

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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The Board of Education approves new student enrolment priorities for 2018/2019

VICTORIA, BC – On Monday night, the Board of Education approved the recommended changes to student enrolment priorities, starting in the 2018-2019 school year.

The new priorities place greater emphasis on catchment students attending their neighbourhood school, while including priority for siblings attending a school together. The priorities for the 2018/2019 school year, are:

1. re-enrolling students
2. a catchment area sibling
3. a catchment area child
4. a non-catchment sibling
5. a non-catchment child
6. a non-school district child

“Over the past few months, there has been a tremendous amount of dialogue with our community on the new priorities, and we believe they reflect a commitment to neighbourhoods, families and equity across our school district,” noted Chair Edith Loring-Kuhanga. “I am confident that through our commitment to catchment boundaries, review of French Immersion and exploration of reopening schools in the Fall, we will have a vibrant community of first class neighbourhood schools throughout our district which will benefit all students and their families.”

Long-term projections indicate there will be an increase of 2,000 students over the next decade, making space at some specific schools limited. Moreover, the recent provincial changes to class size and composition has directly impacted the availability of space in the schools. The new priorities will help determine the placement of students as the district prepares to accommodate the growing demand of new students.

The new enrolment priorities will apply to new registrations, transfer requests and student transitions between elementary and middle, and middle and high school for English and French programs. The proposed changes differentiate from the current priorities in that non-catchment siblings would no longer have priority over new catchment students.

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