

EIPS Frequently Asked Questions

ANDREW SCHOOL | SENIOR HIGH PROGRAMMING

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FAQS: ANDREW SCHOOL

SENIOR HIGH PROGRAMMING

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Board of Trustees is reviewing programming for senior high students living in the Andrew School attendance boundary. Based on the public consultations conducted to date with students, families, staff, town and county officials, and community members, a recommendation was presented at the Board of Trustees meeting on April 18, 2019.

Q: What motion did the Board of Trustees pass on April 18?

A: The Board of Trustees voted to consider a grade reconfiguration at Andrew School—changing it to a K-9 school from a K-12 school.

Q: Is the Board of Trustees still considering closing the junior high grades at the school?

A: No. At the April 18 meeting, an amendment was made to the recommendation to only consider the closure of grades 10-12 at Andrew School. If the decision is made to reconfigure the grades, Andrew School will still offer programming for students in kindergarten to Grade 9.

Q: Has the Board of Trustees already made its decision to close the senior high?

A: No. On April 18, the Board made a motion to *consider* the closure of Andrew School's senior high program. The Board will review all relevant information requested of administration, and read through all feedback provided by key stakeholders in the community, in preparation for a discussion and vote at the board meeting on June 6, 2019.

Q: Why can't you offer more program options for senior high students and keep them in Andrew?

A: Andrew School doesn't have the student base to provide more programming than it currently does. As background, 28 students were enrolled in the senior high grades at Andrew School in the 2017-18 school year. In the 2018-19 school year, that number dropped to 19—a figure that is projected to stay roughly the same for the immediate future. With such low numbers, students don't have the same optional programming available as other senior high schools do within the Division. In addition, because of low numbers, many optional subjects are only possible through distance learning—and students have indicated that method of learning is not meeting their needs. The only way to offer more programming to senior high students living in the Andrew School boundary is to redesignate these students to a school or schools with a larger student base.

Q: Why can't the school offer an outreach centre in the multipurpose room or satellite courses?

A: EIPS considered these as possible programming options. However, these programs aren't meeting the needs of students, as expressed in the feedback from the public consultations. What was heard from both students and families was senior high students need to have direct instruction from a teacher, learn with other students, have access to more experiences and have an opportunity to actively discuss topics and ask questions during class.

Q: Why can't the senior high students be bused to another school to take options, and take core courses at Andrew School?

A: Throughout the consultations, students at Andrew School repeatedly said they need to have direct instruction from a teacher, learn with other students, have access to more experiences and have an opportunity to actively discuss topics and ask questions during class. These concerns apply to more than just optional courses—they reflect a need for an overall enhanced learning environment for senior high students living within the Andrew School attendance area. It's EIPS' responsibility to promote growth and success for all students, regardless of where they live within the Division.

Q: Why can't junior high students from Mundare School be redesignated to Andrew School instead?

A: Administration won't consider negatively impacting a well-established program at one school by moving students to another.

Q: If enrolment numbers remain low in the future at both the elementary and junior high school level, what could that mean for the future of the school?

A: If there aren't enough students to sustain a program, administration and the Board of Trustees will have to conduct another review and determine what's in the best interests of students in the community.

Designated Schools

Q: If the decision is made to close grades 10 through 12, where will the students go?

A: In the proposed scenario, Lamont High is the designated school for senior high students living within and west of the Village of Andrew—along Highway 855 and Range Road 164. Vegreville Composite High is the designated school for senior high students living east of the Village of Andrew—along Highway 855 and Range Road 164.

Q: Can students choose to attend a school other than their designated school?

A: Yes. If the Board decides to reconfigure the grades at Andrew School, students designated to Lamont High can attend Vegreville Composite High, and vice versa. It's important to note, for these students there are service limitations, in terms of door-to-door student transportation.

Q: Can both Lamont High and Vegreville Composite High accommodate senior high students living in the current Andrew School attendance boundary?

A: Yes. As of Sept. 30, 2018, Andrew School had 19 students registered—a number that is anticipated to stay roughly the same for the immediate future. Both Lamont High and Vegreville Composite High can comfortably accommodate Andrew School’s senior high student population. Currently, Lamont High has 287 students registered and a capacity for 464. Vegreville Composite High has 371 registered and a capacity for 918.

Q: What kind of programs are offered at Lamont High and Vegreville Composite High?

A: Lamont High offers a variety of required and optional courses, an excellent sports program, many extracurricular opportunities, a performing arts program and the LINKS education program. Courses include:

- Core courses: English, mathematics, social studies, biology, chemistry, physics, science—knowledge and employability courses are also available.
- Career and Technology Studies: career transitions, food studies, cosmetology, construction and fabrication technologies, communication technology.
- Options: personal fitness, band, music, drama, visual arts, dual-credit power engineering, Off Campus Education, Student Directed Flex Block Program (SDL Flex Program), Green Certificate and Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP).

Vegreville Composite High offers a variety of required and optional courses, an excellent sports program, many extracurricular opportunities and a performing arts program. The school also has the LINKS education program. Courses include:

- Core courses: English, mathematics, social studies, biology, chemistry, physics, science—knowledge and employability courses are also available.
- Career and Technology Studies: career transitions, culinary arts, mechanics, cosmetology, construction technology, communication technology and digital design.
- Options: French, recreational fitness, band and music, art, digital photography, digital media and design, drama, Off Campus Education, Green Certificate, RAP, dual-credit opportunities.

Q: Do Lamont High or Vegreville Composite High offer team sports or extracurricular activities?

A: Yes. Both schools have strong sports programs and many extracurricular opportunities: Sports teams at Lamont High include badminton, basketball, cross-country running, curling, golf, track and field and volleyball. In terms of clubs, the school has an arts club, a culinary club, a GSA, a Skills Canada team and a student council. Meanwhile, at Vegreville Composite High, sports teams include badminton, basketball, cross-country running, curling, football, golf, handball, track and field and volleyball. In terms of clubs, the school has an athletic leadership group, a GSA, an open-mic club, a drama club, a jazz band and a student council.

Transportation and Bell Schedules

Q: [If Andrew School's grade configuration changes, what will change at Andrew School?](#)

A: The most significant change: The school will no longer offer a senior high program. Instead, it will serve students in kindergarten to Grade 9. The other change is to the bell schedule to accommodate busing. Instead of school starting at 8:38 a.m. and ending at 3:16 p.m., classes will start at 8:15 a.m. and end at 2:50 p.m.

Q: [Why will the bell schedule need to change?](#)

A: If the Board decides to reconfigure the grades at Andrew School, the schedule will need to change to accommodate busing. In the proposed scenario, K-9 students living in the current Andrew School attendance area and senior high students designated to Lamont High are bused together in the morning. Students arrive at Andrew School at 8 a.m. Then the senior high students transfer to a bus at the Andrew transfer site to Lamont High. The Lamont-bound bus travels from Andrew picking up students along the way while the Vegreville-bound buses travel directly to Vegreville Composite High. On the way home, senior high students are dismissed after 3 p.m. and arrive at the Andrew transfer site at 4:05 p.m. As a result, they must travel independently of Andrew School students. Because of the new busing times, Andrew School's start time will change to approximately 8:15 a.m. and dismissal time to approximately 2:50 p.m.

Q: [Why can't siblings ride together in the afternoon?](#)

A: The reason has to do with school schedules. In the proposed scenario, Andrew School has a dismissal time of approximately 2:50 p.m. Senior high students will not arrive at the Andrew transfer site until 4:05 p.m. As such, kindergarten to Grade 9 students have to travel independently of the senior high students in the afternoon.

Q: [In the morning, why can't students attending Vegreville Composite High use the same transfer site as students attending Lamont High?](#)

A: The reason has to do with the different school schedules and the travel distance to Vegreville Composite High.

Q: [Can my child use student transportation to go to a non-designated school?](#)

A: Yes. If a student chooses to attend either Lamont High or Vegreville Composite High as a non-designated school, they can access transportation by meeting at a designated pickup location along the scheduled route.

Q: [What will the ride times be?](#)

A: Ride times for senior high students will range between 35 minutes and 85 minutes—with a 53-minute average ride time. For Andrew School students, K-9, ride times will range between two minutes and 73 minutes—with a 53-minute average ride time.

Next Steps

Q: If the grades are reconfigured at Andrew School, can siblings attend either elementary or junior high in Lamont or Vegreville?

A: As per the School Act, families are allowed to make a request for their child to attend a school up to the first day of class of that school year. Acceptance is based on available resources and space. If the school is a non-designated school—that is, a school other than Andrew School—students are subject to student transportation fees.

Q: What will the Division do to address child care needs?

A: EIPS is committed to working with the community to explore possible ways to address the child care issue.

Q: If the grade configuration changes at Andrew School, will transportation fees apply to affected senior high students?

A: If the grades are reconfigured at Andrew School, no transportation fee will apply to affected senior high students who attend their designated school—Lamont High or Vegreville Composite High. Administration will also recommend no transportation fee be charged to students living within the current Andrew School attendance boundary who are entering senior high and attending Lamont High or Vegreville as a non-designated school, effective in the 2019-20 school year through to graduation. However, the recommendation is subject to Board approval.

Q: If the grade configuration changes at Andrew School and my junior high student decides to attend Lamont High or Vegreville Composite High, will transportation fees apply?

A: Yes. A choice fee is charged to any student who attends a school other than their designated school. For junior high students, regardless of the decision made, Andrew School is their designated school.

Q: If the grades are reconfigured at Andrew School, is there a transition plan in place for students?

A: At this point, it's premature to speak to a transition plan. A decision won't be made until the Board considers all information from administration and feedback from key stakeholders. In general, transition plans involve consultations with students, school council groups, school administration, staff and EIPS senior administration; school tours; and meetings with students to alleviate any concerns they may have. The goal of any transition plan is to ensure the move is positive and students quickly transition into the new school community.