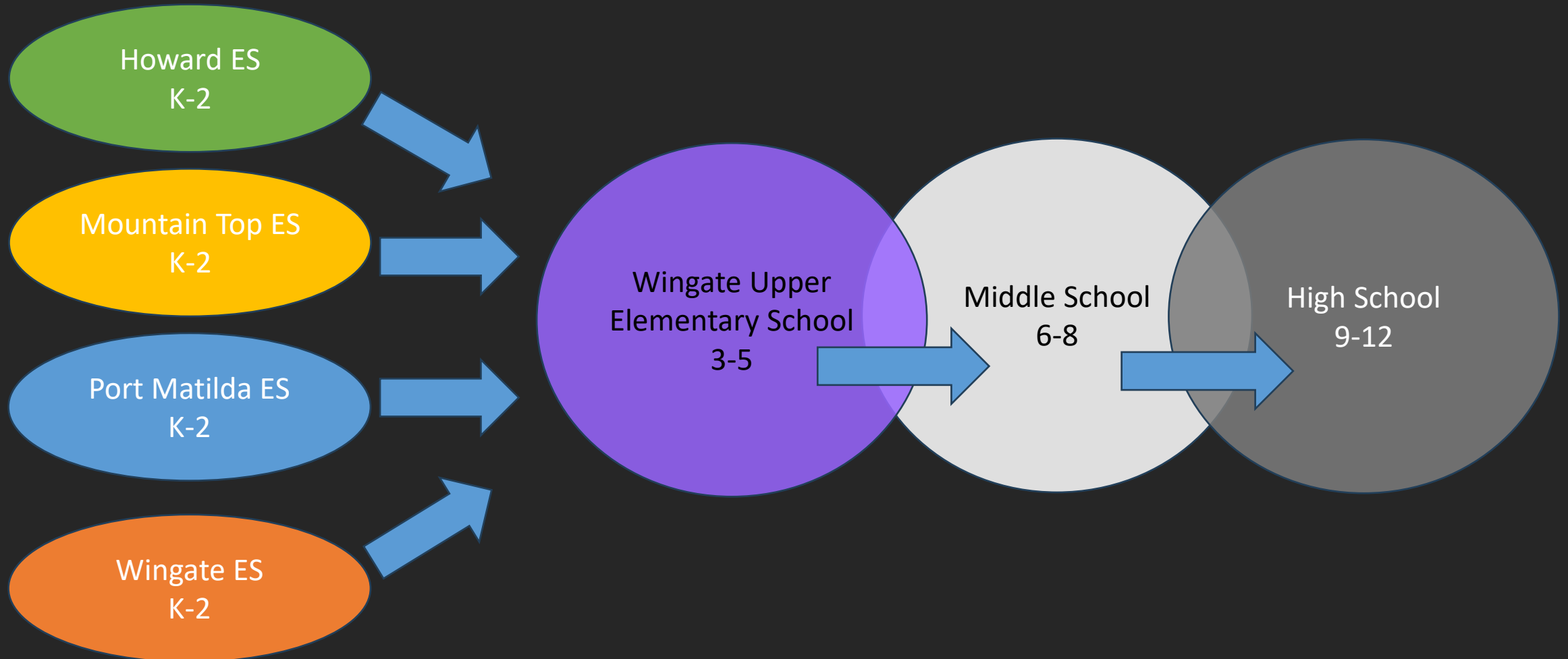
Bald Eagle MS/HS	\$22.3 Million	\$4.46 Million	\$26.76 Million
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*Costs incorporate 20% Estimating Contingency

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Option II:

Primary and Upper Elementary Schools Maintaining All Buildings: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12.



Option II:

Benefits:

K-2: Neighborhood schools can place strong focus on early learning foundations: through concentrated instruction in early literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional development. Consistent age-appropriate environments teaching and learning and supports designed specifically for early childhood.

3-5: The grade alignment supports the transition from learning foundational skills to applying them (“reading to learn”). Enables deeper emphasis on content literacy, problem-solving, and study skills. Supports and services for all students in grades 3-5 can be focused and efficient, Students learn to interact with the whole of their class and all that entails prior to middle school and pre-adolescence.

Challenges:

The model is wholly inefficient and lacks sustainability with three of the elementary schools averaging 30.4% utilization. Costs per pupil in those buildings will increase. Staffing is likely to be less efficient. Students in grades that have only one section are going to have a very different experiences than those with two or more sections per grade level. If enrollment continues to decline, the district will be forced to shutter schools regardless. Long-term maintenance on the systems in underutilized schools will be expensive.

Option II:

All students K-2 would attend Howard, Mountain Top, Port Matilda, or Wingate Elementary Schools. All students in grades in would attend Wingate.

Option Capacities:

School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Howard El Sch	150	14	19	19				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	34.67%
Mountaintop Area El Sch	200	22	10	25				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	28.50%
Port Matilda El Sch	175	14	16	19				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	28.00%
School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Howard El Sch	150				16	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	N/A
Mountaintop Area El Sch	200				14	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	N/A
Port Matilda El Sch	175				15	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	N/A
Wingate El Sch	475	61	53	63	55	70	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	365	76.84%
*Additional Regular Rooms	75														492	103.58%
	550														492	89.45%

Additional instructional and non-instructional spaces may be required beyond regular education classrooms. Shared spaces such as cafeteria, library, gym, play areas, and parking would need to be evaluated.

Option II:

Primary and Upper Elementary Schools Maintaining All Buildings: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12.

Costs and Savings:

10 Year Capital Maintenance Plan

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Costs have been projected to start Summer 2027 or 2028*

1st Five Years

Howard \$3.2 Million
Mountain Top \$8.3 Million
Port Matilda \$5.7 Million
Wingate (** 7 Years) \$11.1 Million

20% Soft Costs

Total \$28.3 Million \$5.7 Million

Total Cost

\$34 Million

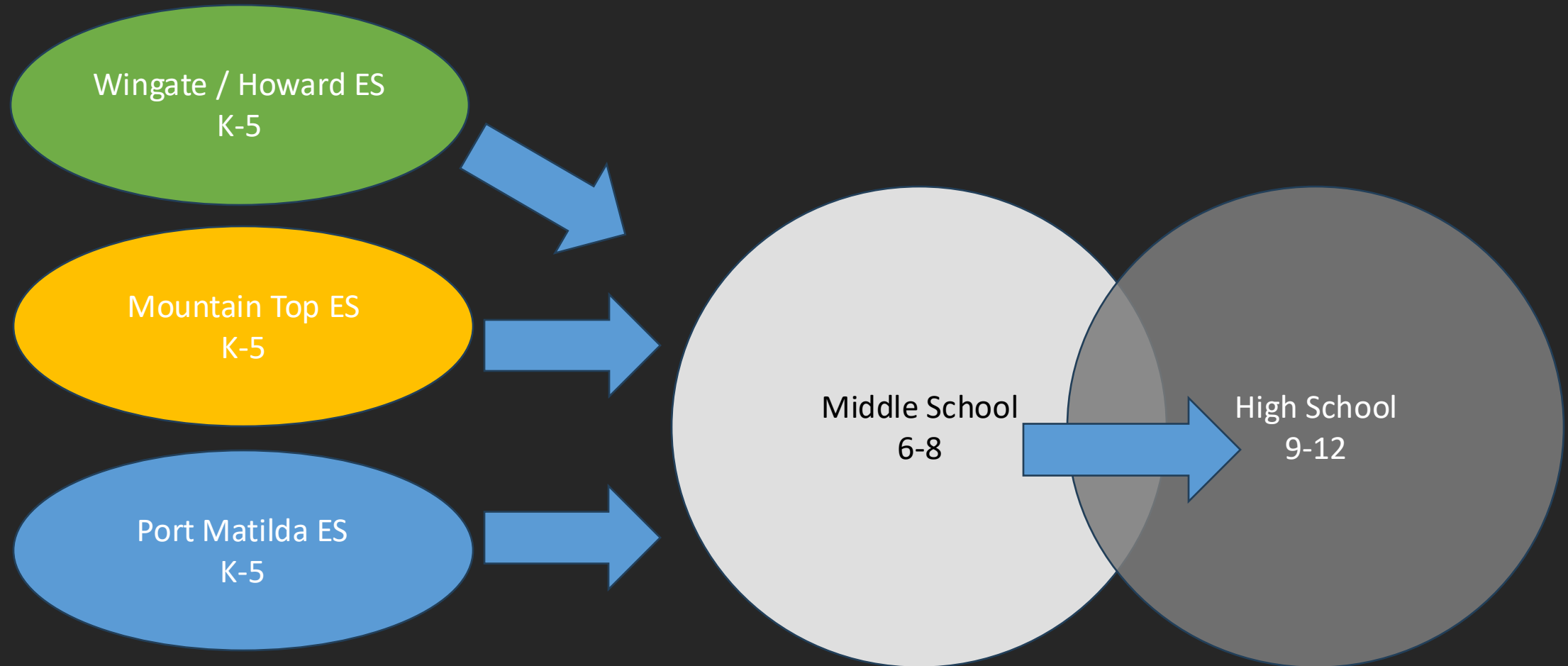
Long Range Planning (Approximately 8-10 Years)

Bald Eagle MS/HS \$22.3 Million \$4.46 Million \$26.76 Million

*Costs incorporate 20% Estimating Contingency

Options III: Combined One or Two Elementary Schools with Wingate and Shutter the School(s) that Merged into Wingate

Option IIIA: Maintain K-5 - Combine Howard and Wingate and Shutter Howard



Option III A, B, C, and D:

Status Quo: K-5, 6-8, 9-12. Maintain 2 or 3 elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school.

Benefits:

Multiple K–5 elementary schools allow districts to create age-appropriate, community-centered learning environments that strengthen relationships, support early learning best practices, and meet the developmental needs of young students. The increased efficiencies from shuttering one or two elementary schools' range in a cost savings of approximately \$8.5M to \$26.2M over the next decade.

Challenges:

While there will be fewer, operating multiple under-enrolled K–5 schools increases costs, limits instructional flexibility, complicates staffing and program delivery, and restricts a district's ability to reinvest in modern facilities and best-practice elementary instruction. Depending on the number and combination of schools merged, one to six additional classrooms will be required. While many of these spaces can be carved from the existing footprint's unused/repurposed spaces the likelihood of a need for additions increases as you move from needing one to needing six classrooms.

Option IIIA: Maintain K-5 - Combine Howard and Wingate and Shutter Howard

Option Capacities:

School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Mountaintop Area El Sch	200	22	10	25	14	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	52.00%
Port Matilda El Sch	175	14	16	19	15	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	53.71%
School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Howard El Sch		14	19	19	16	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	N/A
Wingate El Sch	475	61	53	63	55	70	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	365	N/A
Additional Rooms	25														452	95.16%
New Total	500														452	90.40%

Additional instructional and non-instructional spaces may be required beyond regular education classrooms. Shared spaces such as cafeteria, library, gym, play areas, and parking would need to be evaluated.

Costs and Savings:

OPERATIONAL SAVINGS: \$ 80,268.35

POTENTIAL STAFF SAVINGS: \$ 388,847.37

SINGLE YEAR TOTAL: \$ 469,115.72

Over 10 Years with Inflation @ 2.00%

2026-2027	\$478,498.03
2027-2028	\$488,067.99
2028-2029	\$497,829.35
2029-2030	\$507,785.94
2030-2031	\$517,941.66
2031-2032	\$528,300.49
2032-2033	\$538,866.50
2033-2034	\$549,643.83
2034-2035	\$560,636.71
2034-2036	\$571,849.44

TEN YEAR TOTAL: \$5,239,419.96

PHYSICAL PLANT, OPERATIONS, AND TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

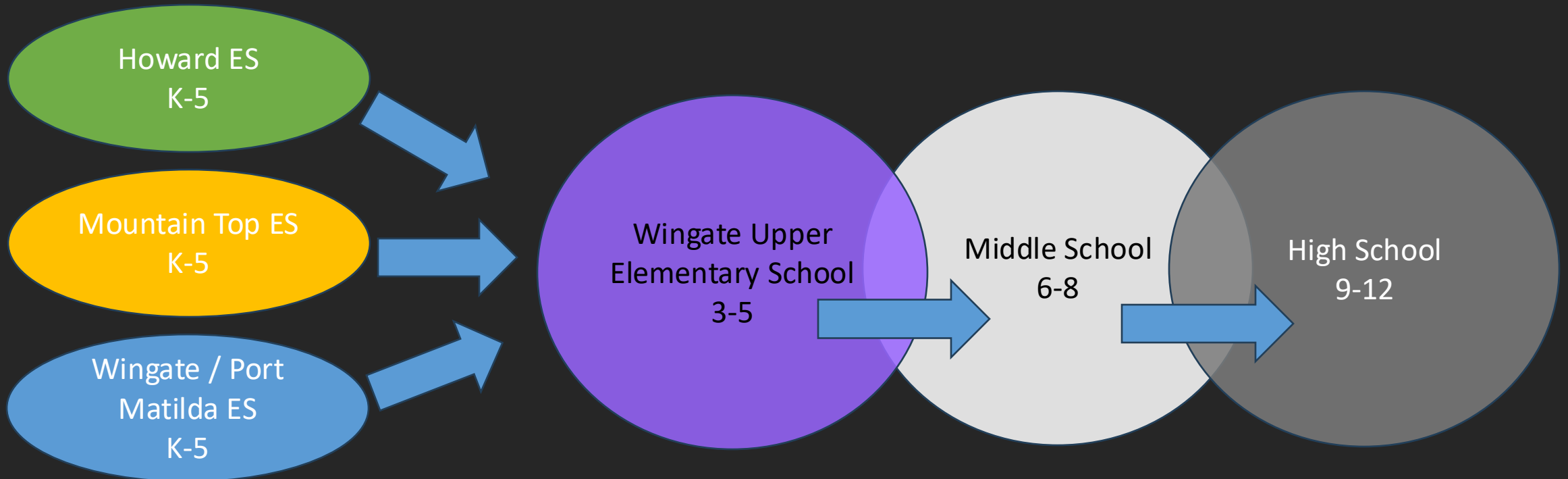
\$430,280.00
\$94,291.00
\$2,696,810.00
\$68,881.00
\$10,433.00
\$60,180.00
\$0.00
\$0.00
\$39,143.00
\$3,330,018.00

ESTIMATED 10 YEAR
SAVINGS IF HOWARD
AND WINGATE WERE
MERGED

\$8,569,437.96

Options III: Combined One or Two Elementary Schools with Wingate and Shutter the School(s) that Merged into Wingate

Option IIIB: Maintain K-5 - Combine Port Matilda and Wingate and Shutter Port Matilda



Option IIIB: Maintain K-5 - Combine Port Matilda and Wingate and Shutter Port Matilda

Option Capacities:

School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Howard El Sch	150	14	19	19	16	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	58.00%
Mountaintop Area El Sch	200	22	10	25	14	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	52.00%
School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Port Matilda El Sch		14	16	19	15	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	N/A
Wingate El Sch	475	61	53	63	55	70	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	365	N/A
Additional Rooms	50														459	96.63%
	525														459	87.43%

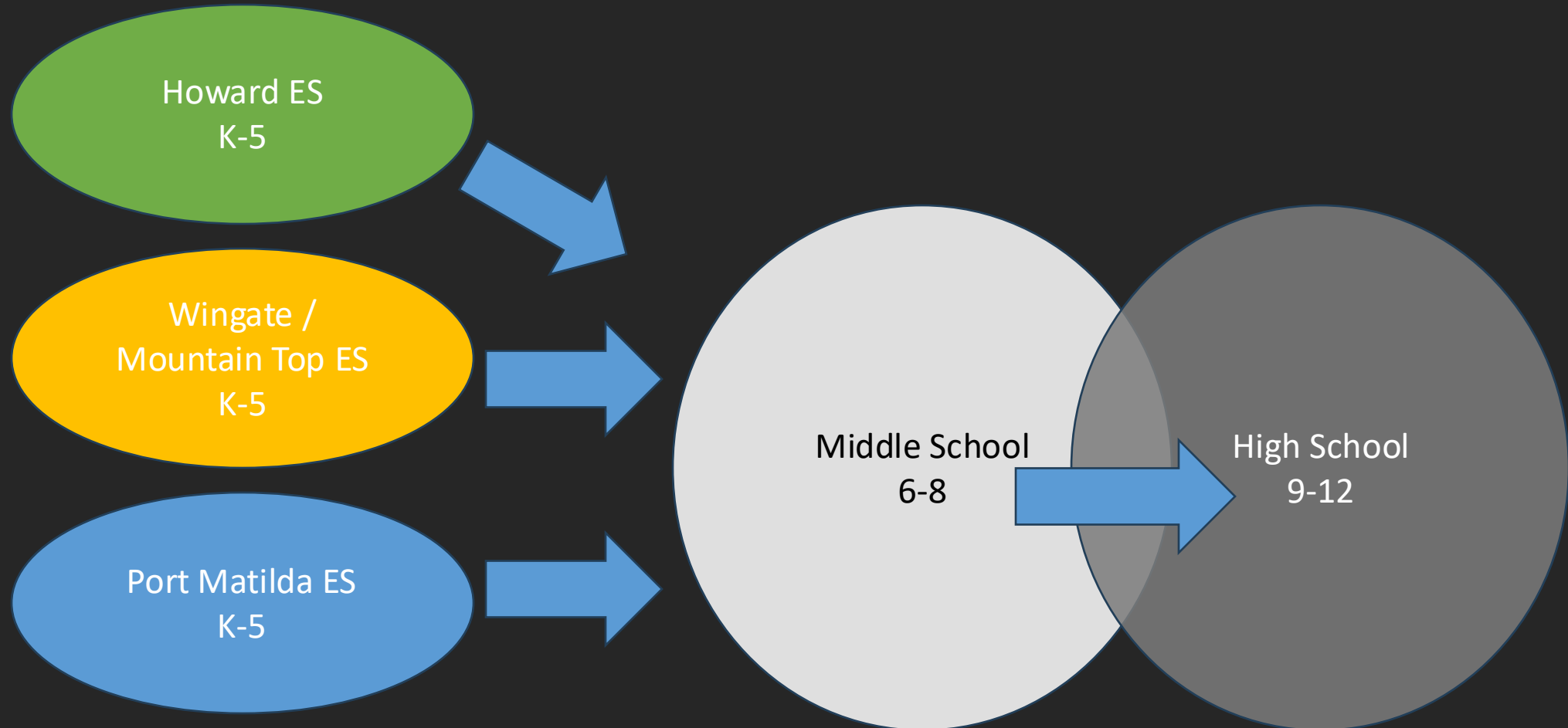
Additional instructional and non-instructional spaces may be required beyond regular education classrooms. Shared spaces such as cafeteria, library, gym, play areas, and parking would need to be evaluated.

Costs and Savings:

OPERATIONAL SAVINGS:	\$62,060.17		
POTENTIAL STAFF SAVINGS:	\$439,870.93		
SINGLE YEAR TOTAL:	\$501,931.10	PHYSICAL PLANT, OPERATIONS, AND TECHNOLOGY NEEDS	
Over 10 Years with Inflation @ 2.00%			
2026-2027	\$511,969.73	\$2,895,296.00	ESTIMATED 10 YEAR SAVINGS IF PORT MATILDA AND WINGATE WERE MERGED
2027-2028	\$522,209.12	\$786,482.00	
2028-2029	\$532,653.30	\$375,680.00	
2029-2030	\$543,306.37	\$76,985.00	
2030-2031	\$554,172.50	\$1,689,526.00	
2031-2032	\$565,255.95	\$0.00	
2032-2033	\$576,561.07	\$0.00	
2033-2034	\$588,092.29	\$17,307.00	
2034-2035	\$599,854.13	\$0.00	
2034-2036	\$611,851.21	\$5,841,276.00	
TEN YEAR TOTAL:	\$5,605,925.68		\$11,447,201.68

Options III: Combined One or Two Elementary Schools with Wingate and Shutter the School(s) that Merged into Wingate

Option IIIC: Maintain K-5 - Combine Mountain Top and Wingate and Shutter Mountain Top



Option IIIC: Maintain K-5 - Combine Mountain Top and Wingate and Shutter Mountain Top

Option Capacities:

School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Port Matilda El Sch	175	14	16	19	15	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	53.71%
Howard El Sch	150	14	19	19	16	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	58.00%
School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Mountaintop Area El Sch		22	10	25	14	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	N/A
Wingate El Sch	475	61	53	63	55	70	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	365	N/A
Additional Rooms	50														469	98.74%
	525														469	89.33%

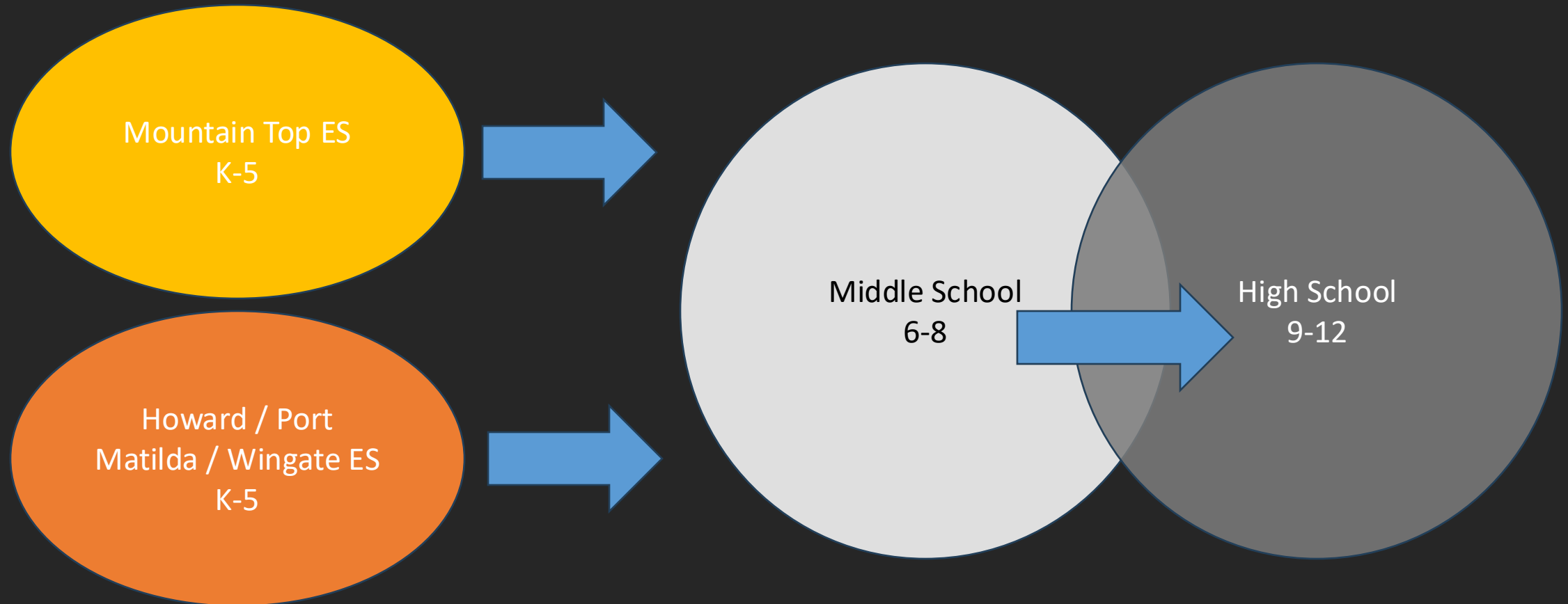
Additional instructional and non-instructional spaces may be required beyond regular education classrooms. Shared spaces such as cafeteria, library, gym, play areas, and parking would need to be evaluated.

Costs and Savings:

OPERATIONAL SAVINGS:	\$119,850.88		
POTENTIAL STAFF SAVINGS:	\$449,237.25		
SINGLE YEAR TOTAL:	\$569,088.13	PHYSICAL PLANT, OPERATIONS, AND TECHNOLOGY NEEDS	
Over 10 Years with Inflation @ 2.00%			
2026-2027	\$580,469.89	\$944,445.00	ESTIMATED 10 YEAR SAVINGS IF MOUNTAIN TOP AND WINGATE WERE MERGED
2027-2028	\$592,079.29	\$2,098,484.00	
2028-2029	\$603,920.88	\$4,143,170.00	
2029-2030	\$615,999.29	\$279,205.00	
2030-2031	\$628,319.28	\$874,325.00	
2031-2032	\$640,885.67	\$0.00	
2032-2033	\$653,703.38	\$66,413.00	
2033-2034	\$666,777.45	\$0.00	
2034-2035	\$680,113.00	\$5,480.00	
2034-2036	\$693,715.26	\$8,411,522.00	
TEN YEAR TOTAL:	\$6,355,983.40		\$14,767,505.40

Options III: Combined One or Two Elementary Schools with Wingate and Shutter the School(s) that Merged into Wingate

Option III D: Combine Howard and Port Matilda and Wingate and Shutter Howard and Port Matilda



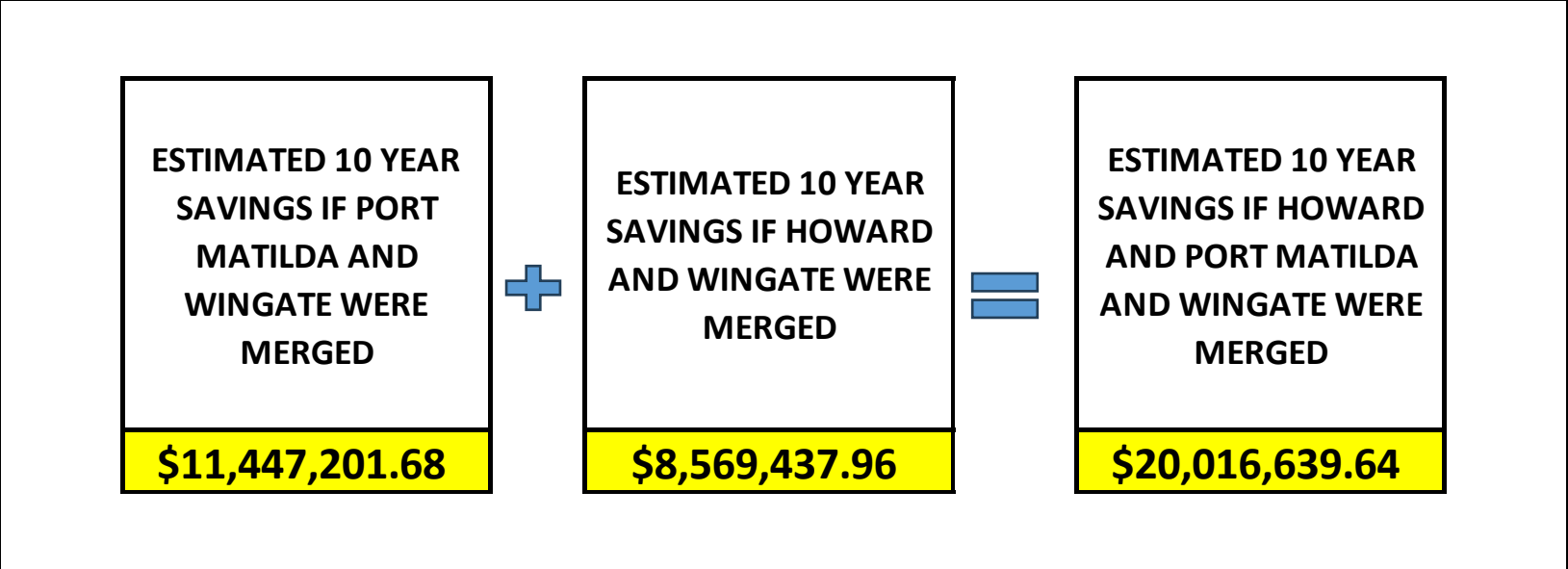
Combine Howard and Port Matilda and Wingate and Shutter Howard and Port Matilda

Option Capacities:

School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Mountaintop Area El Sch	200	22	10	25	14	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	52.00%
School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
Howard El Sch		14	19	19	16	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	N/A
Port Matilda El Sch		14	16	19	15	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	N/A
Wingate El Sch	475	61	53	63	55	70	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	365	N/A
Additional Rooms	150														546	114.95%
	625														546	87.36%

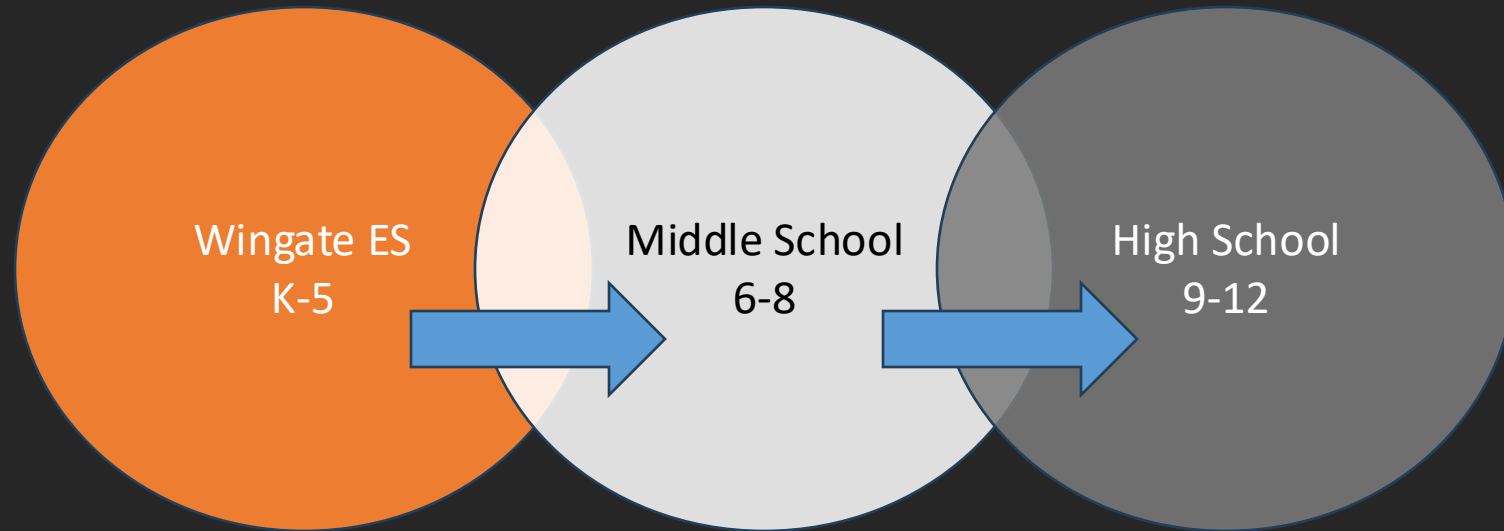
Additional instructional and non-instructional spaces may be required beyond regular education classrooms. Shared spaces such as cafeteria, library, gym, play areas, and parking would need to be evaluated.

Costs and Savings:



Options IV:

Maintain K-5 Combine all Elementary Schools in Wingate - Shutter Howard, Mountain Top, and Port Matilda



Option IV:

Status Quo: K-5, 6-8, 9-12. Maintain 4 elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school.

Benefits:

A single K-5 elementary school, on the same campus as the middle and high school, allows the district to create a continuum of age-appropriate, community-centered learning environments that strengthen relationships, support early learning best practices, and meet the developmental needs students. Students who are ready can accelerate, in part or in whole, and still be with their age peers at times during the school day. This centralizes resources and allows flexibility and efficiency when applying those resources to student need on one campus. Increased efficiencies from shuttering three elementary schools' result in a cost savings of approximately \$34.78M over the next decade.

Challenges:

Classroom space will need to be added. Eight classrooms along with the appropriate support spaces will need to be added to Wingate, while many of these spaces can be carved from the existing footprint's unused/repurposed spaces, additions will be required.

Option IV:

Maintain K-5 Combine all Elementary Schools in Wingate - Shutter Howard, Mountain Top, and Port Matilda

Option Capacities:

School Name	Capacity	K5F	001	002	003	004	005	006	007	008	009	010	011	012	Total	Utilization
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Port Matilda El Sch		14	16	19	15	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	N/A
Wingate El Sch	475	61	53	63	55	70	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	365	N/A
Additional Rooms	250														650	136.84%
	725														650	89.66%

Additional instructional and non-instructional spaces may be required beyond regular education classrooms. Shared spaces such as cafeteria, library, gym, play areas, and parking would need to be evaluated.

Costs and Savings:

ESTIMATED 10 YEAR SAVINGS IF MOUNTAIN TOP AND WINGATE WERE MERGED \$14,767,505.40	ESTIMATED 10 YEAR SAVINGS IF PORT MATILDA AND WINGATE WERE MERGED \$11,447,201.68	ESTIMATED 10 YEAR SAVINGS IF HOWARD AND WINGATE WERE MERGED \$8,569,437.96	ESTIMATED 10 YEAR SAVINGS IF HOWARD AND PORT MATILDA AND WINGATE WERE MERGED \$34,784,145.05
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