

EIPS Frequently Asked Questions

LOGOS CHRISTIAN PROGRAM | ENROLMENT CONCERNS

LAST UPDATED: October 2022



FAQS: LOGOS CHRISTIAN PROGRAM ENROLMENT CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is exploring changes to the Logos Christian Program to ensure it continues providing high-quality educational experiences to students. Over the last few years, enrolment in the EIPS Logos Christian Program has declined significantly, making it challenging to offer fulsome Logos programming. In June 2022, the Division held public consultations with the Logos community to discuss the issue and potential solutions. An online survey followed to collect even more input. Y Station, the contracted public consultation company, compiled the data from all engagements to produce a [What We Heard Report](#). The following are the frequently asked questions (FAQ) from the June engagement efforts.

General

Q: Why is EIPS consulting with the Logos Christian Program school community?

A: As part of the Division's reporting requirements to Alberta Education, EIPS reviews programs, enrolment transitions and boundaries regularly. When areas of concern are identified, the Division works to determine how best to resolve the issue. In the case of the Logos Christian Program, it's seen a significant [decline in enrolment over the last 10 years](#). The decline makes it difficult to offer fulsome Logos programming to students. Before a decision is made about how best to address the enrolment decline, EIPS is seeking feedback from the Logos school community to determine the best possible solution.

Q: How many students are registered in the EIPS Logos Christian Program?

A: As of Sept. 29, 2022, 322 students are registered in EIPS' Logos program—237 in elementary and 85 in junior high.

Q: What solutions are EIPS considering?

A: During Phase 1 of the public engagements, EIPS consulted Logos families about consolidating the elementary program at one school to address the [declining enrolment](#), starting in the 2023-24 school year. EIPS wanted to make a decision by November 2022. The feedback from families was clear. They wanted a bit more time before a decision is made. In that time, they'd work to promote Logos to try to make the elementary program sustainable enough to support two location sites—at Brentwood Elementary and Westboro Elementary.

After reviewing the feedback from the previous consultations, the Division wants to postpone a final decision about consolidating the Logos elementary program until after the returning student registration process takes place in February 2023.

- If, after the returning student registrations process, the Logos elementary program sees a significant increase in enrolment, EIPS will recommend the Board keep the elementary program unchanged at both Brentwood Elementary and Westboro Elementary.
- If, after the returning student registration process, enrolment in the Logos elementary program stays relatively flat, EIPS will recommend the Board consolidate the elementary program, starting in the 2023-24 school year.
- Because the junior high program is tied to the elementary program it will remain in place as long as student numbers remain sustainable. EIPS will continue to review the program location and its sustainability.

Since launching in 1998, the Logos program has experienced [significant enrolment growth](#) three times already—growing by 17 per cent (38 students) in 2003, 14 per cent (37 students) in 2004 and 18 per cent (49 students) in 2012. Postponing a decision to spring 2023, allows the Board to see actual registration numbers for Logos in 2023-24, and gives Logos the chance to promote the elementary program leading up to the returning student registration process.

In addition, EIPS will work with the Elk Island Logos Society to develop and implement a detailed enrolment growth strategy to help ensure the program's long-term viability, including benchmarking and growth targets.

Q: [What is the returning student registration process?](#)

A: Every February, EIPS conducts a [returning student registration process](#), where returning students register for the upcoming school year. The registration takes place online through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Using the form, families indicate the school their child plans to attend in the upcoming school year and can apply to attend a non-designated school, if applicable. Once the registration process closes, schools then start planning and budgeting for the upcoming school year.

Q: [What if the elementary program only grows slightly, not significantly?](#)

A: To keep the elementary program at the two site locations requires a significant enrolment increase. As such, if the Logos elementary program doesn't see a significant increase in student numbers, EIPS will recommend the Board consolidate the program at Brentwood Elementary. Ultimately, it will become a Board decision—based on 2023-24 registration numbers collected during the returning student registration process and the feedback collected during the public consultations.

Q: [What happens if the elementary program consolidates but grows in a few years—can the Division accommodate an influx of new students at Brentwood Elementary?](#)

A: Yes. If the Board decides to consolidate the Logos elementary program, there is sufficient capacity to accommodate both regular program and Logos growth at Brentwood Elementary.

Registration in Logos

Q: [What's the average Logos class size?](#)

A: The average Logos class size is 24, excluding kindergarten. However, a lot of these classes are split grades—two at Westboro Elementary and four at Brentwood Elementary. So, on average, the Logos elementary program has 17 students per grade, which isn't sustainable. Especially when compared to the typical grade class size within EIPS, 27 students—class size can vary below or above the 27 depending on different school factors.

Q: [What are EIPS' enrolment projections for Logos over the next few years?](#)

A: Based on current enrolment trends, EIPS expects student numbers in the Logos program to stay the same or decline slightly.

Q: [In the last five years, how many students have left the Logos program? And, why?](#)

A: In the last five years, there's been a drop in the elementary enrolment of 45 students. So, for the program to remain at the two sites, there needs to be a significant enrolment increase during the 2023-24 Returning Student Registration Process. EIPS doesn't track why some students leave Logos. It could be because they moved, changed programming, parental choice, student transportation needs, or something else.

- Q:** How many students does the Logos program need in each grade to make it sustainable?
- A:** Ideally, each Logos grade will have 24-27 students. However, for now, EIPS is just looking to see significant growth in the elementary program and for the Elk Island Logos Society to develop and implement a viable growth plan.
- Q:** What will happen if enrolment in the Logos program increases to sustainable levels but declines the following year?
- A:** EIPS will continually monitor enrolment in the Logos program. If student numbers decline below sustainable levels, EIPS will recommend the Board consider consolidating the elementary program to Brentwood Elementary.
- Q:** Does Strathcona Christian Academy ever direct students to the Logos program?
- A:** Yes. Strathcona Christian Academy (SCA) Society, SCA Elementary and SCA Secondary routinely share information about EIPS' Logos Christian program with families. The two most common reasons for sharing Logos information are when space at SCA is unavailable and when a family asks about Christian programming within EIPS.
- Q:** How do students register for the Logos program?
- A:** Students register for the Logos program during the new or returning student registration process, as applicable. Both the [new student registration](#) and returning student registration open in February each year. Using the online registration forms, families simply request registration into the Logos program and then select a school.
- Q:** If Logos enrolment numbers remain low, at the elementary and junior high school level, what could that mean for the program?
- A:** If enrolment numbers stay where they are currently, EIPS will recommend the Board consolidate the elementary program to make it sustainable. However, if, after a consolidation, enrolment continues to drop, the Board will have to conduct further reviews and determine what's in the best interests of students enrolled in the Logos program.

Accommodating Students

- Q:** If the Board decides to consolidate the Logos elementary program at Brentwood Elementary, can affected students, currently attending Westboro Elementary, be grandfathered there?
- A:** It's still too premature to answer this question. Typically, the Board makes decisions about grandfathering when it reviews the final recommendation from administration, which won't happen until spring 2023. If there is a consolidation, EIPS will contact all families impacted to share further details, including information about grandfathering.
- Q:** My older child attends Westboro Elementary and will stay at the school for regular programming if the Logos program consolidates. Can my younger child also attend Westboro Elementary next year?
- 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 for regular programming during the returning student registration process. The only way this wouldn't apply is if the Board decides to limit grandfathering or the application of the sibling clause.

Q: If the program consolidates and an elementary student doesn't want to go to Brentwood Elementary for Logos, can they attend a school other than their designated school?

A: Yes. If the Board decides to consolidate the Logos elementary program at Brentwood Elementary and a student decides not to remain in the Logos program there, they can choose to attend their designated, current school or a non-designated school—provided space is available. In this scenario, if the Board consolidates the elementary program, EIPS would contact all families impacted to share further details, including information about reopening the registration process for 2023-24.

Q: Can EIPS accommodate an influx of students if Logos experiences a rise in significant enrolment over the next few years?

A: Yes. Both Brentwood Elementary and Westboro Elementary have available capacity to accommodate one class per grade of Logos programming. As well, if the program consolidates, Brentwood Elementary has room to expand the Logos program to accommodate two Logos classes per grade and regular program growth—Westboro Elementary can't accommodate that.

Student Funding

Q: If a student leaves Logos, does the funding for that child follow them?

A: Alberta Education doesn't provide the Division specific funding for Logos programming. Instead, schools are funded on a per-pupil basis. Funding from Alberta Education is based on September 30 enrolment numbers. If students change schools or school divisions after that date, funding doesn't move with them.

Q: Can a school's funding for the regular program be used to offset the needed costs to offer Logos?

A: Offsetting Logos costs with funding from the regular program is not a sustainable or equitable solution. EIPS is responsible for ensuring high-quality programming is provided to all students within the school. That includes decisions about class sizes, teachers and distribution of resources. It's imperative the Division, and its schools, are fiscally responsible and don't disadvantage other groups or programs to ensure all students receive a high-quality education.

Programming

Q: Is EIPS also looking at the Logos junior high program?

A: Because the junior high program is tied to the elementary program it will remain in place as long as student numbers remain sustainable. EIPS will continue to review the program location and its sustainability. If there aren't enough students to sustain the Logos junior high program, administration and the Board will need to conduct further reviews about the location and sustainability of the program.

Q: Could the planned replacement school for Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown accommodate the Logos program?

A: When the province approves a new replacement school for École Campbelltown and Sherwood Heights Junior High in Sherwood Park, the student capacity for the new school is based on the combined enrolment projection for both schools. As such, additional capacity at the new replacement school isn't an option.

Q: If EIPS consolidates the elementary Logos program at Brentwood Elementary, what happens to the teachers and staff at Westboro Elementary?

A: EIPS staff are employees of the Division, not a particular school. If the elementary program consolidates, EIPS will encourage Westboro Elementary Logos teachers and staff to pursue opportunities throughout the Division that will help them grow and advance their careers—similar any other program changes throughout the Division. Human Resources would also work closely with each employee to identify openings that suit their skills, abilities and interests. Some teachers could choose to apply for positions at Brentwood while others could decide to work at another location.

Q: Low registration in these two schools is not just a Logos problem, what's being done for the regular program enrolment?

A: Strathcona County is expected to grow over the next 20 years. The county has approved the developments of Hillshire, Cambrian Crossing and Bremner. Each of these communities will generate students who require a location for educational programming until future schools are constructed within the local area. To ensure these students are accommodated, EIPS is currently reviewing all student spaces within the region to ensure it effectively uses existing infrastructure.

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 by requesting busing services during the new or 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 tentative 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 or alternative program 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 Logos programming?

A: The Board will make a decision after the 2023-24 returning student registration process, which happens in February. Before that time, the Board will review all relevant data and the 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: What is the registration process for affected families? Can families apply to other schools?

A: If the Board decides to consolidate the Logos elementary program, EIPS will contact all impacted families with further details, including information about reopening the returning student registration process. For a brief time, affected students can register to attend the Logos program, their current school, their designated school or a non-designated EIPS school—subject to available space. If Student Transportation services are required, fees apply.

Q: [Can EIPS work with Logos to promote the program?](#)

A: Yes. EIPS promotes all Division Alternative Programs equally. The Logos Society is also welcome to highlight the program using other channels and networks—all promotional efforts must meet [EIPS' brand identity standard](#). Before posting or publishing any advertising materials, submit them for final approval to both [Elk Island Logos Society](#) and [EIPS Communication Services](#).

Q: [How will EIPS support the transition for students?](#)

A: At this point, it's still too premature to speak about a transition plan. A decision hasn't been, and won't be, made until the Board reviews student enrolment numbers for the next school year and the feedback from the public consultations. That said, if the Board decides to consolidate the elementary Logos program, EIPS would put a transition plan in place. The plan would involve consultations with students, school council groups, school administration, staff and EIPS senior administration. The goal: To ensure a smooth transition for all students.