Greater VICTORIA School District

Catchment Boundary Review
Frequently Asked Questions

We hope the following information helps you navigate the process of our boundary review and clarifies what it will mean for your family.

Why is the District doing a boundary review?

The last catchment boundary review was approximately 20 years ago. Since then, the District's student population has grown significantly and smaller class size legislation has impacted the availability of space in schools.

Some schools are already operating at full capacity and using portables to accommodate catchment students while other schools have surplus capacity. Meanwhile, student enrolment has been steadily increasing and long-term projections indicate more than 1,800 students will register in the District over the next 10 years.

The District needs to consider revising catchment boundaries to alleviate capacity constraints in some of its schools and balance enrolment across the entire District to prepare for future enrolment pressures.

What is my current catchment boundary?

To determine your catchment boundary please visit: ***www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-catchment-maps/***

Or type in your postal code into our school locator tool to determine your catchment school: ***www.sd61.bc.ca/schools/school-locator/***

How will a catchment boundary change affect my family?

Some catchment boundaries will change affecting students' current catchment boundaries. This means that some students who were once considered a catchment student may now be a non-catchment student at a specific school and that their catchment pathway will change.

The District is committed to allowing re-enrolling students to remain at their current school until their next school level transition from elementary to middle or middle to secondary.

Please also note that there will be public consultation on the new proposed boundaries in early 2019 before the proposed changes are brought forward to the Board of Education. Further, the new boundaries will not come into effect until September 2020. The District wants to give parents, guardians and students plenty of time to prepare for any changes.

Current catchment pathways:
www.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/91/2018/11/Catchment-K-12-Pathways.pdf

Has the District considered that some siblings may be split up with new boundaries?

For example, what happens when an elementary student's catchment changes and they have a sibling still waiting to register for school? Will they both attend different schools?

The District understands the importance of keeping siblings together at their neighbourhood school. In the event a family's catchment changes while a student is enrolled and a sibling is still waiting to register, there will be three options available:

1. *The student enrolled can stay in their current school until the next school level transition (elementary to middle, middle to secondary);*
2. *A student enrolled in a school where the catchment boundary changes can apply for a transfer to their new catchment school;*
3. *A new incoming student can apply for a transfer to attend the same school their older sibling(s) attend and would receive non-catchment sibling priority.*

The District will give special attention to sibling transfer requests and will faciliate these requests as space permits.

How does this align with student enrolment priorities?

Student enrolment priorities apply at all schools across the District. There will be no changes to enrolment priorities and they will continue to apply to all new catchment boundaries.

Student enrolment priorities: ***www.sd61.bc.ca/student-enrolment-priorities***

What will happen to students as they make school level transitions?

Students currently enrolled will continue in their current school until time of transition from elementary to middle and middle to secondary. At that time, they will enroll in their new catchment school. Students registering for the 2020 year will need to register at their new catchment school.

Will the District limit the number of cross boundary student transfers? Will students still be able to transfer schools?

The District prioritizes catchment students registering at their catchment (neighbourhood) school and limits the number of student transfers to ensure that there is enough space available for students who reside in the catchment. The District will continue to facilitate transfers where it determines there is space available at the requested school.

Are there District programs in schools that could be better accommodated at other schools with less enrolment?

The District has two Schools of Choice where the District is their catchment: Cloverdale and South Park. Currently, these schools are open to all students for registration. As part of the review, the District will need to determine space requirements in local regions and if either of these schools may be required to start accommodating neighbourhood students.

The District also offers various Programs of Choice: French Immersion, Lambrick Softball Academy, Reynolds Centre for Soccer Excellence, Esquimalt Rugby Academy, Spectrum Hockey Academy, Reynolds Flexible Studies, and Esquimalt's and Mount Douglas' Challenge Program.

These Programs of Choice will also be reviewed to determine whether program offerings could expand or change to accommodate demand in specific regions. The District is committed to consulting with our community prior to drafting proposed boundary changes or if alterations in Programs of Choice are required.

Who makes the final decision and when will the new boundaries be implemented?

The Board of Education will make the final decision on the catchment boundary changes. The catchment boundary changes will be implemented in September 2020.

As more questions arise, we will be updating the FAQ.

Boundary Review Timeline

Boundary Review Event	Date Range
Survey	November
Survey results presented to the Board of Education	December 10, 2018 *(Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting)*
The District draws proposed catchment boundary borders	December - January
Revised maps presented to the Board of Education	January 14, 2019 *(Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting)*
Consultation on proposed boundaries - Open Houses	January - February
Collect feedback on proposed boundaries and report back to the Board of Education	February - March
Board of Education determines new catchment boundaries	Spring 2019
Implementation of new catchment boundaries	September 2020

Contact Us

For additional information please visit our catchment boundary review webpage:
www.sd61.bc.ca/catchment-boundary-review
If you have additional questions, please contact: ***BoundaryReviewTeam@sd61.bc.ca***

Greater Victoria School District No. 61

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