

invite

Drop In Open House
February 11, 2014
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Westgate School

French Immersion/Spanish Bilingual Programs at Westgate and Bishop Pinkham Schools

February 5, 2014

Dear Parents,

There are competing values whenever the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) enters discussions with parents regarding school and/or program designations for their children. The decision to move the Spanish Bilingual program to Eugene Coste School was appealed by a group of parents.

The appeal of the decision to relocate the Area IV Spanish Bilingual program to Eugene Coste School for September 2014 was upheld. As a result, the CBE is seeking parent input on three possible Options to address this accommodation challenge, including the original decision to move the Spanish Bilingual program to Eugene Coste School.

Options for Consideration |

Option 1 – Relocate Spanish Bilingual Program from Westgate School to Eugene Coste School all at once effective September 2014. Bishop Pinkham School will become Grade 7-9 for both programs over time.

Option 2 – Relocate Spanish Bilingual program from Westgate to Eugene Coste School over time. To allow space at Westgate for current Grade 1-4 Spanish Bilingual students to phase out over the next few years, it may be necessary to cap kindergarten and grade 1 registrations for French Immersion. If necessary the lottery process would be used to determine eligibility. Bishop Pinkham School will become Grade 7-9 for both programs over time.

Option 3 – Keep K-4 French Immersion and Spanish Bilingual programs at Westgate School by capping new kindergarten enrolment at approximately 50 students per program each year. If necessary the lottery process would be used to determine eligibility. Effective September 2016, Spanish Bilingual students in grades 5&6 will attend a new Spanish Bilingual middle school at A.E. Cross School. Current Spanish Biligual students will phase out of Bishop Pinkham School.

Details on Options|

A PDF document is also attached to this letter that provides for more details on what these options would mean for your child based on the grade and program they are currently attending. This information is also available at

http://www.cbe.ab.ca/Schools/ceop/pp12-13/pdfs/Westgate_Implementation_Tables_for_Survey_Feb2014.pdf

Feedback |

These three options were developed to reflect the diverse feedback received by CBE administration over the past 18 months as we looked for a long term solution. As mentioned previously there are many competing values. While each option meets some of these values, there is not one option to meet the requirements of all groups

Please take an opportunity to share your opinions on these three possible solutions. You may do this by attending the open house Feb. 11, 2014, or online via <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QSQ5XZW> until Feb. 20, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Balancing a wide continuum of stakeholder input and attempting to meet as many needs and desires as possible is a difficult challenge. We appreciate your time and consideration and the importance of these proposed changes for you, your family, and each of the programs as we continue to tackle this contentious issue.

Yours truly,



Calvin Davies
Director
Area IV



Darlene Unruh
Director
Planning & Transportation