



May 17, 2017

Parents and Guardians,

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) offers a specialized program for students in Grade 1–12 who are deaf or hard of hearing. A review of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Program was conducted in the 2014–2015 school year and one of the recommendations was to combine students attending the DHH Program in Grades 1–6 into a single location. The opening of new schools across the CBE has provided the opportunity to examine space availability for student learning. It has been determined that your school, Jennie Elliott, is the most appropriate location. The reasons why it was selected are:

- Space will be available at Jennie Elliott School.
- The location is reasonably close to Queen Elizabeth High School where students of the DHH Program in Grades 1–6 move for Grades 7–12.
- Jennie Elliott School has the closed classroom spaces the program requires.
- The opportunity to have students join a school community with hearing peers is important and beneficial for all students.

Currently the students of the DHH Program in Grades 1–6 attend Queen Elizabeth and Stanley Jones schools. The caring and inclusive culture at Jennie Elliott School will provide continuity of support and a smooth transition for students, and for the families and teachers of these students.

When students residing in Discovery Ridge move to Griffith Woods School, enrolment at Jennie Elliott is projected to stabilize at 450–500 students, including kindergarten students who access a classroom space half-time. With the school's total instructional space of 27 classrooms and capacity for 675 students, this means approximately five to six classrooms will become available. This is the amount of space the students of the DHH Program in Grades 1–6 would require.

The plan is to welcome students attending the DHH program into Jennie Elliott School at the start of the 2018–2019 year. This provides time to receive feedback from families about what we should pay attention to during transition. We will circulate an online survey in June 2017 to gather your thoughts and perspectives.

Please visit the [Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(DHH\)](#) page on the CBE website for information about the program and the 2014-2015 review.

You may contact your principal Chris Aylesworth, at 403-777-8350, or the Area 7 office, at 403-777-8750 ext. 0 and area7@cbe.ab.ca, if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Calvin Davies
Area Director, Area 7

Cyndi McNiven
Director, Learning

Carrie Edwards
Director, Planning and Transportation