



January 9, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Area IV Office and the Department of Planning & Transportation, have been working to address the accommodation of the French Immersion and Spanish Bilingual programs at Westgate School.

A short term decision to change the grade configuration at Westgate and Bishop Pinkham School for French Immersion and Spanish Bilingual students was made for the 2013-2014 school year only. Parents were informed that a longer term accommodation plan would be developed and communicated in 2013-2014.

In developing a longer term solution the CBE considered parent feedback gathered during the engagement process which started in 2012. This feedback indicated:

- There was no clear direction of which scenario stakeholders preferred.
- Stakeholders wanted a long term solution and many felt the scenarios presented by the CBE did not provide this.
- Many parents asked for a solution that provided a stand-alone K-6 grade configuration for both French and Spanish.
- Parents wanted Spanish and French to remain together at Bishop Pinkham.

**Administrative Decision |**

School	Change for 2014	Change for 2015
Westgate School	K-5 French Immersion	K-6 French Immersion
Eugene Coste School	K-5 Spanish Bilingual Program	K-6 Spanish Bilingual Program
Bishop Pinkham School	Regular Program Grade 7-9 French Immersion Grade 6-9 Spanish Bilingual Grade 6-9	Regular Program Grade 7-9 French Immersion Grade 7-9 Spanish Bilingual Grade 7-9

This administrative decision was made because it:

- Addresses the capacity issue at Westgate and Bishop Pinkham Schools.
- Provides a stand-alone location for the French Immersion and Spanish Bilingual programs.
- Addresses parent desire to have students continue at Bishop Pinkham School.

**Open House |**

Eugene Coste School is located in the community of Haysboro in SW Calgary. Interested parents are invited to attend a **drop-in** open house at Eugene Coste School

**Date:** January 20, 2014

**Time:** 5-7 p.m.

**Address:** 10 Hillgrove Crescent SW

The purpose of this open house is to permit parents/students to see the school and provide input on transition plans.

**Student Accommodation|**

Balancing a wide continuum of stakeholder input and attempting to meet as many needs and desires as possible is a difficult challenge. We appreciate the importance of these proposed changes for you, your family, and each of the programs. We endeavored to hear and consider all stakeholder voices before the final administrative decision was made.

During the process we received feedback on resourcing, school culture and educational programming and student accommodation. This information along with information received at the drop-in open house will inform the work of school administration as we move forward with this decision. Over the coming months the school will continue to inform parents as transition plans develop.

Please feel free to contact your school or the Area IV office at 403-777-8750 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Calvin Davies  
Director, Area IV



Darlene Unruh  
Director,  
Planning & Transportation

