



Wedgewood JS / West Glen JS Boundary Review

Questions and Answers (as of November 21, 2023)

1. What is a Boundary Change Review?

Local neighbourhood schools have attendance areas defined by boundaries that are used to establish admission to a school's regular program. Boundaries between two schools can be changed to reduce overcrowding, utilize surplus space, or designate addresses to a closer school.

A Boundary Change Review is one of the strategies included in the Board's Long-Term Program and Accommodation Strategy (LTPAS), a document that was first created in 2014 and is reviewed annually. The strategy provides an approach to program and accommodation planning within a ten-year timeframe that allows for responsiveness and flexibility in a changing environment. It is a roadmap for the future that identifies studies that could lead to Accommodation Reviews.

To learn more about the LTPAS, please visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Strategy-Planning/Long-Term-Program-and-Accommodation-Strategy>

2. Which attendance area boundaries are proposed to be affected by this boundary change review?

The changes being proposed in this review will apply to the junior attendance boundaries for West Glen JS, which is proposed to be expanded to include a portion of the Wedgewood JS junior attendance area.

The proposed change aligns with the area's intermediate and secondary boundaries. The list of impacted addresses can be found under the 'Helpful Information' link.

3. When will the attendance area boundary changes take effect?

Subject to Board approval, the boundary changes are proposed to be implemented for September 2024.

4. Will there be before and after school care at West Glen JS?

West Glen JS does not currently have a traditional Before and After program. The school has an agreement with the Rexdale Community Centre, who operate an after-school program Monday to Thursday for up to 25 students. There is also a private child care center across the street from the school. This child care will pick up the students through a "walking bus". Spaces are limited for that program.

West Glen JS will be surveyed in February 2024 to determine whether there is sufficient demand for a Before and After Program at the School. If sufficient demand exists, a program will be arranged for the school.

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5. When assessing enrolment projections, has the TDSB considered new developments, not yet registered with the city?

All developments registered with the city are circulated to a variety of stakeholders and commenting agencies, including the Board. Once received, they are reviewed by the Planning team and included in enrolment projections for impacted schools. Details from development applications (number of proposed units, tenure) are required to determine the pupil yield (anticipated number of students) from a proposed development.

6. Do you know if this boundary change has any effect on us in the French Immersion program?

If approved, new French Immersion JK students within the expanded West Glen JS attendance area will be accommodated at Broadacres JS. Students in the boundary change area will now be part of the West Glen JS community and will follow the same French pathway as their peers.

7. With the proposed boundary change in place, what do you anticipate the number of students at Wedgewood to be in comparison to the current number?

Subject to Board approval of the boundary change and future redirections of residential development, enrolment at Wedgewood JS is expected to decrease from 598 students to 572 students in 2024, the implementation year. By 2030, enrolment at Wedgewood JS is projected to be 453 students, resulting in the need for only 1 portable on-site. Absent any changes, enrolment at Wedgewood JS is projected to be 832 in 2030, resulting in the need for 16 portables.

8. How does this change help the current students of Wedgewood JS? (If all current students are grandfathered in, along with their younger siblings).

The proposed accommodation solution does not extend any legacy permissions to younger siblings of current Wedgewood JS students. Even with existing Wedgewood JS students remaining, the proposed solution will reduce enrolment at the school beginning in September 2024, subject to Board approval.

9. Wedgewood JS currently has a large number of kindergarten students (7 classes). If all the current students are grandfathered in, what is going to be done to help and accommodate this large cohort of students as they move through the grades?

Staffing is allocated each year based on the projected number of students at each school. The staffing allocation for Wedgewood JS will address and support the large cohorts of kindergarten students as they progress through the grades. The future portable requirements for Wedgewood JS, as outlined in the presentation, reflect these large cohorts of students and the corresponding number of rooms required to accommodate them.

10. What other options have been put forth to help with this problem? Especially interested in ones that help the current students of Wedgewood.

The proposed accommodation solution, as outlined in the presentation, reflects what is being recommended to address the current and long-term needs of the school. Other options that were discussed included a grade change to move Wedgewood JS from a JK-5 to a JK-4 school, and variations on potential boundary changes.

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11. The catchment area still looks very large, are there additional schools nearby that could take more students currently in the Wedgewood catchment?

The proposed boundary change will address the accommodation pressure at Wedgewood JS beginning in September 2024, subject to Board approval. A large number of students reside in the area proposed to shift from Wedgewood JS to West Glen JS, resulting in a measurable impact on both schools.

The team modeled a variety of boundary change scenarios, however they did not result in any significant change due to the lower density of students that resided in the areas explored. Other schools that surround Wedgewood JS are operating at or above their capacities and do not have space to accommodate additional students.

12. What can be done to eliminate families using false addresses (i.e. grandparents addresses) to get into Wedgewood JS?

New registrants are expected to satisfy the proof of address requirements as per TDSB policy and procedure PR518. Two documents must be presented from the list of acceptable proof of address documentation outlined in PR518. The school is expected to verify this information prior to the registration of a student. In some cases, audits have been undertaken to reconfirm proof of address for all students. Unfortunately, these audits have not resulted in any significant change.

13. The proposed boundary changes look small, can you tell us how you project this will impact the student population at Wedgewood year over year?

The impact on enrolment at both Wedgewood JS and West Glen JS is outlined in the presentation from the community meeting.

14. How do you ensure data accuracy for your modeling? Does your data account for large families occupying one- and two-bedroom units in condos/apartment buildings (i.e., up to 4 children sharing one room)?

Short and long-term enrolment projections are updated each year with the actual enrolments collected at each school in the fall. Actual enrolments collected each fall will reflect changes in the demographics of a school community; increases in enrolment can occur for a variety of reasons (housing turnover, new residential development, newcomers to Canada or multi-family households). These updated actual enrolments are then used as the baseline to project enrolment to ensure that these demographic shifts are captured and reflected in future years.

15. Given Wedgewood's large catchment size and significant development in the area, what numbers of students do you anticipate to be incoming over the next 5 years (both with and without the proposed boundary change).

The long-term enrolment projections for both Wedgewood JS and West Glen JS are outlined in the presentation from the community meeting. These projections include and reflect all known (as circulated by the City of Toronto) residential developments.

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16. What is the current number of students in each grade and how does this impact the population size of Wedgewood year over year for the next 5 years?

There are expected to be between 22 and 26 JK students each year that would be directed to West Glen JS from Wedgewood JS. Should the proposed boundary change be approved, enrolment at Wedgewood JS is expected to decrease from 623 students to 509 students in 2029 (also reflects redirections of residential development).

17. Are there plans to reduce and remove portables at Wedgewood in the next 5 years? If so, how do you plan to accomplish this?

Subject to Board approval, the proposed boundary change with West Glen JS, coupled with the redirection of future residential development, will allow portables to be removed from the site. By 2030, projections suggest that 1 portable may be required.

18. I'm wondering how the wait lists for before and after care are being addressed with the overcrowding. I believe there is already a wait list for 3 years in the future.

The Before and After Program at Wedgewood JS is currently subject to a lengthy waiting list. By reducing enrolment at the school through the proposed boundary change and future redirection of residential development, spaces may become available in the program.

19. I just got a letter from the TDSB about the Wedgewood boundary change that would have our building feeding into West Glen JS instead of Wedgewood. Do you know if this boundary change has any effect on us in the French Immersion program? The letter doesn't mention FI or any middle school changes

Yes, West Glen JS is associated with the Early French Immersion program at Broadacres JS while Wedgewood JS is associated with the program at Millwood JS. Subject to Board approval of the change, addresses within the proposed boundary change area would be associated with the program at Broadacres JS.

20. How many new incoming students came from the area being proposed in the 2022/23 school year?

In 2022/23 there were 21 JK pupils who attended Wedgewood from the proposed boundary change area. There are expected to be between 22 and 26 JK students residing within the proposed boundary change area that would be directed to West Glen JS, subject to Board approval.

21. How many students currently enrolled at Wedgewood JS live in the proposed change area?

Approximately 140 JK-5 Wedgewood JS students live in the proposed boundary change area. In total there are 170 JK-5 students residing in the proposed boundary change area (2022-23 school year).

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22. Will you assure that no current students will be displaced and younger siblings will also be allowed attendance?

The proposed recommendation ensures that no existing student at Wedgewood JS would be forced to leave the school. However, the recommendation does not extend any legacy permissions to siblings of existing students not currently enrolled at Wedgewood JS. All new registrants within the proposed boundary change area would be expected to attend West Glen JS. If a current Wedgewood JS student residing within the area wishes to attend West Glen JS, then that request would be granted.

23. Can you project how many students we will have next year both A: if you do this change and B: if you do not?

Under the status quo and with no change, enrolment at Wedgewood JS is projected to be 598 students next year. If the boundary change is approved, enrolment at the school is projected to be 572 students. Enrolment will decline each year thereafter as the boundary change is phased-in.

24. Why is Wedgewood's boundary considerably larger than surrounding catchments?

Boundary changes can be implemented as a way to reduce enrolment at a school and/or to balance enrolment within a group of schools. A boundary change has been proposed to reduce the size of Wedgewood JS' boundary and to increase the size of West Glen JS' boundary. The number of residential dwellings within the boundary of Wedgewood JS has increased, which has resulted in more students enrolling at the school. This increase in dwellings and students has led to the proposal to reduce the size of the school's boundary.

25. How can we be assured that any future developments in our boundary will be sent to underutilized area schools?

Staff has committed to redirecting new developments away from the school, and will reflect this in the final report at the conclusion of this process. As these developments approach completion and near occupancy, subsequent reports will be prepared and submitted to the Board of Trustees to have the addresses assigned to another school.

26. Does West Glen have busses and if not will they be given the choice to bus now that we are expanding the boundary?

There are no buses currently transporting students to West Glen JS (regular program). Bussing is provided as per the Board's Transportation of Students Policy P020. If the boundary for West Glen JS is expanded, then many addresses currently bussed to Wedgewood JS would be within the prescribed walking distance to West Glen JS (1.6km). There are addresses within the proposed boundary change area that will be eligible for bussing to West Glen JS.27.

27. Can you show the 2, 5 and 10 year projections for the surrounding schools? West Glen JS, Eatonville JS, Broadacres etc.

Tables showing the projected enrolments for these schools can be found under 'Helpful Information'.



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Is it possible to put a cap on our school's student numbers due to safety?

If there are concerns with the safety of a school building, they should be communicated to the Superintendent who will then follow up with the appropriate central staff. Caps have not been a tool used by the Board to manage enrolment at a school. Other options have been used such as adding portables to a site, changing school boundaries or grades, relocating programs and/or other user groups in the building.

28. What is the approximation of how many families with school age children per condo of 1,500 units?

The number of students anticipated to reside in a new residential development can vary based on the type and tenure of the units, the bedroom composition as well as the location within the City of Toronto. A development of 1,500 condominium units within the Etobicoke center area could yield up to 60 students in JK to Grade 5.