



March 21, 2018

Important Changes for Students at W.O. Mitchell School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Student enrolment in the regular program at W.O. Mitchell School has been declining in recent years and the CBE has been monitoring enrolment at the school since 2014-15. In fact, there have been insufficient registrations to offer programming for all grades in the regular program over the last few years. For this school year, the school was unable to offer a regular program for kindergarten to Grade 3.

We re-opened conversations of plans to move the regular program from W.O. Mitchell to [Silver Springs School](#). A meeting was held on January 29, 2018 to discuss the timing, options and implications of designating students to Silver Springs School starting September 2018.

Following the meeting, the CBE conducted a survey to determine interest for Grade 4 and 5 students in the regular program to stay at W.O. Mitchell School for Grades 5 and 6 in 2018-2019. The survey results indicate that more than 20 students would remain for Grade 6 next year but fewer than 10 students would remain for Grade 5. The minimum number of students per grade to offer the regular program is 15 students. Therefore, all kindergarten to Grade 5 students living in Silver Springs will be designated to Silver Springs School for the 2018-2019 school year. Students currently in Grade 5 will be able to remain at W.O. Mitchell for Grade 6 next year.

Regular Program K-6 school designations for students living in Silver Springs:

School Year	Grades	School Name
2018-2019	K-Grade 5 Grade 6	Silver Springs W.O. Mitchell
2019-2020 and beyond	K-Grade 6	Silver Springs

Will students need to register at the new school location?

Students who live in the community of Silver Springs do not need to apply for a transfer or register at Silver Springs School. Students currently in Grade 4 who are enrolled in the regular program at W.O. Mitchell School will automatically be registered in their designated regular program school for the 2018-2019 school year.

My child attends the regular program at W.O Mitchell School as an out- of- attendance area student, can they move to Silver Springs School?

The designation change to Silver Springs School is for students who live in the community of Silver Springs. Students currently attending W.O. Mitchell School as out-of-attendance area students will return to the designated regular program school for their community starting in the 2018-2019 school year. If you are interested in having your child move to Silver Springs School, please contact the principal of Silver Springs

School to determine if the school has the space and resources to accommodate your child.

How will students get to school?

School walk zones and attendance areas can be found using the CBE’s Find a School tool. Students designated to Silver Springs School who live beyond the walk zone for the school will be able to access yellow school bus transportation to the school. Visit [Busing & Transportation](#) for more information.

Students are eligible for transportation to their designated school if they live beyond the walk zone. Information regarding transportation services and fees is available on [the CBE website](#) and at the schools.

What support will families and students receive during the transition?

W.O. Mitchell School and Silver Springs School will be working closely together to support families in this transition. Silver Springs School will schedule a time this spring for families from W.O. Mitchell School to visit the school, meet with staff and learn more about the school. More information and details will be shared in April. If the scheduled date and time does not work for your family, the school is happy to work with you to find other suitable times for a visit to the school.

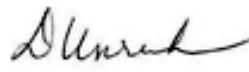
When a student with complex learning needs moves from one school to another, the supports required to fulfill the IPP requirements move with them. Teachers and staff at both schools will collaborate to ensure the student’s needs are met.

We understand that this is a significant change for some families. We are committed to working closely with you throughout this transition. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact the Area 2 office at 403-777-8720 (extension 0).

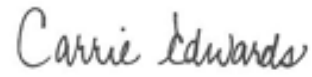
Sincerely,



Brant Parker
Director, Area 1



Darlene Unruh
Director, Area 2



Carrie Edwards
Director, Planning & Transportation

