

# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 35 (LANGLEY)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Catchment Boundary Information Sessions North East Latimer Elementary School

October 2024

Below are some of the main themes and frequently asked questions that parents/guardians asked at the Parent Information Sessions held in September 2024. These Information Sessions were part of the Catchment Boundary Process required in advance of opening NE Latimer Elementary.

If you have any questions, please e-mail: [feedback@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:feedback@sd35.bc.ca)

#### Main Themes

- Building of Future Schools/Building Design/Modular Buildings
- Childcare
- Grandfathering/Transitions/Process for Students Attending Overflow Schools
- Process of Building Schools
- General Information about NE Latimer Elementary

#### Building of Future Schools/Building Design/Modular Buildings

##### ***Once NE Latimer Elementary is completed, where will the next elementary school be built?***

The District has sent requests to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for two new elementary schools: one in the SW Latimer neighbourhood and another one near the new Smith middle and secondary schools. These schools are in the District's Long Range Facilities Plan.

##### ***Is the Ministry of Education and Child Care building schools based on projections?***

The District proposes what schools shall be built but it does not have the funding to do it on its own. The District is provided funding from the Ministry to build schools. Historically, the Ministry has approved schools to be built once students arrive at school. This has shifted over time. In recent years, the Ministry has shown interest in building in Langley based more on enrolment projections. The modular projects are an example of the Ministry and District finding creative and cost-effective solutions that can be built in a more timely manner.

##### ***Can NE Latimer Elementary be built larger to accommodate more students?***

No. Planning for the building of new schools starts approximately three years in advance. For the project to stay on time, plans cannot be changed.

##### ***Can a modular building be added to NE Latimer Elementary?***

No, at least not for September 2025. Any change to the design of the school which is already under construction would push that project's completion beyond September.

## Childcare

### ***Will there be childcare spaces at the new school? How many spaces will be available?***

With the building of the new school there will be more childcare spaces available. Because of growth in the region, the District expects to create before and after school care spaces offered on-site. There is no guarantee what that will look like at this point.

### ***What is the process for accessing childcare? Will NE Latimer Elementary families get preference?***

Childcare plans have not been established yet. As was the case with the opening of Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary, the childcare vendor onboarding process began in late spring. The District will be reviewing childcare details including program offerings, timelines, and registration instructions to share with the community at a later date. Advance registration for childcare will be considered.

### ***Will the new school have a daycare?***

Childcare plans have not been established yet. The District's first mandate is to offer school educational programming. In one of the fastest growing regions in the province, it is challenging for the District to grow in-school daycare at sites on the Willoughby Slope. However, before and after school care is expected at the new school.

### ***Will the childcare spaces be enough for future growth at the school?***

With the opening of NE Latimer Elementary there will be an influx of one-time spaces in before and after school childcare at the school. The District cannot say if those before and after school spaces will be enough for future students.

### ***Will the District implement programs like JB4 or Seamless K to help with the need for before and after school care?***

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has funded three classroom spaces for childcare, but the District has not worked out the details. The District recognizes the need for before and after school care and is looking at different options.

### ***Will the District weigh cross boundary applications based on the family's childcare needs?***

The District's past practice when opening a new school does not support approving cross boundary applications based on family childcare needs. This is likely going to be the case with the opening of NE Latimer Elementary.

## Grandfathering/Transitions/Process of Students Attending Overflow Schools

### ***Will there be "grandfathering" when the new school opens?***

The District's expectation would be for students to attend their catchment school based on where they live. Grandfathering did not happen when Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary opened. The District is not likely going to support grandfathering as it would not be sustainable for long-term planning.

### ***Can a student appeal if they do not want to move to the new school?***

The District draws and finalizes the boundary lines. The District will listen to unique situations and also needs to consider expected growth and efficient use of space. There are no guaranteed outcomes for families that do not want to move.

***Can a student who is attending an overflow school stay at that school (e.g. Lynn Fripps Elementary or Langley Meadows Community School)?***

The District cannot guarantee that students can stay at an overflow school; however, the District will take that into consideration and review on a case-by-case basis. The District will be taking this into consideration.

***When do we get notified of school transfer/moving to the new school?***

If timelines go as planned, students (and families) should know the school they will be attending in September by Spring 2025. As per District administrative procedures, Kindergarten registration is expected to close before the end of February.

Process of Building Schools

***What happens if the new school is not completed on time?***

The District has a contingency plan, in the event that the new school is not built on time. If this happens, information will be shared with the community. Langley has a good record of building projects on time and on budget. The building is currently on track.

***Does the District consult with the Township of Langley on knowing where developments are?***

The District does not consult with the Township of Langley on things like building permits, but the two partners work together to find sites suitable for schools. The Ministry of Education and Child Care provides the funding to build schools.

General Information about NE Latimer Elementary

***Where is the new school NE Latimer Elementary located?***

NE Latimer Elementary is located at 82 Avenue and 202 Street.

***When will the new school NE Latimer Elementary open?***

The school is expected to open in September 2025.

***What grades will NE Latimer Elementary have?***

It will be a Kindergarten to Grade 5 school.

***How many divisions are expected at NE Latimer Elementary?***

With 555 spaces, the new school may have as many as 25-30 divisions.

***When will the District share the new boundaries with the community?***

The District will review and weigh all the responses from the community, review future growth data, develop the proposed catchment boundaries, and then share the proposal with the impacted communities at the end of October/early November.

***When will registration for NE Latimer Elementary take place?***

As per usual administrative procedures, Kindergarten registration will take place during the third week of January. The deadline for Kindergarten registration for the District will fall prior to the end of February. By the end of November, the boundaries will be presented to the Board of Education and once approved, the boundaries will be shared with the community. When the new school is opened, any current Langley student expected to move to the new school will not have to register. These students are automatically registered and will transition to the new school.

***Which middle school will NE Latimer Elementary feed into?***

The District has not determined that yet.

*Other topics included catchment boundary lines, transportation, walkability and staffing. Below are some of the most frequent questions related to these topics:*

***When catchment boundary lines are drawn, are you taking future schools into consideration?***

Yes. The District takes future schools and school spaces into account when determining new catchment boundaries.

***Is the District planning on changing boundaries for Langley Meadows Community School?***

It is not confirmed, but it is possible that catchment boundaries for Langley Meadows Community School may change.

***When will the District hire staff for NE Latimer Elementary?***

The Human Resources Department continues to hire throughout the year. The staffing process district-wide for the following September is generally by May 1, 2025. However, the staffing process for the new school will probably start earlier in February 2025.

***Will walkability be a factor in creating the new boundaries?***

The distance, walkability, safe walk routes, roadways and crosswalks, will all be taken into consideration when creating new boundaries.

***Will there be more funding for bussing? Will there be transportation available to students attending NE Latimer Elementary?***

The District will follow its transportation policy. Any student who lives outside of the designated walk limits would qualify for District transportation.