

EIPS Frequently Asked Questions

JUNIOR HIGH ATTENDANCE AREA | BRENTWOOD
ELEMENTARY

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FAQS: JUNIOR HIGH ATTENDANCE AREA

INTRODUCTION

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is exploring a possible change to the junior high attendance boundaries—moving all regular program Grade 6 students at Brentwood Elementary to F.R. Haythorne Junior High for grades 7 to 9. The change would prevent splitting students between two junior high schools.

In June 2022, EIPS contracted Western Management Consultants (WMC) to conduct a public engagement meeting and an online survey with Brentwood Elementary’s school community. The meeting was an in-person, drop-in session where attendees discussed the possible boundary change, asked questions and provided feedback. WMC also conducted an online survey to collect additional input. WMC then analyzed all the data collected and compiled a [What We Heard Report \(https://bit.ly/3Rq1phS\)](https://bit.ly/3Rq1phS).

The following are the frequently asked questions (FAQ) from the June engagement efforts.

General

Q: [Why is EIPS exploring a possible change to the junior high attendance boundaries?](#)

A: As part of the Division’s annual reporting requirements to Alberta Education, the Division reviews programs, enrolment transitions and boundaries annually. When areas of concern are identified, the Division works to determine how best to resolve the issue. In the case of the Brentwood Elementary designation, there’s sufficient space available at F.R. Haythorne Junior High to accommodate all elementary students from the Brentwood Elementary attendance area. EIPS is seeking the feedback to determine if the change better supports the school community by maintaining peer groups as they transition through the system.

Q: [What does “grandfathering” mean?](#)

A: Grandfathering is a term used when current students attending a school are allowed to continue attending that same school after an attendance boundary change. Grandfathering decisions are made by the EIPS Board of Trustees, and not guaranteed. When a student is grandfathered, the school then becomes a non-designated school. As such, if the student requires Division transportation services, they register with Student Transportation as an ineligible student—transportation fees apply.

Q: [What is the sibling clause?](#)

A: The sibling clause is outlined in [AP 305: School Attendance Areas and Requests to Attend Non-designated Schools](#) (see, “Section 13”). It applies when siblings of students currently attending a non-designated school, including a school with a closed boundary. Those siblings are permitted to register at the same school if the new sibling attends the school at the same time as the currently registered sibling.

Registration at a non-designated school—including students registering under the sibling clause—takes place during the returning student registration process in February. Typically, the sibling clause applies even after an attendance boundary change, but is not guaranteed. If the sibling clause is not applicable, it’s outlined in the decision made by the Board.

Q: If the junior high attendance boundaries change, can affected junior high students, currently attending Sherwood Heights Junior High, be grandfathered there?

A: It’s too premature to answer this question. Typically, the Board makes decisions about grandfathering when it reviews the final recommendation from administration, which hasn’t happened yet. If there is a change in the boundaries, EIPS will contact all families impacted by any approved change, including information about grandfathering, timelines, the registration process and student transportation implications.

Q: My older child attends Sherwood Heights Junior High. If the junior high attendance boundaries change to F.R. Haythorne Junior High, can my younger child also attend Sherwood Heights Junior High?

A: Yes, if the older child is grandfathered to the school and will attend the school at the same time as the younger child. In this scenario, the sibling clause applies—simply register to attend the school during the returning student registration process in February. The only way this wouldn’t apply is if the Board decides to limit the application of the sibling clause.

Q: What is the registration process for affected families? Can families apply to other schools?

A: Families affected by any changes complete the 2023-24 Returning Student Registration Form at the same time as all EIPS students—in February 2023. Families can request registration at a different school—subject to available space. An ineligible [student transportation fee](#) applies for students accessing Student Transportation services who attend a non-designated school.

Q: Is EIPS concerned about possible overcrowding at F.R. Haythorne Junior High?

A: No. The proposed boundary change only increases the designated population by approximately 40 students per grade.

Programming

Q: What kind of programming does F.R. Haythorne Junior High offer?

A: F.R. Haythorne Junior High offers a variety of required and optional courses, excellent sports and fine arts programs, many extracurricular opportunities, and System Division programs such as Honours, GOALS, FOCUS and SEAS.

Courses include:

- Core courses: English, mathematics, social studies, science, physical education, health
- System programs: FOCUS, GOALS, Junior High Honours, SEAS
- Career and Technology Studies: foods, fashions, construction, technology.
- Options: French, personal fitness, band, music, drama, arts, film studies, visual arts.

Q: How do the proposed attendance area changes affect students in the GOALS program?

A: The proposed changes apply to students in the regular program only. As such, GOALS students are unaffected. Currently, students in the GOALS program at Brentwood Elementary go to the GOALS program at F.R. Haythorne for junior high. Regardless of the proposed junior high attendance boundary changes, this will continue.

Q: How do the proposed attendance area changes affect students enrolled in the Logos Christian Program?

A: The proposed change applies to students in the regular program only. Students who are actively enrolled in the elementary Logos program and want to continue in the program for junior high apply to the Junior High Logos Program during the returning student registration process in February. Currently, EIPS is engaging the Logos school community, K-9, about consolidating the elementary program. For more information visit eips.ca. The next public engagement session takes place at Salisbury Composite High on October 6.

Q: If EIPS moved the French Immersion program to a different junior high, would that free up room at Sherwood Heights Junior High?

A: The issue being explored is about maintaining school communities. The proposed change in designation does exactly that—prevents splitting students between two junior high schools of school. That said, the Division recently developed an EIPS Three-Year Engagement Strategy. The strategy includes public consultations about the Division’s junior high and senior high French immersion program—in urban and rural Strathcona County. For more information visit eips.ca. The first meeting takes place at Heritage Hills Elementary on October 26.

Q: Does EIPS also plan to change the senior high attendance boundaries?

A: Recently, the Division developed an EIPS Three-Year Engagement Strategy. The strategy includes public consultations about the Division’s senior high attendance boundaries—in both urban and rural Strathcona County. For more information visit eips.ca. The consultation will start in late 2023.

Busing

Q: How will busing work for students requiring transportation services?

A: EIPS provides an enhanced transportation service for both eligible and ineligible riders. So, anyone who wants to access Student Transportation can do so. Registration takes place during the returning student registration process in February. Families simply indicate on the online form busing is required for their child. Before the end of the school year, the family will receive their child’s busing information, including any associated fees.

Q: How are families charged for busing?

A: EIPS offers enhanced transportation services for students, using the below fee structure.

- *Eligible Fee:* Riders who attend their designated school and live more than 2.39 kilometres from that school. For 2022-23, the eligible fee is \$121 per year.
- *Ineligible Fee:* Students who attend a non-designated school or live less than 2.4 kilometres from their designated school. For 2022-23, the ineligible fee is \$346 per year.

Next Steps

Q: When will EIPS make a final decision about the junior high attendance boundaries?

A: A final decision about the junior high attendance boundary is expected before the end of November. Before making a decision, the Board will review all the information and feedback gathered throughout the public consultations. EIPS is committed to keeping the community informed about the process and will provide information as it becomes available.

Q: If my child is redesignated to F.R. Haythorne, can I request my child attend another junior high other than F.R. Haythorne Junior High?

A: Yes. If you want to register your child at another junior high, you can do so during the returning student registration process in February 2023—acceptance is based on available space. Keep in mind, if you decide to attend a non-designated school, applicable transportation fees apply.

Q: How will EIPS support the transition for students?

A: At this point, it's premature to speak to a transition plan. A decision hasn't been—and won't be made until the Board reviews the community input for all public engagement efforts. That said, anytime changes are made to attendance boundaries, EIPS puts a transition plan in place. The plan involves consultations with students, school council groups, school administration, staff and EIPS senior administration. The goal: To ensure a smooth transition to the new school.