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Area 6 and 7 Impacted Schools Engagement Group A Schools – Questions & Answers

Registration and Lottery Process

Why are K-3 Cougar Ridge students currently attending their designated regular program school (Wildwood and Rosscarrock) automatically moved to West Springs School and other Cougar Ridge students subject to the cap and lottery, if needed?

K-3 Cougar Ridge students currently attending Wildwood and Rosscarrock schools are attending their designated regular program school. Under the proposed scenario, these students will be designated to West Springs School, which means they would automatically be enrolled at West Springs School for the 2018-2019 school year. This aligns with the current process of maintaining call back lists for overflow students who attend their designated overflow school.

Students not attending their designated regular program school would need to register or transfer to West Springs School. In the first year, the cap and lottery process, if needed, would apply to these new registrations and transfers regardless of grade.

After the first year (2018-19 school year) if there are more kindergarten registrations than West Springs School can accommodate, all kindergarten registrations from Cougar Ridge would be subject to a lottery process for kindergarten that year.

What will the lottery process look like for the proposed scenario?

CBE has a lottery process that is used to determine acceptance when schools cannot accommodate all students who register. The lottery process, outlines the priorities for acceptance as follows:

Priority 1

- Students residing within the walk zone who have a sibling that will be attending the same program in the same school, concurrently

Priority 2

- Students living outside the walk zone who will have a sibling in the same program in the same school at the same time OR
- Students living within the walk zone who do not have a sibling in the school

Priority 3

- All other students living in the designated attendance area

More information is available at [Lottery Information for Parents](#).

Will students residing in Cougar Ridge who currently attend a CBE alternative program have the same priority as kids who do not attend a CBE school?

For the 2018-19 school year, kindergarten to Grade 3 students currently attending a CBE school would be considered prior to accepting students attending schools outside of the CBE system for Grades 1 to 4 at West Springs School next year.



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Would Cougar Ridge students designated to Wildwood School through the lottery have priority to go to West Springs School the following year?

Yes. Students designated to Wildwood School as part of the lottery process will be placed on the call back list for the school. More information is available at [Lottery Information for Parents](#).

Would there be priority registration for West Springs School assigned to siblings of students attending West Ridge School?

No. According to the lottery process sibling priority is granted to students who will be in the same school during the same school year.

Space at West Springs School

Does the school capacity include losing the library and music spaces as occurred before when West Springs School had more students?

The proposed cap at West Springs School provides the opportunity to have space for a library / learning commons and music room.

Where is the excess space at West Springs School?

West Springs School has instructional space available for 600 students. Space became available when West Ridge School opened and the student population in West Springs School decreased from 585 students in 2015 to 497 students in 2017. Enrolment from the West Springs community is projected to continue to decline in future years.

What is the breakdown by grade for space available? (e.g., how many spaces for kindergarten, for Grade 1, etc.)

West Springs School has instructional space available for 600 students. It is anticipated that enrolment at West Springs School will be capped at approximately 100-110 students per grade. The projected enrolment at West Springs School for September 2018, without the addition of Cougar Ridge students is:

Projected for September 2018

Community	K	GR1	GR2	GR3	GR4	Total
West Springs	78	86	81	97	115	457

Will before and after school care at West Springs School be affected?

The Before and After School program at West Springs School currently operates in the gym at the school and does not have a dedicated classroom space. The proposed scenario will not change how this service operates at the school.

If West Springs School was not at capacity in recent years, why were Cougar Ridge students denied access when they applied?

West Springs School has not been accepting out of attendance area students to allow time for engagement and a long term decision regarding the use of space in the school.



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Overflow School

Can the overflow school for West Springs School be Dr. Roberta Bondar School, Griffith Woods School or Olympic Heights School?

Dr. Roberta Bondar is a K-6 School for the new and developing community of Aspen Woods. There will be insufficient space to accommodate overflow students from Cougar Ridge.

Griffith Woods is a K-9 School for the new and developing community of Springbank Hill and Discovery Ridge. There will be insufficient space to accommodate overflow students from Cougar Ridge.

Olympic Heights School was itself in an overflow situation until the 2016 school year at which point those students overflowed were called back. Olympic Heights School is currently at 90 per cent utilization which leaves insufficient space to accommodate overflow students from Cougar Ridge.

Will there be busing for overflow students going to Wildwood School?

Yes, busing would be provided to Cougar Ridge students overflowed to Wildwood School.

Why is bus service being discontinued for Cougar Ridge students currently at Wildwood School?

In the proposed scenario, Wildwood School is identified as the designated overflow school for West Springs School. At this time, there is space at West Springs School to accommodate all K-3 students from Cougar Ridge that currently attend Wildwood and Rosscarrock schools for September 2018. If the number of students from other CBE schools and programs or students currently attending non-CBE schools is higher than West Springs School can accommodate next year, Wildwood School would be needed as an overflow location for K-4 students. If overflow is required, busing for K-4 Cougar Ridge students attending Wildwood School will be provided.

If there is no need for overflow to Wildwood School, busing from Cougar Ridge to Wildwood School will be discontinued June 30, 2018, a decision that was shared with parents in a letter sent June 2017. Providing busing until June 30, 2018 fulfills our commitment to provide transportation services to Cougar Ridge students who were attending Wildwood School when the community of Cougar Ridge was redesignated to Rosscarrock School for K-4. The students who were in kindergarten at the time of the designation change are now in Grade 4 and will be moving to West Ridge School for the 2018-19 school year.

Any students attending Wildwood School from Cougar Ridge for Grades 5 or 6 next year would be considered as out of attendance area and could apply to be conditional riders if there is a K-4 overflow from Cougar Ridge next year.

Cougar Ridge

When will an elementary school be built in Cougar Ridge?

The CBE can only build new schools when funding is provided by the province. On April 1 of each year, the CBE submits a Three Year School Capital plan which identifies priorities for new school construction funding. The ranking of new school



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construction priorities is an important issue for all community stakeholders. The CBE first established ranking criteria for new construction priorities in January 2002. The model was designed to be transparent, objective and impart equity and fairness to all Calgary communities. Over the years, these criteria have been reviewed and adjusted periodically as necessary. The most recent criteria review began in May 2014 and revisions recommended as a result of the review were approved on October 7, 2014.

The criteria used are data driven and establish a fair and equitable process for all communities.

The ranking points for new schools are based on the following data sources:

- City of Calgary Civic Census
- Pre-School Children Summary by School District Code
- School Enrolment
- School Bus Transportation Times and Distance
- The City of Calgary Suburban Residential Growth forecast
- Calgary & Region Economic Outlook

In CBE's *Three Year School Capital Plan 2018-2021* (which was approved on March 14, 2017) there are 20 new school construction priorities and an elementary school in Cougar Ridge is ranked as the 9th priority. The ranking of priority is reassessed annually using the above-noted factors. CBE's new *Three Year School Capital Plan 2019-2022* will be presented to the Board of Trustees on March 6, 2018

CBE's Capital Plan is available on the CBE website and provides detailed information about community rankings and point assignment on pages 22 to 27 and pages 88 to 93

<https://www.cbe.ab.ca/FormsManuals/Three-Year-School-Capital-Plan.pdf>



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How many K-4 students are registered in the CBE and live in Cougar Ridge? How many are currently going to Rosscarrock and Wildwood schools?

The table below shows the September 30 enrolment in CBE schools for Kindergarten to Grade 4 students living in the Cougar Ridge. Please note that students in Grade 4 this year would not be impacted by this proposed scenario as Grade 5-9 students are designated to West Ridge School for the regular program.

Regular Program	K	GR1	GR2	GR3	GR4	Total
Rosscarrock	10	14	4	11	7	46
Wildwood	1	5	4	13	8	31
Other CBE Schools	14	10	11	10	4	49
Total Regular Program	25	29	19	34	19	126
Alternative Program	K	GR1	GR2	GR3	GR4	Total
All Boys Program					2	2
Mandarin Bilingual			1	1		2
French Immersion	12	13	14	10	9	58
German Bilingual	2			1		3
Montessori	3	5	1	2	5	16
Spanish Bilingual	6	14	9	11	7	47
Traditional Learning Centre	5	9	4	8	19	45
Total Alternative Program	28	41	29	33	42	173
Total Enrolled in CBE Schools	53	70	48	67	61	299

Long-Term Sustainability

Will this change at some point? If, for example, there are more families than expected in these new communities, will Cougar Ridge students be re-designated again?

In this proposed scenario, Wildwood School has been designated as the overflow school for Cougar Ridge students, if required. In the first year, there is space for all K-3 Cougar Ridge students attending their designated regular program schools (Rosscarrock or Wildwood). Students who move to West Springs School would not be asked to move again in the future.

Have new developments in the West Springs community been factored into projections for West Springs School?

Yes, new developments have been considered in the projections for West Spring School. As the new developments are still in the planning stage, it will be some time before construction starts and the first families move in. As well, with the types of developments proposed we expect to see fewer students than in the rest of West Springs which is primarily single detached housing.



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What is the impact on Rosscarrock and Wildwood schools on moving Cougar Ridge students out?

Rosscarrock and Wildwood schools will both have fewer students than they currently do. Future enrolment from those schools' home areas would determine if a change would have to be made at those schools.

Other

There is only one scenario presented? Are there others being considered?

In the spring and fall of 2017, we engaged with principals and parent representatives of potentially affected schools to determine which schools should continue to be involved in the Area 6 and 7 impacted schools engagement and to explore possibilities for these schools. In December 2017 – January 2018, we conducted an online survey, completed by over 600 people, to gather feedback on those possibilities.

Eighty-six per cent of respondents to the Group A section of the survey either agreed or somewhat agreed with the possibility of K-4 Cougar Ridge students attending school closer to home.

As all of the other feedback was considered, only one scenario for each school grouping clearly addressed the opportunities and challenges identified and the planning principles respondents felt were most important.

If no other scenarios are being considered, what is the goal of this engagement?

We are continuing this engagement to gather feedback from affected stakeholders that will help us refine scenarios and implement final plans more effectively.

Is there a consideration to redraw the boundaries of all new hill schools to move kids around so all kids can attend the school closest to home?

The identification and establishment of school sites within any new community in Calgary is a complex process. The CBE works with The City of Calgary, the Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) and community developers to select school sites based on catchment areas within future developments. There is a balance between population, number and type of residential units, location and land dedication.

In the case of land for elementary and middle schools, school boards calculate the amount of land developers must allocate for K-9 school sites. The number and type of school sites required is based on the Joint Use Site Calculation Methodology. This methodology uses the estimated number of single and multi-family units in an Area Structure Plan (ASP) multiplied by the average number of children aged 5-14 per housing unit by type.

The new schools that have been built are sized for the population of the communities they serve and, with the exception of West Springs, do not have space to consider adding additional communities or portions of communities into their designation area. If space becomes available in the future to consider a possible boundary change at any of the new schools, the CBE would work with stakeholders using our Dialogue Framework in a similar way as is happening regarding West Springs School this year.



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Have you considered changing grade configurations so that West Springs School is K-6 and West Ridge School is 7-9?

This was not considered because there would be insufficient space at West Springs School for all K-6 students. As well, it would leave West Ridge School underutilized as a Grade 7-9 school.

Will bell times for West Springs School and West Ridge School change?

The CBE decided to align bell times across the system in the spring of 2017. This decision reduces the overall cost of busing by enabling CBE transportation service providers to complete two or three routes within a single contracted block of time (90 minutes per shift). More details about bell time changes are available in the document, [Information to Parents | School hours and bell times](#).

This decision was made by the CBE leadership team and applies across the system. As such, bell times are out of the scope of this engagement process.

Does higher enrolment mean more funding for specialty programs?

West Springs School would continue to receive funding on a per student basis. How that money is allocated is determined by the principal of the school in consultation with staff and the school community.

Could Wildwood School become K-9?

CBE is not considering changes to grade configuration for Wildwood School at this time. Students from the Wildwood attendance area are designated to Vincent Massey School for Grade 7-9.

Where will Spanish Program students at Rosscarrock go?

For the 2018-19 school year, K-6 Spanish Bilingual students currently attending Rosscarrock and Westgate schools will be accommodated at Glenmeadows School. A letter sent Jan. 29, 2018 informed parents of the move.

Where will the PLP Program at Rosscarrock School go?

Rosscarrock School will remain the designated regular program school for students in the home area (see the [School Directory](#) at cbe.ab.ca). The school will also offer the Grade 4-6 PLP Program.