



Langley Secondary Family of Schools Boundary Change Process FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS October 2023

Will there be further changes to the catchment beyond September 2024?

Based on current information, the District does not have plans to make any further changes to the catchment after September 2024. In general, catchment changes are dependent on enrolment numbers in schools in the region and/or when a new school is opened in the region. The District will continue to closely monitor enrolment numbers and projection numbers in elementary schools within the Langley Secondary School family of schools and will communicate any potential changes to the community in advance.

Are these catchment changes temporary?

Once the new boundary lines are determined they will not be changed unless the District makes a decision to review them again in the future, if and when necessary.

Will there be grandfathering allowed or will there be exceptions for students?

Grandfathering is a process that allows only some grades to be exempt from moving to their new catchment school. Grandfathering would impact our goal of decreasing enrolment to an adequate level. There may be a desire which a student may be exempt from attending their new catchment school due to certain circumstances or criteria. The District's expectation would be for students to attend their catchment schools based on where they live. As has been the case in the past, and our commitment to work with families, this may be determined on a case-by-case basis. The District acknowledges that there may be some families who, for various reasons, may need to stay at their schools. The goal would be to ensure there is equity in schools and enrolment needs are met.

Will families be able to apply for cross boundary?

The District's expectation would be for students to attend their catchment schools based on where they live. If space allows, a cross boundary request may be granted. As has been the case in the past, and our commitment to work with families, this may be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Can a grade 5 student stay at Nicomekl Elementary next year if where they live is outside of their new catchment?

The District emphasizes catchment students will go to their catchment schools. The District recognizes some grade 5 students may want to complete their elementary education at the same school and remain with their current classmates. The District is reminding families of the region's middle school model, and that moving to their new catchment school and making new friends may help with the transition to H.D. Stafford Middle School. All elementary schools in the Langley Secondary School family of schools feed in to H.D. Stafford Middle School.

Will you be keeping siblings (families) together?

The District's expectation would be for siblings of one family to attend their catchment school based on where they live. The District believes it is best for siblings to be attending the same school.

Will there be plans to add more portables to Nicomekl Elementary?

The purpose of these potential changes is to ensure equity in school and meet enrolment needs. These changes may also help mitigate the need for additional portables. However, the District recognizes the rapid growth at Nicomekl Elementary and projected increasing enrolment. As a result, the District expects that there may still be a need for portables at this school. Based on enrolment projections, even with potential changes in catchment boundaries, Nicomekl Elementary expects to add two portables in September 2024. The District will be closely monitoring enrolment and projections in future years and assessing the need for portables in all schools in the region if needed.



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Will there be plans to build an extension at Nicomekl Elementary?

The building of an extension for Nicomekl Elementary is in the District's current long-term facilities plan. The District has communicated this plan to the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

What happens when and if more new schools in the region open up?

In general, the District creates a new catchment boundary when new schools are opened.

Will there be before and after school care spaces in my new catchment school?

The existing before and after school care spaces in schools in the region will not be changed. The District encourages families to reach out to child care providers in their new catchment school for availability. The local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) office can also help in letting you know which providers in your new catchment area have space. Child care providers are unique to each school and will have varying availability. Some are privately-run and some are operated by the District.

Early years and StrongStart programming take up a lot of space, why are they allowed to use this classroom space?

The District values early learning and StrongStart programming. StrongStart programming is part of the comprehensive learning plan for all children birth to grade 12 as outlined by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Our Early Learning programming is integral to providing opportunities for children and their families and supporting child development and learning both academically and social-emotionally. Our Early Childhood Educators are part of our Langley Educator team and their programming is part of the District's strategic plan.

As guided by the provincial government, the District is getting more involved in providing learning opportunities for age 0 to grade 12. The District's intention is to build strong connections and successful transitions for all students in the school and community, and Early Learning programs are a part of this work. The District endeavors to provide access to these programs in all regions of the school district to provide access for all families.

If you have any additional questions, please email earlylearning@sd35.bc.ca.

Will there be transportation (bussing) for my child now that they may have to move to a different school?

District Policy #18 (Student Transportation) states that any student who lives outside of the designated walk limit qualifies for transportation. In this region, all students live within the 3.2 km walk limit and therefore, do not qualify for bussing.