



Feb. 14, 2017

Important Changes to Student Population at David Thompson School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

After thorough review and feedback received from parents, students, staff and community members January 2016 to January 2017, we have decided to make the following changes to the student population at the school:

- David Thompson regular program becomes 7-9
- Fairview French Immersion 5-9 students added to current school population

This means that the student population will include:

- Regular program 7-9 students living in Acadia and Fairview
- French Immersion 5-9

This decision was made to address the fact that the school is under capacity. The decision maintains a regular program in the community and allows for growth for the French Immersion Program. It also allows for a robust range of options and activities. More details of what we heard from the community and how this plan responds to that feedback is detailed in the attached [chart](#).

We believe this plan provides the best use of learning space for our students, schools and communities as a whole. It also balances our values and planning principles with what we heard from our students, staff, parents and community.

We know you may have questions about implementing this plan, and we are providing answers to the most frequently asked questions here.

Thank you to everyone who participated at in-person sessions, open houses and through online surveys throughout the engagement process. Your thoughtful contributions have made a meaningful difference in decision-making.

How will changes be phased in?

The change in the regular program from Grades 5-9 to Grades 7-9 will occur over the next two years as follows:

School Year	Grades Offered
2017-2018	6-9
2018-2019	7-9

How will students get to school?

School walk zones and attendance areas can be found using the CBE's [Find a School](#) tool. Some students are eligible for yellow school bus transportation to their designated school if they live beyond the walk zone. Bus routes and stops will be based on registrations and the service model in place at the time of registration for bus eligible students attending the school. These will be posted on the CBE website under [Busing & Transportation](#).

As part of the CBE transportation strategy announced in June 2016, more middle school routes are being moved to Calgary Transit when possible, so this may change in the future.

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Thông báo quan trọng. xin quý vị vui lòng hãy tìm người phiên dịch văn kiện này.

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اہم نوٹس براہ مہربانی: اگر کوئی آپ کے لئے اس کا ترجمہ کرے

जरूरी सूचना। किरपा करके इसे अपने लिए किसी से अनुवाद करवा लें।

Aviso Importante: Por Favor entregar a alguien para traducirla para usted.

중요한 공지: 다른 사람이 이것을 당신을 위해 번역하게 해 주십시오.

Важное замечание: Пожалуйста, попросите кого-то чтобы Вам это перевел.

ملاحظة هامة: الرجاء ترجمة هذه المعلومات.

Will students need to register at the new school location?

Fairview French Immersion 5-9 students moving with the program to David Thompson School do not need to re-register for French Immersion or register at David Thompson School. Program enrolment automatically moves with the student. If a student changes from one program to another, they need to request a transfer from their current school.

Will teachers and other staff at the school be changing?

When an alternative program moves to a new school location, staff and leadership with qualifications and/or prerequisites unique to the program often move with it. Movement of staff with an alternative program, however, cannot be guaranteed as student enrollment numbers may impact staffing decisions and CBE staff may choose to move from school to school as career opportunities arise. In cases where students enrolled in a regular program move from one school to another, staff movement will depend on requirements at the current and new school locations as well as individual career choices.

What support will families and students receive during the transition?

Each school may provide support in different ways, such as hosting an information session, offering a school tour or other means of communication. Your school will advise of these opportunities once they are determined.

When a student with complex learning needs moves from one school to another, the supports required to fulfill the IPP requirements move with them. Teachers and staff at the former and new school collaborate to ensure the student’s needs are met.

What about bell times, school calendars, transfer of resources and fundraising dollars, and other decisions?

School administration will communicate with staff, students and parents on implementing processes that work best for the CBE and the school community. CBE Administrative Regulations and other requirements and efficiencies will also be considered in these decisions. Check your school website and newsletter regularly for updates.

What if I have more questions?

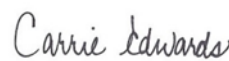
We have posted an [implementation FAQ](#) and other information on our website. If you have a question that is not answered here or on our website, contact the school’s principal. If you still have questions, please contact the Area V office at AreaV@cbe.ab.ca or 403-777-8780.

This is a time of excitement and, understandably, some apprehension as well. We look forward to working with staff, students and parents to help make a smooth transition.

Sincerely,



Sydney Smith
Director, Area V



Carrie Edwards
Director, Planning and Transportation



Decision: Home Area 7-9 and French Immersion 5-9

David Thompson regular program becomes 7-9 and Fairview French Immersion 5-9 students added to current school population

Current:	Key factors and what we heard	Response related to key factors and what we heard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programming: Regular program 5-9 	<p>Keep students close to home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains regular program for communities of Fairview and Acadia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolment: Home Area = 190 Other = 118 Total = 308 	<p>It's important to provide a variety of options and extra-curricular activities for students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases to student population allows for broader scope of programming options for students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available instructional space: 680 	<p>Concerns about increased distance and time on bus and potential to increase overall carbon footprint</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows students to walk to school Maintains a similar travel time to school
<p>Issue:</p>	<p>Minimize the number of moves students make</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeps regular program K-9 cohort together
<p>Under capacity</p>	<p>Desire for one program at school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Couldn't be accommodated along with keeping the regular program
	<p>Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows for growth of the French Immersion Program and maintains regular program Space to accommodate late French Immersion Program