

EIPS Frequently Asked Questions

LOGOS CHRISTIAN PROGRAM | ENROLMENT CONCERNS

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FAQS: LOGOS CHRISTIAN PROGRAM ENROLMENT CONCERNS

Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) is exploring changes to the Logos Christian Program to ensure it continues providing high-quality educational experiences to students. Over the last few years, enrolment in the EIPS Logos Christian Program has declined significantly, making it challenging to offer fulsome programming. To determine the best possible solution for addressing the enrolment decline, EIPS consulted the Logos school community, using a two-phased engagement approach, between June and October 2022.

After the consultation process, the EIPS Board of Trustees reviewed all the feedback gathered and approved postponing a final decision about Logos programming until after the returning student registration process takes place in February 2023. The delay allows the Board to see the actual registration numbers for Logos for 2023-24, and it gives the Logos community time to promote the program leading up to the returning student registration process. Once the process closes, the Board will review all the enrolment numbers and make a final decision about the program—expected in mid-March. The following are the frequently asked questions (FAQ) from the public engagement process efforts.

General

Q: [Why did EIPS consult with the Logos Christian Program school community?](#)

A: As part of the Division's reporting requirements to Alberta Education, EIPS reviews programs, enrolment transitions and boundaries regularly. When areas of concern are identified, the Division works to determine how best to resolve the issue. In the case of the Logos Christian Program, it's seen a significant [decline in enrolment over the last 10 years](#). The decline makes it difficult to offer fulsome Logos programming to students. Before making a decision about how best to address the enrolment decline, EIPS sought feedback from the Logos school community to help it determine the best possible solution. A final decision is expected by mid-March.

Q: [How many students are registered in the EIPS Logos Christian Program?](#)

A: As of Sept. 29, 2022, 322 students are registered in EIPS' Logos program—237 in elementary and 85 in junior high.

Q: [What solutions are EIPS considering?](#)

A: During Phase 1 of the public engagements, EIPS consulted Logos families about consolidating the elementary program at one school to address the [declining enrolment](#), starting in the 2023-24 school year. EIPS wanted to make a decision by November 2022. However, feedback indicated Logos families wanted a bit more time to promote Logos and try to make the elementary program sustainable enough to support two locations—Brentwood Elementary and Westboro Elementary.

The Board listened and approved postponing a final decision until after the returning student registration process closes—open February 1-28.

- If, after the returning student registration process, the Logos elementary program sees a significant increase in enrolment, EIPS will recommend the Board keep the elementary program unchanged at both Brentwood Elementary and Westboro Elementary.
- If, after the returning student registration process, enrolment in the Logos elementary program stays relatively flat, EIPS will recommend the Board consolidate the elementary program, starting in the 2023-24 school year.

EIPS will continue to review all elementary and junior high Logos program locations and their sustainability on an ongoing basis.

Q: [What is the returning student registration process?](#)

A: Every February, EIPS conducts a [returning student registration process](#), where returning students register for the upcoming school year. The registration takes place online through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Using an online form, families indicate the school their child plans to attend in the upcoming school year and can apply to attend a non-designated school, if applicable. Schools then use this information to plan and budget for the upcoming school year.

Q: [Should I complete the student registration form assuming the elementary program is consolidating?](#)

A: No. It's critical all Logos families register their child where they want them to attend, so the Division has accurate numbers. Don't register based on an assumption of what you think might happen. If numbers remain low and the Board decides to consolidate the elementary program, all families will have another opportunity to confirm or change the school and program they want their child to attend for the upcoming school year.

Q: [What if the elementary program only grows slightly, not significantly?](#)

A: To keep the elementary program at the two site locations requires a significant enrolment increase. As such, if the Logos elementary program doesn't see a significant increase in student numbers, EIPS will recommend the Board consolidate the program at Brentwood Elementary. Ultimately, it will become a Board decision—based on 2023-24 registration numbers collected during the returning student registration process and the feedback collected during the public consultations.

Q: [What happens if the elementary program consolidates and then grows significantly in a few years? Can the Division accommodate an influx of new students at Brentwood Elementary?](#)

A: Yes. If the Board consolidates the Logos elementary program, there is sufficient capacity to accommodate both the regular-program and Logos growth at Brentwood Elementary.

Registration in Logos

Q: [What's the average Logos class size?](#)

A: The average Logos class size is 24, excluding kindergarten. However, a lot of these classes are split grades. So, on average, the Logos elementary program has 17 students per grade, which isn't sustainable. Especially when compared to the typical grade class size within EIPS, 27 students—class size can vary below or above the 27 depending on school factors.

Q: [What are EIPS' enrolment projections for Logos over the next few years?](#)

A: Based on current enrolment trends, EIPS expects student numbers in the Logos program to stay the same or decline slightly.

Q: [How many students have left the Logos program in the last five years? And, why?](#)

A: In the last five years, elementary enrolment has dropped by 45 students. So, for the program to remain at the two sites, enrolment needs to significantly increase in 2023-24. EIPS doesn't track why some students leave Logos. It could be because they moved, changed programming, parental choice, student transportation needs or something else.

Q: [How many students does the Logos program need in each grade to make it sustainable?](#)

A: Ideally, each Logos grade will have 24-27 students. However, for now, EIPS is just looking to see significant growth in the elementary program and for the Elk Island Logos Society to develop and implement a viable growth plan.

- Q:** What if enrolment in Logos increases significantly, in 2023-24, and then declines again?
- A:** EIPS will continually monitor enrolment in the Logos program. If student enrolment doesn't see continued increases, or if enrolment falls below sustainable levels, EIPS will recommend the Board consider consolidating the elementary program to Brentwood Elementary.
- Q:** Does Strathcona Christian Academy ever direct students to the Logos program?
- A:** Yes. Strathcona Christian Academy (SCA) Society, SCA Elementary and SCA Secondary routinely share information about EIPS' Logos Christian Program with families. The two most common reasons for sharing Logos information are when space at SCA is unavailable and when a family asks about Christian programming within EIPS.
- Q:** How do students register for the Logos program?
- A:** Students register for the Logos program during the new or returning student registration process, as applicable. Both the [new student registration process](#) and [returning student registration process](#) open in February each year. Using the online registration forms, families request registration into the Logos program and then select a school. EIPS encourages all new students, including those attending kindergarten Logos, to submit the registration form by February 28. The Board will base its final decision about Logos programming on registered student numbers as of February 28.

Accommodating Students

- Q:** If the Board decides to consolidate the Logos elementary program at Brentwood Elementary, can affected students, currently attending Westboro Elementary, be grandfathered there?
- A:** It's still too premature to answer this question. Typically, the Board makes decisions about grandfathering when it reviews the final recommendation from administration, which won't happen until mid-March 2023. If there is a consolidation, EIPS will contact all families impacted to share further details, including information about grandfathering.
- Q:** My older child attends Westboro Elementary and will stay at the school for regular programming if the Logos program consolidates. Can my younger child also attend Westboro Elementary next year?
- A:** Yes, if the older child is grandfathered to the school and will attend the school at the same time as the younger child. In this scenario, the [sibling clause](#) applies. Simply register to attend the school for regular programming during the returning student registration process. The only way this wouldn't apply is if the Board decides to limit grandfathering or the application of the sibling clause.
- Q:** If the elementary program consolidates and a student doesn't want to go to Brentwood Elementary for Logos, can they attend a school other than their designated school?
- A:** Yes. If the Board decides to consolidate the Logos elementary program at Brentwood Elementary and a student decides not to remain in the Logos program there, they can choose to attend their designated, current school or a non-designated school—provided space is available. In this scenario, EIPS would contact all families impacted to share further details, including information about reopening the registration process for 2023-24.
- Q:** Can EIPS accommodate students if Logos has a significant rise in enrolment over the next few years?
- A:** Yes. Brentwood Elementary and Westboro Elementary have available capacity to accommodate one class per grade of Logos programming. As well, if the program consolidates, Brentwood Elementary has room to expand the Logos program to accommodate two Logos classes per grade and regular program growth—Westboro Elementary can't accommodate that.

Student Funding

Q: [If a student leaves Logos, does the funding for that child follow them?](#)

A: Alberta Education doesn't provide the Division specific funding for Logos programming. Instead, schools are funded on a per-pupil basis. Funding from Alberta Education is based on September 29 enrolment numbers. If students change schools or school divisions after that date, funding doesn't move with them.

Q: [Can a school's funding for the regular program be used to offset the needed costs to offer Logos?](#)

A: Offsetting Logos costs with funding from the regular program is not a sustainable or equitable solution. EIPS is responsible for ensuring high-quality programming is provided to all students within the school. That includes decisions about class sizes, teachers and distribution of resources. It's imperative the Division, and its schools, are fiscally responsible and don't disadvantage other groups or programs to ensure all students receive a high-quality education.

Programming

Q: [Is EIPS also looking at the Logos junior high program?](#)

A: Because the junior high program is tied to the elementary program, it will remain in place as long as student numbers remain sustainable. That said, EIPS will continue to review the program location and its sustainability. If there aren't enough students to sustain the Logos junior high program, administration and the Board will review how best to address its site-location and sustainability.

Q: [Could the planned replacement school for Sherwood Heights Junior High and École Campbelltown accommodate the Logos program?](#)

A: When the province approves a new replacement school for École Campbelltown and Sherwood Heights Junior High in Sherwood Park, the student capacity for the new school is based on the combined enrolment projection for both schools. As such, additional capacity at the new replacement school isn't an option.

Q: [If EIPS consolidates the elementary Logos program at Brentwood Elementary, what happens to the teachers and staff at Westboro Elementary?](#)

A: EIPS staff are employees of the Division, not a particular school. If the Logos elementary program consolidates, EIPS would encourage Westboro Elementary Logos teachers and staff to pursue opportunities within the Division that help them grow and advance their careers—similar to any other program change throughout the Division. Human Resources would also work closely with each employee to identify openings that suit their skills, abilities and interests. Some teachers could apply for positions at Brentwood, while others could work at another location.

Q: [Low registration in these two schools is not just a Logos problem, what's being done for the regular program enrolment?](#)

A: Strathcona County is expected to grow over the next 20 years. The county has approved the developments of Hillshire, Cambrian Crossing and Bremner. Each community will generate students who require a location for educational programming until future schools are constructed within the local area. To ensure these students are accommodated, EIPS is reviewing all student spaces within the region to ensure it effectively uses existing infrastructure.

Busing

Q: [How will busing work for students requiring transportation services?](#)

A: EIPS provides an enhanced transportation service for both eligible and ineligible riders. So, anyone who wants to access Student Transportation can do so by requesting busing services during the new or returning student registration process in February. Families simply indicate on the online form busing is required for their child. Before the end of the school year, the family will receive their child's tentative busing information, including any associated fees.

Q: [How are families charged for busing?](#)

A: EIPS offers enhanced transportation services for students, using the below fee structure.

Eligible Fee: Riders who attend their designated school and live more than 2.39 kilometres from that school. For 2022-23, the eligible fee is \$121 per year.

Ineligible Fee: Students who attend a non-designated school or live less than 2.4 kilometres from their designated school. For 2022-23, the ineligible fee is \$346 per year.

Next Steps

Q: [When will EIPS make a final decision about the Logos programming?](#)

A: The Board will make a decision after the 2023-24 returning student registration process, which happens in February. Before that time, the Board will review all relevant data and the feedback gathered throughout the public consultations. EIPS is committed to keeping the community informed about the process and will provide information as it becomes available.

Q: [What is the registration process for affected families? Can families apply to other schools?](#)

A: It's important all Logos families register their child where they want them to attend, so the Division has accurate numbers. Don't register based on an assumption of what you think might happen. If numbers remain low and the Board decides to consolidate the elementary program, all families will have another opportunity to confirm or change the school and program they want their child to attend for the upcoming school year—subject to available space. If Student Transportation services are required, fees apply.

Q: [Can EIPS work with Logos to promote the program?](#)

A: Yes. EIPS promotes all Division Alternative Programs equally. The Logos Society is also welcome to highlight the program using other channels and networks—all promotional efforts must meet [EIPS' brand identity standard](#). Before posting or publishing any advertising materials, submit them for final approval to both [Elk Island Logos Society](#) and [EIPS Communication Services](#).

Q: [How will EIPS support the transition for students?](#)

A: At this point, it's still premature to speak about a transition plan. A decision hasn't been, and won't be made until the Board reviews student enrolment numbers for 2023-24. That said, if the Board decides to consolidate the elementary Logos program, EIPS would put a transition plan in place. The plan would involve consultations with students, school council groups, school administration, staff and EIPS senior administration. The goal: To ensure a smooth transition for all students.