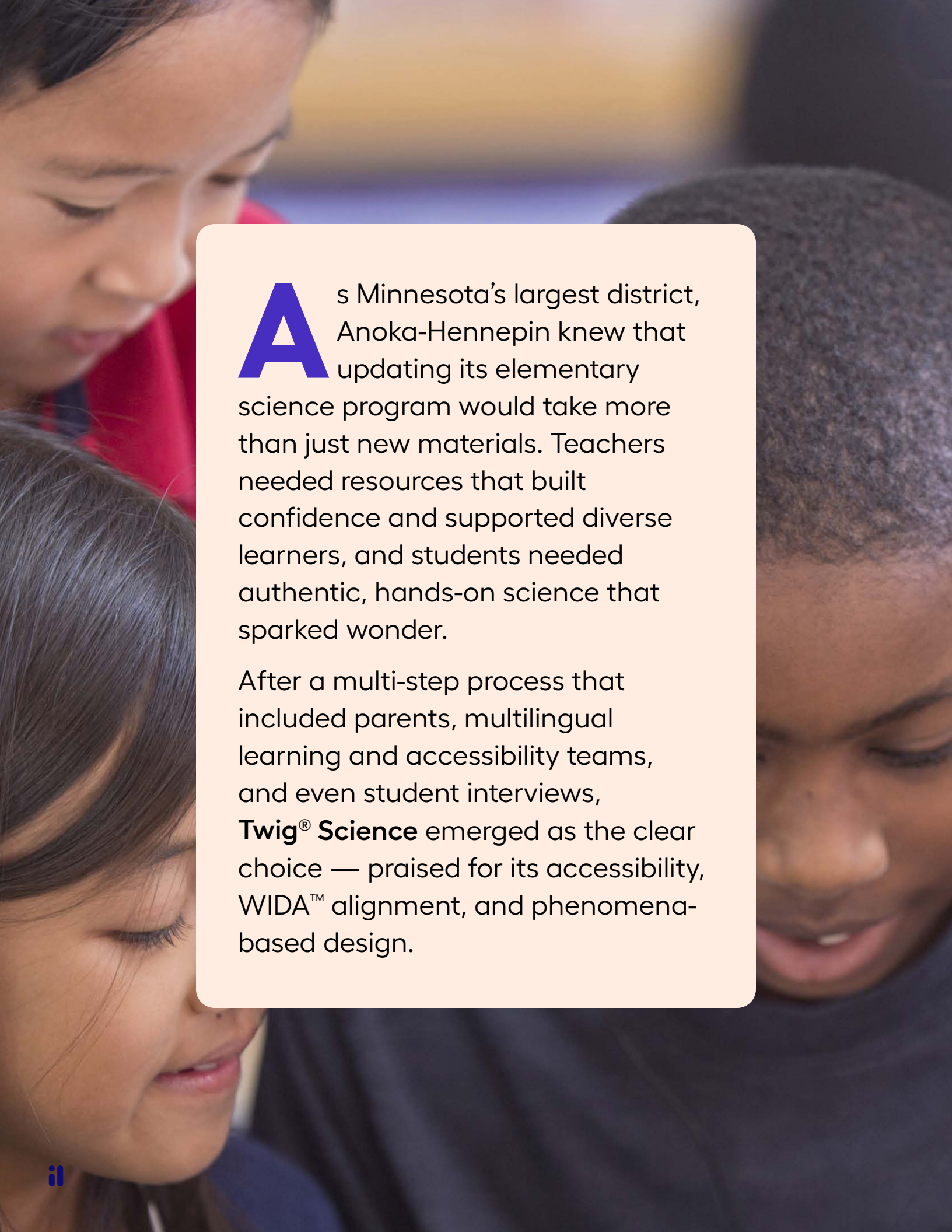
Anoka-Hennepin Public Schools | Minneapolis–Saint Paul, Minnesota | Success Story

Reigniting Elementary Science Through Partnership, Practice, and Student Voice

Through a rigorous review and a deep professional learning partnership, Anoka-Hennepin Public Schools redefined what science looks and feels like for students and teachers. With Twig® Science, curiosity and joy lead the way.



As Minnesota's largest district, Anoka-Hennepin knew that updating its elementary science program would take more than just new materials. Teachers needed resources that built confidence and supported diverse learners, and students needed authentic, hands-on science that sparked wonder.

After a multi-step process that included parents, multilingual learning and accessibility teams, and even student interviews, **Twig® Science** emerged as the clear choice — praised for its accessibility, WIDA™ alignment, and phenomena-based design.

A rigorous process centered on equity and student voice

Anoka-Hennepin's study committee piloted two finalists across a representative set of schools. Students were interviewed throughout, and their most memorable learning experiences came from Twig Science modules.

> **"They're not bored. They're scientists — making claims, gathering evidence."**
>
> — ANNE NORSTED, LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COORDINATOR

- **Why it matters:** student engagement, not just adult evaluation, drove decisions.

A partnership that powers success

Twig Science's Professional Learning team played a pivotal role in helping teachers bring the program to life. Professional Learning Specialist Tess partnered closely with educators, co-teaching lessons and modeling three-dimensional science instruction in real classrooms. Monthly joint planning between the district and Twig Science ensured support stayed responsive to teacher needs.

> **"You can buy any [curriculum], but if you don't support it with professional learning, it doesn't matter what you buy."**
>
> — ANNE NORSTED, LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COORDINATOR

When teachers requested more differentiation, Imagine Learning customized sessions by readiness level, letting educators self-select into Entry, Developing, or Deepening pathways.

- **Why it matters:** teachers gained confidence, agency, and joy.

Science for every learner

Twig Science's accessibility and WIDA-aligned supports impressed district leaders, while Native American–aligned extensions made lessons locally relevant. Teachers of blind and visually impaired students praised the program's inclusive design.

> **"The accessibility and WIDA alignment were unlike anything we'd seen."**
> — ML/DEI STAKEHOLDERS

- **Why it matters:** every student feels represented, included, and empowered to engage fully in science.

Engagement, confidence, and curiosity

Classrooms have transformed. Behavior and discipline issues during science have dropped dramatically because students are eager to explore and don't want to miss out. Teachers describe Twig Science as engaging, user-friendly, and rewarding to teach.

> **"Behavior issues during science dropped — engagement changed the game."**
> — ANN SANGSTER, FORMER DIRECTOR OF TEACHING & LEARNING / PRINCIPAL

> **"Teachers like it. And when you like what you're doing, you stand up straighter, you're having a lot more fun, and kids sense that and they respond to that."**
> — ANNE NORSTED, LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COORDINATOR

- **Why it matters:** students are curious, teachers are energized, and science feels alive again.

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877–725–4257 • **solutions@imaginelearning.com**

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