

Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ is intended to provide a summary of current district policy, planning priorities and next steps. All answers reflect what is known at this time. No final decisions have been made. Public input gathered through the survey, open houses, and direct engagement will help shape the final recommendation presented to the Board of Education in November 2025.

What are the reasons for making these changes now?

The Richmond School District is opening a new elementary school in the city centre to meet the needs of a growing population. This is a significant and positive step forward in addressing enrolment pressure now and in the future and reducing overcapacity at nearby schools. Catchment reviews are required to establish new catchments and ensure that all schools are used effectively. This process supports the district's long-term commitment to neighbourhood-based access to education.

Is my home affected by the new catchment?

The new catchments have not yet been finalized. Families are encouraged to participate in the public consultation process, which includes an online survey, a virtual meeting and in-person open houses. Your feedback will help inform the final recommendation brought forward to the board. Depending on your home address, your elementary catchment may remain the same or change to a different school.

What is the timeline for the city centre catchment review and final decision?

The city centre catchment review process will launch on September 3, 2025. Families will have the opportunity to participate in the public feedback period from September 3 to October 27, 2025, through an online survey, a virtual meeting, and in-person open houses. A final decision on the new catchments will be made by the Board of Education in November 2025.

Will my child move to the new school?

Many families will not be affected by the new catchments, and their children will continue attending their current school. However, some families will have their catchment area changed. If your home falls within a revised catchment, your child may be assigned to the new catchment school. These changes would take effect in September 2026. Until then, students will remain at their current school. If your child's catchment changes, the school district will let you know in advance. The district is committed to giving families time to prepare and supporting students through the transition.

How are the proposed boundaries determined?

The proposed boundaries are developed by the district considering a range of criteria, including the capacity of current city centre schools, enrolment projections, the geographic distribution of students, major infrastructure boundaries, and long-term developments in the city centre area. These considerations help ensure balanced enrolment, support efficient use of district resources, and align with the goal of neighbourhood-based schools. Public input is a key part of the process and feedback collected through online surveys, and open houses will help guide the final recommendation that is brought forward to the Board of Education for decision.

How will the new Odlin School compare to existing schools?

The Odlin School will offer students the same high-quality educational experience as all other elementary schools in the district. Families can be assured that students will receive full support as they transition, and that the school will be staffed and resourced to meet the needs of the community it serves. All program and staffing decisions will be made closer to the school's opening and in accordance with district policies and Ministry of Education standards.

How can I provide feedback or ask questions during this process?

Families can participate by attending an upcoming virtual meeting, completing the online survey, or attending one of the in-person open houses. These opportunities are outlined on the district's website. District staff are also communicating directly with families who may be affected.