



May 8, 2023

Families,

*You've been sharing, and we've been listening!*

Last week we let you know about some upcoming changes to address significant growth pressures in the Woodlawn High Family of Schools (FOS). To review those changes, [click here](#).

Thanks to those who have taken the time to share their thoughts with us. Since last week, we have heard from over 230 participants who shared 170 thoughts and offered 4,500 ratings on *ThoughtExchange*. We are excited to see this level of community engagement!

**What have we heard so far?**

**Q. Why are families only finding out this information now? Why weren't families consulted first?**

**A.** Where possible and when there is a long timeframe, we undertake community consultations with a focus on options. However, to manage the rapid growth HRCE is facing from year to year, consultations with families have not always been possible.

February is registration month, so planning for the fall begins in March once we have updated enrolment projections. There is a short runway to address challenges created by significant growth, analyze options, and finalize plans for September as planning for the following school year (staffing, programming, transportation) starts mid-April.

**Q. What are the projected enrolment numbers for Portland Estates Elementary?**

**A.** The Long-Range Outlook currently published on our website is based on enrolment data from January 2022. The chart below outlines the updated projected enrolment as of January 2023. **Note: these calculations do not include the portables.**

	Total Capacity	Actual Enrollment *Sep 30, 2022	Projected Enrollment									
			2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
<b>Portland Estates Elementary School</b>												
Projections with 6s	375	476	485	473	464	460	441	428	418	417	409	406
		127%	129%	126%	124%	123%	118%	114%	111%	111%	109%	108%
<b>Portland Estates Elementary School</b>												
Projections w/out 6s	375	476	411	411	402	386	371	362	359	350	359	361
		127%	110%	110%	107%	103%	99%	97%	96%	93%	96%	96%

**Q. What about the portables at Portland Estates Elementary?**

**A.** With Portland Estates Elementary transitioning from a PP-6 school to a PP-5 school effective September 2023, portables will be moved as they are required to support growth in other HRCE schools.

**Q. How many students from Portland Estates Elementary will be eligible for the bus to Ellenvale Junior High?**

**A.** Our preliminary data shows that approximately 95% of students currently in Grade 5 at Portland Estates Elementary will be eligible for the bus in Grade 6 to Ellenvale Junior High. Families eligible for transportation will receive an email to access the Parent Portal and view their child's bus information once it is available.

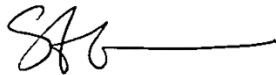
You can find the answer to these questions and others on our [frequently-asked questions webpage](#).

**Reminder: We Want Your Input**

Don't forget, *ThoughtExchange* is open until **May 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.** If you haven't participated yet, or would like to contribute more ideas through *ThoughtExchange*, [click here](#).

As a reminder, your perspective will help schools develop strong and meaningful transition plans that reflect the needs of each student. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SAG', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Steve Gallagher  
Regional Executive Director  
Halifax Regional Centre for Education