



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Report No. 19-070**

**18 June 2019**

**New Fernbank Elementary School – Approval of Opening Grade Structure, Program, and Attendance Boundary**

**Key Contact: Michael Carson, Chief Financial Officer, (613) 596-8211 ext. 8881**

**PURPOSE:**

1. To seek approval of staff's recommendations regarding the opening grade structure, program, and attendance boundary for a new elementary school to be opened in the Fernbank development area, and other associated changes.

**CONTEXT:**

2. Fernbank is a new residential area in the western part of the District, located south of Highway 417 between Kanata and Stittsville. The development is expected to contain an estimated 11,000 new homes at full build out. Construction in Fernbank has been on-going for a number of years. As of the end of December 2018, building permits had been issued for an estimated 2,350 residential units within the community.

In May 2018, the Board approved an updated list of capital priorities which ranked the opening of a new elementary school in the Fernbank development area as the highest project. At that time, the identified planned opening date for the new school was September 2020.

There are four elementary school sites that were identified for the OCDSB as part of the completed Fernbank Community Design Plan (CDP) process. The site which is expected to accommodate the first new school is situated at the southwest corner of Cope Drive and Rouncey Road within the Blackstone subdivision. It is a development-ready 2.84 hectare parcel of land (approximately seven acres) located adjacent to a municipal park.

Most of the students residing in the Fernbank development area are currently directed to John Young Elementary School, located in the Glen Cairn neighborhood of Kanata South.

John Young Elementary School is experiencing significant accommodation pressure and currently requires the use of 11 portable classrooms on site (see Appendix A). As of 31 October 2018 the school accommodated 735 students in a building with a pupil capacity of 547 (a utilization rate of 134%).

In January 2019, the Board approved a study consultation plan and timeline for the setting of an opening grade configuration, program offering, and attendance boundary for a new elementary school in the Fernbank area (see Appendix B).

Although there has been no information from the Ministry as to when the next capital request will be received, establishing a program and an attendance area for the future new school will be beneficial given the timing of need.

## **KEY CONSIDERATIONS:**

3. In accordance with the approved timeline, a locally-formed working group met during the winter of 2018 and the spring of 2019 in order to consider potential options and receive input. The group was comprised of council representatives and principals from potentially impacted schools, District staff, and members of various local community associations. Trustees were also invited to attend.

The following summarizes the key objectives that helped guide the working group process:

- propose an opening grade structure, program offering, and attendance boundary for a new Fernbank elementary school;
- examine local Middle French Immersion (MFI) program attendance boundaries, and suggest revisions if necessary; and
- analyze options with consideration being given to existing school feeding patterns, neighborhood alignments, the creation of viable programs, and the planning of future new school facilities.

Following a review of potential attendance boundaries and a discussion of local issues and concerns, the working group endorsed the preparation of a proposed plan for the purpose of receiving input from the larger school community.

The proposed plan was presented at a public consultation meeting held on 23 May 2019 in the gymnasium of John Young Elementary School.

## **4. The Proposed Plan**

- a. New Fernbank Elementary School Opening Grade Structure, Program Offering, and Attendance Boundary  
Under the proposed plan the new school would be a dual-track kindergarten to grade 6 facility, offering both an English program with Core French (ENG) and an Early French Immersion (EFI) program.

The new school's attendance boundary would be comprised of that portion of the John Young Elementary School boundary located west of Terry Fox Drive and the Carp River. More specifically, the attendance

area would be bounded by Hazeldean Road to the north, Iber Road and Robert Grant Avenue to the west, Fernbank Road to the south, and Terry Fox Drive and the Carp River to the east (see Appendix C).

The new school's attendance area includes a significant amount of future residential development. Creating a larger attendance boundary for the first OCDSB school to be opened in the community would make good use of the new building, and would serve to accommodate a higher number of students locally, for a longer period of time.

When capital funding is provided for the opening of a second elementary school in the Fernbank development area, the attendance boundary would be reduced to a more sustainable longer-term size.

In order to limit disruption to existing students and families, the new school would open with a kindergarten to grade 5 structure. The new school would progress to kindergarten to grade 6 for the following school year.

The kindergarten to grade 5 opening grade structure would allow grade 6 students residing in the new school's attendance boundary to complete their final year at John Young Elementary School. These students would also avoid having to attend three different schools in three successive school years.

For the purpose of the study, an opening date of September 2021 for a new Fernbank elementary school was assumed. Projected enrolments would see the school open with 322 students in 2021. It would then grow to 685 students and a utilization rate of 109.1% by 2025 (see Appendix D).

It should be noted that projecting enrolment for a new school can be challenging and is impacted by a number of different factors and assumptions: student movement and choice; the rate of enrolment growth and development; and the presence or absence of other local school options. Enrolment for the new school could therefore vary more than would typically be expected.

b. Associated MFI Program Attendance Boundary Revision

The proposed plan also includes a revision to MFI program boundaries in the Fernbank development area. MFI program students residing east of Iber Road and Robert Grant Avenue are currently directed to Bridlewood Community Elementary School (grades 4 to 6) and Glen Cairn Public School (grades 7 and 8). MFI program students residing west of Robert Grant Avenue are directed to A. Lorne Cassidy Elementary School (grades 4 to 8).

MFI attendance boundaries in the area could be revised so that the entire Fernbank development area is directed to the same set of schools for the program, located within the Stittsville area (see

Appendix D). To minimize disruption to existing students and families, this proposed change would be phased in.

Upon the opening of the new Fernbank elementary school, Grade 4 MFI program students residing within the Fernbank development area, and a future residential development area located north of Hazeldean Road (west of Terry Fox Drive and the Carp River), would be directed to A. Lorne Cassidy Elementary School. These revised areas would phase out of Bridlewood Community Elementary School and into A. Lorne Cassidy Elementary School, one grade per year thereafter.

MFI program students attending Bridlewood Community Elementary School during the year prior to the opening of the new school, and residing within the affected boundary areas, would remain at Bridlewood Community Elementary School until the completion of grade 6.

c. Student Movement under the Proposed Plan

Kindergarten to grade 4 students attending John Young Elementary School in the year prior to the opening of the new Fernbank elementary school, and residing in the new school's attendance area, would be relocated to the new school in a block move upon its opening.

The plan above would serve to alleviate the significant enrolment pressures being experienced at John Young Elementary School. Projected enrolment at John Young Elementary School would be reduced to 624 students for 2021, and further decrease to 567 students by 2025 (a utilization rate of 103.7%).

Given the pressures at John Young Elementary School, staff is not proposing that a grandfathering provision be put in place to permit students who reside within the new school's attendance boundary to continue at the school.

The proposed MFI program boundary revisions would be phased in beginning at grade 4 when the new school is opened, and would progress one grade per year thereafter.

**5. Input Received Regarding the Proposed Plan**

At the public consultation meeting a majority of those in attendance expressed support for the presented plan. Feedback was provided regarding the program and opening grade structure for the new school. Support was expressed for the new school's proposed attendance area, and also the MFI boundary revisions.

The following summarizes some of the common themes of input received before, during, and after the public consultation meeting:

- proposed attendance boundary makes sense given the variables involved;
- opening the school with a kindergarten to grade 5 structure will help limit disruption to students and families;
- a dual-track program for the first elementary school to be opened in the community is important;

- long-term accommodation planning for students in the Fernbank development area should be accounted for;
- how can the capital funding process be expedited in order to have new schools opened when planned;
- consider future intermediate and secondary feeding patterns for the new Fernbank elementary school students; and
- would the new school include pre-school child care and an extended day program.

All input received by staff during the consultation process has been provided to trustees in its original form.

Concern was expressed by an individual at the meeting that the Trailwest community (located within the southern portion of the John Young Elementary School attendance boundary) was not considered for inclusion in the attendance boundary discussion for the new Fernbank elementary school.

The working group did examine the possibility of dividing the existing John Young Elementary School attendance area in a north-south manner, rather than one which used Terry Fox Drive and the Carp River.

This was not deemed viable given that it would (in the longer-term once a school was opened in the northern part of Fernbank) reduce enrolment at John Young Elementary School to a level which may not be sustainable. This could result in a need to redirect the Trailwest community back to John Young Elementary School.

Under the proposed plan the attendance area for John Young Elementary School would be comprised of a mix of neighborhoods and homes. It would include more mature areas in the northern section, and newer residential units and future development potential in the southern portion. Projected enrolment would see the school at or just above capacity.

In response to the concern expressed regarding the Trailwest community, working group package #2 which contained some information related to the Trailwest area was subsequently posted to the study webpage.

#### 6. **The New Stittsville Secondary School Study**

In March 2018 capital funding for the construction of a grade 7 to 12 secondary school in the Stittsville area was approved by the Ministry of Education. The school is scheduled to open in September 2022.

The site which will accommodate the new secondary school is located within the Fernbank development area, at the southwest corner of Cope Drive and Robert Grant Avenue.

It is expected that a study will commence in the fall of 2019 which will serve to determine the new school's attendance boundary, program offering, and opening grade structure. In doing so, that study will also examine local Intermediate

(grade7-8) MFI program attendance boundaries, taking into account decisions already made as part of this current process.

Although still to be confirmed during the fall study, it is anticipated that students attending the new Fernbank elementary school would feed to the new Stittsville secondary school.

**7. Staff Recommendation**

Staff is recommending that the proposed plan which was presented to the community at the 23 May 2019 public consultation meeting be recommended for approval.

The plan results in a set of recommendations which cover all of the study's key objectives. The working group process was collegial and constructive in providing local input regarding a variety of options. The proposed plan was well-received by most in attendance at the public consultation meeting, and those who have provided feedback.

Note that all of the recommendations would come into effect upon the opening of the new Fernbank elementary school.

**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

8. The cost of conducting the new Fernbank elementary school study has been managed within existing departmental budgets.

**COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:**

9. In accordance with the approved timeline, a working group for the study was formed in January of 2019. Over the course of the winter and spring the working group met on two separate occasions. The group was comprised of council representatives and principals from potentially impacted schools, District staff, and representatives from various local community associations.

On 23 May 2019, a public consultation meeting was held in the gymnasium of John Young Elementary School in order to receive parent and community feedback on a proposed plan which was prepared during the working group process.

Notice of the public consultation meeting was provided by the following:

- an advertisement placed in the local community newspaper which serves this area of the District;
- communication through school councils and local community associations;
- a mass email distribution, synrevoice message, or school newsletter/website to parents and guardians of students attending potentially impacted schools;
- a posting on the study webpage located on the District website; and
- District social media notifications.

Approximately 25 members of the public attended the meeting at John Young Elementary School. An information package was provided to those in attendance that evening. Additional copies were made available in the offices of the four potentially impacted schools. A digital version of the package was also posted on the study webpage.

A staff presentation at the meeting was followed by a formal public question and answer period. The presentation provided an overview of the study process, key objectives, and details regarding the proposed plan.

## **STRATEGIC LINKS:**

10. The opening of a new elementary school within the developing Fernbank community would serve to provide improved access to learning environments and optimize the use of District resources. This is consistent with the stewardship objectives of the Board's 2015-2019 Strategic Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A. THAT the opening grade structure, program offering, and attendance boundary for the new Fernbank elementary school be approved as outlined in Appendix C of Report No. 19-070, to be implemented upon its opening.
- B. THAT the revised attendance boundary for John Young Elementary School be approved according to Appendix C of Report No. 19-070, to be implemented upon the opening of the new Fernbank elementary school.
- C. THAT upon the opening of the new Fernbank elementary school, a boundary revision be approved that redirects a portion of the Bridlewood Community Elementary School Middle French Immersion program boundary to A. Lorne Cassidy Elementary School, beginning with grade 4 and adding one grade per year thereafter, as outlined in Appendix D of Report No. 19-070.

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(ext. 8881)

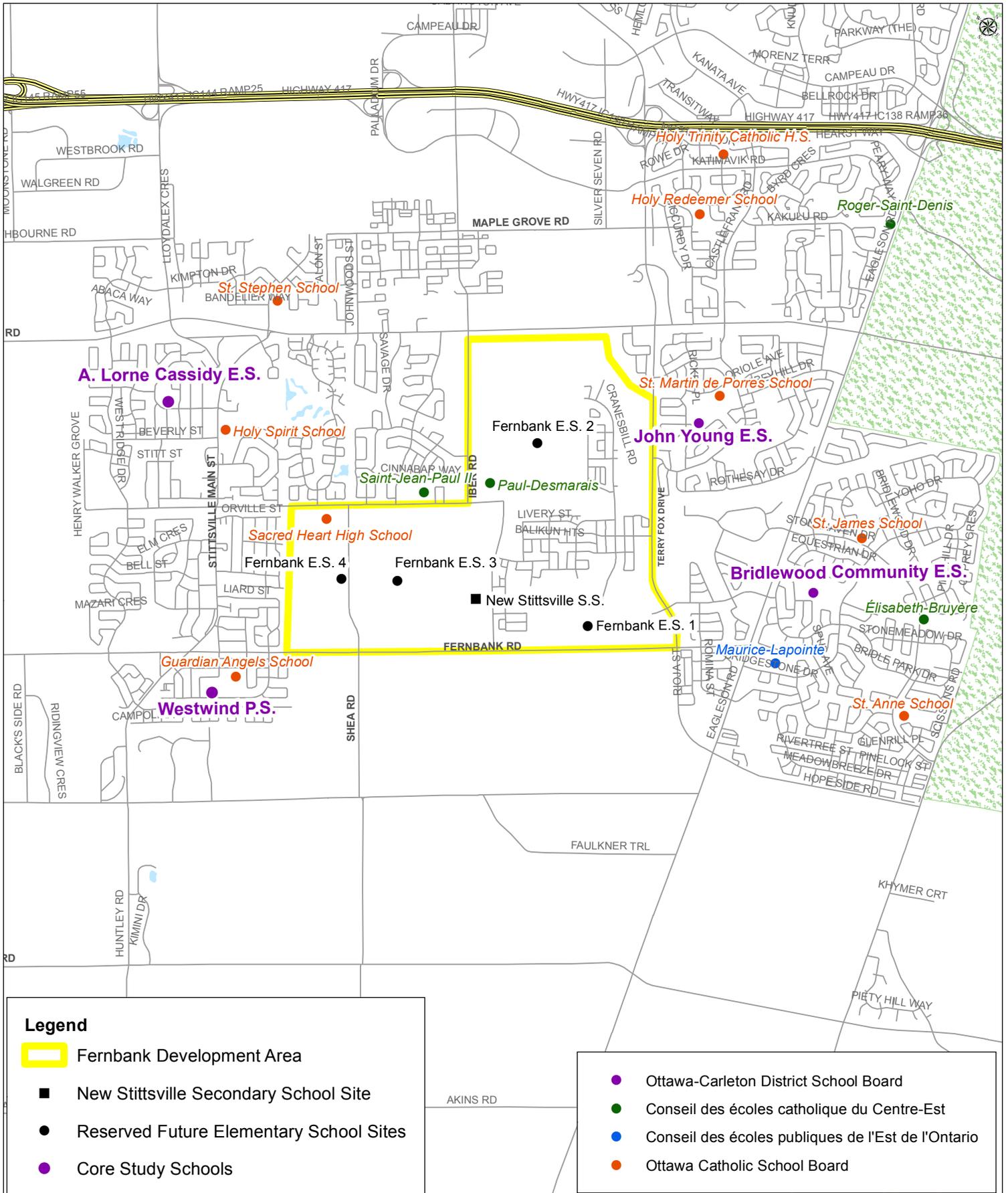
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Camille Williams-Taylor  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board

## **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A 31 October 2018 Actual Enrolments
- Appendix B New Fernbank Elementary School Study Timeline
- Appendix C Recommended School Attendance Boundaries
- Appendix D Recommended Middle French Immersion Attendance Boundary Revision
- Appendix E Staff Recommendation – School Enrolment Projections

# New Fernbank E.S. Study General Location Map



New Fernbank Elementary School Study

31 October 2018 Enrolments

School	Capacity	Portables	Program	YR 1	YR 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SE	Total	UF(%)	
A. Lorne Cassidy ES	600	4	KGTN	44	51										95	97.5%	
			ENG			7	12	22	11	17	19	10	18				116
			EFI			44	43	40	40	43	47	33	23				313
			MFI						17	9	8	18	9				61
			Total	44	51	51	55	62	68	69	74	61	50				585
Bridlewood Community ES	455	0	KGTN	47	45										92	80.2%	
			ENG			10	14	12	14	14	9			17	90		
			EFI			27	28	24	25	15	18						137
			MFI						20	17	9						46
			Total	47	45	37	42	36	59	46	36		17				365
John Young ES	547	11	KGTN	107	103										210	134.4%	
			ENG			27	33	34	35	41	33			5	208		
			EFI			76	65	52	47	45	32						317
			Total	107	103	103	98	86	82	86	65		5				735
			Portables														
Westwind PS	628	0	KGTN	41	47										88	85.2%	
			ENG			6	19	11	27	21	36				120		
			EFI			50	54	51	50	64	58						327
			Total	41	47	56	73	62	77	85	94						535
			Portables														

Utilization (UF%) = Total enrolment/capacity.

Programs: KGTN = Kindergarten, ENG = English Program with Core French, EFI = Early French Immersion, MFI = Middle French Immersion, SE = Special Education

Portable numbers reflect those required for instruction as of fall 2018.

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## NEW FERNBANK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDY TIMELINE

Activity	Date
<b>Notice of Intention to Commence Study</b>	
➤ Board Approval of Study Consultation Plan and Timeline	January 29, 2019
<b>Consultative Stage</b>	
➤ Formation of Working Group	Late January 2019
➤ Working Group Meeting #1	February 20, 2019
➤ Working Group Meeting #2	March 21, 2019
➤ <b>Public Consultation Meeting</b>	May 23, 2019
<b>Recommendation and Decision Making Stage</b>	
➤ Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting – Presentation of Staff Recommendation Report	June 18, 2019
➤ Regular Board Meeting – Final Study Decisions	June 24, 2019
<b>Communication and Implementation Stage</b>	
➤ Communication of Board Approved Decision	June & September 2019
➤ Implementation of Board Approved Decision – School Opening	TBD

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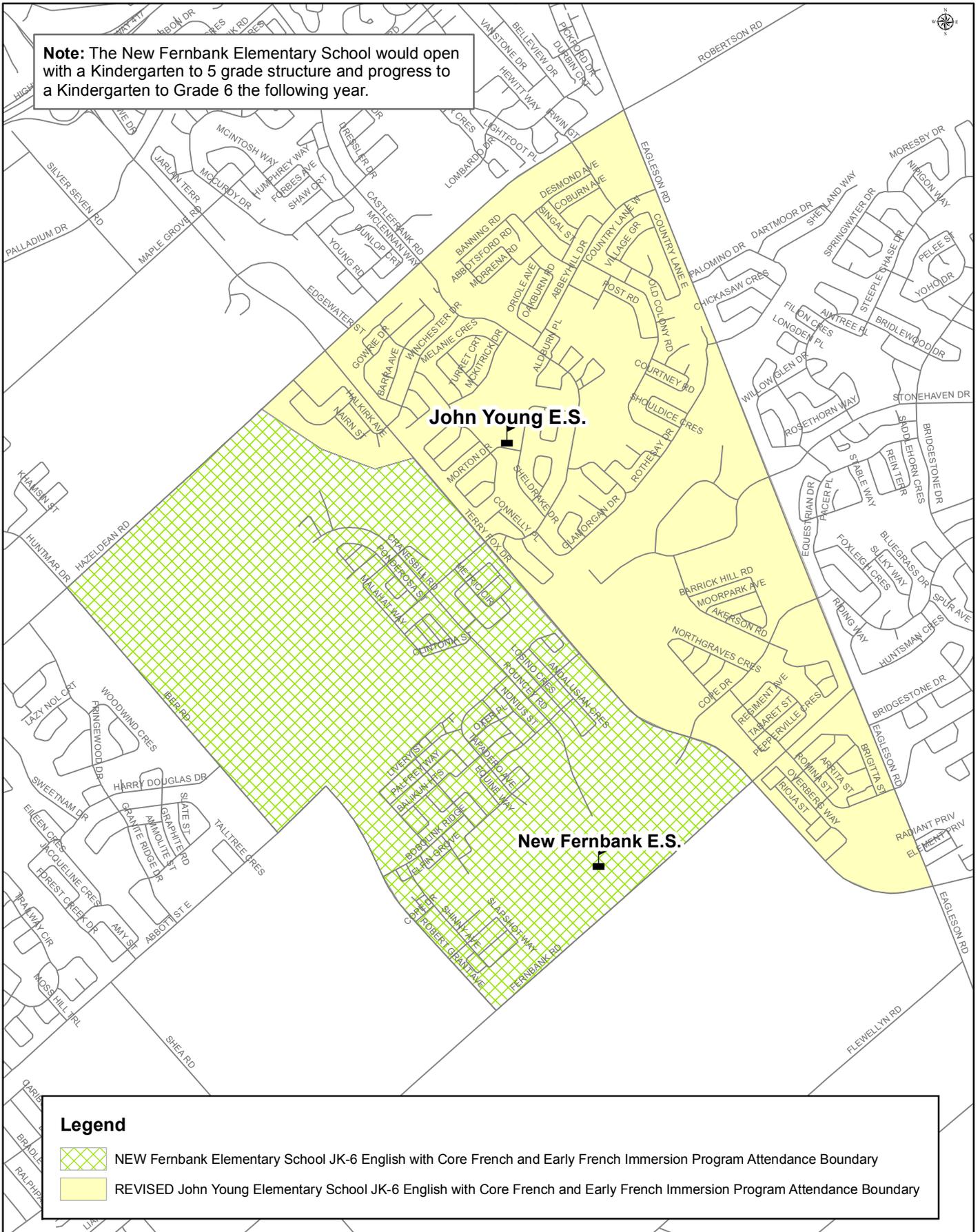


# Recommended Attendance Boundaries

## NEW Fernbank Elementary School

### JK-6 English Program with Core French and Early French Immersion

**Note:** The New Fernbank Elementary School would open with a Kindergarten to 5 grade structure and progress to a Kindergarten to Grade 6 the following year.



**Legend**

-  NEW Fernbank Elementary School JK-6 English with Core French and Early French Immersion Program Attendance Boundary
-  REVISED John Young Elementary School JK-6 English with Core French and Early French Immersion Program Attendance Boundary

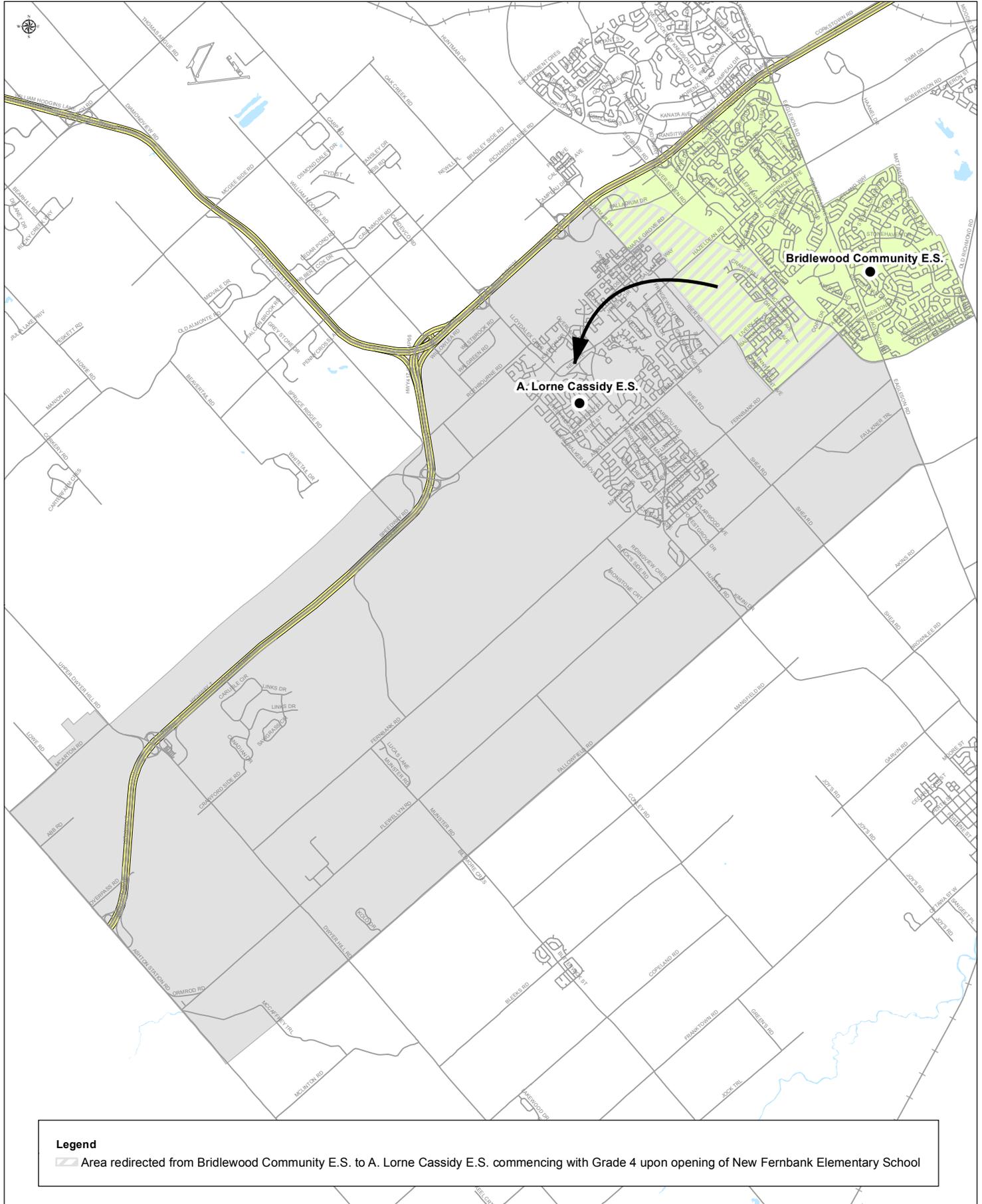


OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# Recommended Attendance Boundary Revision

## A. Lorne Cassidy E.S. and Bridlewood Community E.S. Middle French Immersion Program

APPENDIX E  
to Report 19-070



New Fernbank Elementary School Study

2021 Projected Enrolments

School	Capacity	Program	YR1	YR2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SE	Total	UF(%)
NEW Fernbank ES	628	KGTN	59	53										112	51.3%
		ENG			15	18	20	22	23					98	
		EFI			31	27	20	17	17					112	
		Total	59	53	46	45	40	39	40					322	
John Young ES	547	KGTN	72	71										143	114.1%
		ENG			17	24	32	30	31	49				183	
		EFI			58	54	52	46	41	47				298	
		Total	72	71	75	78	84	76	72	96				624	
A. Lorne Cassidy ES	600	KGTN	44	52										96	100.5%
		ENG			11	12	18	10	18	22	14	18		123	
		EFI			46	44	46	44	43	37	31	32		323	
		MFI						13	10	11	17	10		61	
		Total	44	52	57	56	64	67	71	70	62	60		603	
Bridlewood Community ES	455	KGTN	44	44										88	92.5%
		ENG			12	18	16	13	10	11			17	97	
		EFI			39	37	32	25	27	24				184	
		MFI						16	20	16				52	
		Total	44	44	51	55	48	54	57	51			17	421	
Westwind PS	628	KGTN	50	52										102	78.8%
		ENG			10	15	14	16	26	12				93	
		EFI			49	43	47	53	56	52				300	
		Total	50	52	59	58	61	69	82	64				495	

Utilization (UF%) = Total enrolment/capacity.  
 Programs: KGTN = Kindergarten, ENG = English Program with Core French, EFI = Early French Immersion, MFI = Middle French Immersion, SE = Special Education  
 Note: Projections assume a 2021 opening for the New Fernbank Elementary School.

New Fernbank Elementary School Study

2022 Projected Enrolments

School	Capacity	Program	YR1	YR2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SE	Total	UF(%)
NEW Fernbank ES	628	KGTN	69	63										132	69.1%
		ENG			18	20	25	24	30	29				146	
		EFI			37	34	27	21	20	17				156	
		Total	69	63	55	54	52	45	50	46				434	
John Young ES	547	KGTN	71	70										141	108.8%
		ENG			16	25	30	30	33	32				166	
		EFI			59	52	49	45	46	37				288	
		Total	71	70	75	77	79	75	79	69				595	
A. Lorne Cassidy ES	600	KGTN	45	51										96	101.2%
		ENG			10	12	17	14	12	18	22	14		119	
		EFI			45	46	46	44	44	42	42	30	30	327	
		MFI						12	13	11	10	19		65	
Total	45	51	55	58	63	70	69	71	62	63		607			
Bridlewood Community ES	455	KGTN	43	48										91	95.4%
		ENG			11	18	18	14	11	13			17	102	
		EFI			35	36	36	33	24	27				191	
		MFI						16	16	18				50	
Total	43	48	46	54	54	63	51	58				17	434		
Westwind PS	628	KGTN	55	55										110	82.2%
		ENG			10	17	20	14	16	27				104	
		EFI			51	49	44	48	54	56				302	
		Total	55	55	61	66	64	62	70	83				516	

Utilization (UF%) = Total enrolment/capacity.  
 Programs: KGTN = Kindergarten, ENG = English Program with Core French, EFI = Early French Immersion, MFI = Middle French Immersion, SE = Special Education  
 Note: Projections assume a 2021 opening for the New Fernbank Elementary School.

New Fernbank Elementary School Study

2023 Projected Enrolments

School	Capacity	Program	YR1	YR2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SE	Total	UF(%)	
NEW Fernbank ES	628	KGTN	77	73										150	81.8%	
		ENG			21	25	27	29	33	39						174
		EFI			44	40	35	27	24	20						190
		Total	77	73	65	65	62	56	57	59						514
John Young ES	547	KGTN	72	69										141	107.9%	
		ENG			15	24	31	28	33	33						164
		EFI			59	53	45	42	44	42						285
		Total	72	69	74	77	76	70	77	75						590
A. Lorne Cassidy ES	600	KGTN	44	52											96	102.2%
		ENG			10	12	18	14	17	12	18	22			123	
		EFI			44	45	48	44	44	43	43	34	28		330	
		MFI						16	13	14	14	10	11		64	
		Total	44	52	54	57	66	74	74	69	62	61			613	
Bridlewood Community ES	455	KGTN	43	46											89	95.6%
		ENG			11	16	18	16	12	14				17	104	
		EFI			37	32	35	37	32	24	24				197	
		MFI						14	16	15					45	
		Total	43	46	48	48	53	67	60	53				17	435	
Westwind PS	628	KGTN	60	61											121	84.2%
		ENG			11	18	23	20	14	17					103	
		EFI			54	52	51	45	49	54					305	
		Total	60	61	65	70	74	65	63	71					529	

Utilization (UF%) = Total enrolment/capacity.  
 Programs: KGTN = Kindergarten, ENG = English Program with Core French, EFI = Early French Immersion, MFI = Middle French Immersion, SE = Special Education  
 Note: Projections assume a 2021 opening for the New Fernbank Elementary School.

New Fernbank Elementary School Study

2024 Projected Enrolments

School	Capacity	Program	YR1	YR2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SE	Total	UF(%)
NEW Fernbank ES	628	KGTN	89	82										171	94.4%
		ENG			24	28	33	32	37	41				195	
		EFI			50	47	40	35	31	24				227	
		Total	89	82	74	75	73	67	68	65				593	
John Young ES	547	KGTN	71	69										140	106.4%
		ENG			16	24	30	28	31	34				163	
		EFI			60	53	46	39	41	40				279	
		Total	71	69	76	77	76	67	72	74				582	
A. Lorne Cassidy ES	600	KGTN	45	51										96	103.5%
		ENG			10	12	18	15	17	18	12	18		120	
		EFI			45	44	47	45	44	43	34	32		334	
		MFI						17	16	14	13	11		71	
		Total	45	51	55	56	65	77	77	75	59	61		621	
Bridlewood Community ES	455	KGTN	43	46										89	97.4%
		ENG			11	17	16	15	14	15			17	105	
		EFI			36	34	31	36	36	32				205	
		MFI						15	15	14				44	
		Total	43	46	47	51	47	66	66	65	61		17	443	
Westwind PS	628	KGTN	65	66										131	89.0%
		ENG			12	19	24	23	21	15				114	
		EFI			59	55	53	52	46	49				314	
		Total	65	66	71	74	77	75	67	64				559	

Utilization (UF%) = Total enrolment/capacity.  
 Programs: KGTN = Kindergarten, ENG = English Program with Core French, EFI = Early French Immersion, MFI = Middle French Immersion, SE = Special Education  
 Note: Projections assume a 2021 opening for the New Fernbank Elementary School.

New Fernbank Elementary School Study

2025 Projected Enrollments

School	Capacity	Program	YR1	YR2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	SE	Total	UF(%)
NEW Fernbank ES	628	KG TN	99	95										194	109.1%
		ENG			27	32	38	38	42	46				223	
		EFI			57	55	47	39	39	31				268	
		Total	99	95	84	87	85	77	81	77				685	
John Young ES	547	KG TN	70	68										138	103.7%
		ENG			15	23	29	27	31	32				157	
		EFI			60	51	46	40	38	37				272	
		Total	70	68	75	74	75	67	69	69				567	
A. Lorne Cassidy ES	600	KG TN	44	52										96	104.8%
		ENG			10	12	17	14	18	18	18	12		119	
		EFI			44	45	46	45	45	43	43	33		335	
		MFI						18	18	17	13	13		79	
		Total	44	52	54	57	63	77	81	78	65	58		629	
Bridlewood Community ES	455	KG TN	43	46										89	97.8%
		ENG			11	17	17	14	13	17			17	106	
		EFI			36	34	34	32	35	36				207	
		MFI						14	15	14				43	
		Total	43	46	47	51	51	60	63	67			17	445	
Westwind PS	628	KG TN	70	72										142	96.7%
		ENG			13	21	26	24	24	22				130	
		EFI			65	60	57	54	53	46				335	
		Total	70	72	78	81	83	78	77	68				607	

Utilization (UF%) = Total enrollment/capacity.  
 Programs: KG TN = Kindergarten, ENG = English Program with Core French, EFI = Early French Immersion, MFI = Middle French Immersion, SE = Special Education  
 Note: Projections assume a 2021 opening for the New Fernbank Elementary School.