

James Mowat Elementary

Enrolment Pressures – Open House – Thursday, September 22

Session Discussion Handout

Possible Solution

One possible solution EIPS is considering is a Random Selection Process Pilot for new students who want to register at James Mowat Elementary, starting in 2023-24. In this solution, each grade will have a limit for the number of classes and students per grade. If the number of new students exceeds the available space for a specific grade, the school accepts children using the random selection process and a closed-boundary priority scale. The random selection process would remain in place as long as the school has closed boundaries.

Closed-Boundary Priority Scale:

- *Priority 1:* Children living within the attendance area with a sibling attending the school and returning the following year.
- *Priority 2:* Children living in the James Mowat Elementary attendance area. AND, children living outside the attendance area with a sibling currently attending the school and returning the following year.
- *Priority 3:* Kindergarten children living outside the James Mowat Elementary attendance area, when required.

Children selected through the random selection process attend James Mowat Elementary. Children not selected attend their alternate designated school. Using this process, the school places each child not selected on a callback list, by grade—used if space becomes available before the September 29 cutoff.

NOTE: Students who currently attend James Mowat Elementary can continue to attend the school.

Scenarios

Using the random selection process as a possible solution, the Division has considered several scenarios.

Scenario 1

In January 2023, a family with two children, ages three and five, move into the James Mowat Elementary attendance area. The random selection process applies to the five-year-old.

- If selected:
 - The five-year-old can attend James Mowat Elementary—from kindergarten to Grade 6.
 - When the younger child turns kindergarten age, they can also register to attend the school—grouped in the Priority 1 category for the random selection process.
- If *NOT* selected:
 - The five-year-old attends their alternate designated school or a school of choice.
 - The school adds the five-year-old to its callback list—in case a spot opens before September 29.
 - If busing is required, the child requests Student Transportation services during the returning student registration process in February. Fees apply.
 - The sibling can attend the alternate designated school or apply to attend James Mowat Elementary using the random selection process.

NOTE: A child who moves into the attendance area after the returning student registration process can choose to attend their alternate designated school and be listed on James Mowat’s callback list.

Scenario 2

A family with four children, ages seven, nine, 11, and 13, moves into the James Mowat Elementary attendance area. The random selection process applies, and each is grouped into the Priority 2 category.

- The children can attend James Mowat if space is available at the school—determined by grade.
- The children attend their alternate designated school if space is unavailable at James Mowat—determined by grade.
- If space is available at James Mowat Elementary for some of the children, but not all, the family can choose to send:
 - the accepted children to James Mowat Elementary and the remaining children to their alternate designated school—with their names added to the callback list;
 - all four children to their alternate designated school; or
 - all remaining children to a school of choice, provided available space.
- If busing is required, the child requests Student Transportation services during the returning student registration process in February. Fees apply.

Scenario 3

A family with two children attending James Mowat Elementary moves out of the attendance area. The family also has a younger child who will start kindergarten in the 2023-24 school year.

- Both children attending James Mowat Elementary can complete elementary at James Mowat.
 - The younger sibling can apply to attend James Mowat Elementary during the returning student registration process in February 2023. The random selection process applies, with the child group in the Priority 2 category.
- Both children can choose to attend their new designated school.
- Both children can choose to attend another EIPS school of choice—provided space is available.
- If busing is required, the child requests Student Transportation services during the returning student registration process in February. Fees apply.