

**St. Joseph High School and St. Mother Teresa High School
Proposed Attendance Boundary Revisions - Consultation Input**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Q1. Can you provide more detail about the provision of transportation to students under the proposed attendance boundary revisions?

Q1A. Students residing in the attendance boundary area proposed to be redirected to St. Mother Teresa High School (see Appendix C of the Consultation Document for details) would be eligible for busing to the school, subject to meeting eligibility criteria. These pupils would be considered designated students of St. Mother Teresa High School.

In addition, St. Joseph High School students who live in the attendance boundary area that is proposed to be redirected to St. Mother Teresa High School (noted above) and choose to remain at St. Joseph High School under the one-time option would be eligible for transportation, subject to meeting eligibility criteria. These pupils would be considered designated students of St. Joseph High School.

The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) will ultimately determine transportation entitlements for students as part of their planning process leading up to the 2024-2025 school year. OSTA will also determine how transportation will be provided.

Q2. I live across the street from St. Joseph High School in that portion of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton attendance boundary located south of Strandherd Drive. Why can't my children attend the school?

Q2A. The designation of this part of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton boundary as an Option Area that would permit students to attend either St. Mother Teresa High School or St. Joseph High School is identified in the Consultation Document as a scenario that was considered.

Despite the proximity to the school, an Option Area was not proposed to ensure that student enrolment at St. Joseph High School is manageable in the future.

St. Joseph High School is currently experiencing some operational issues in accommodating higher enrolments, including a reduction in common space for students, parking availability, an increased number of yellow buses, peak period site congestion and vehicle circulation, and pedestrian access and conflict.

Providing students who live in that part of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Elementary School boundary area located south of Strandherd Drive would increase projected enrolment at the school by 103 students in 2028 and result in the need for an estimated four additional portable classrooms on site.

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There are currently 63 grade 7 to 12 students living in this area at OCSB schools; 57 of those students attend St. Joseph HS, and 14 of those are in Grade 7.

Managing enrolment levels at St. Joseph High School in advance of the relief that a future realignment of Greenbank Road by the City of Ottawa will provide was an essential consideration in proposing the area be redirected to St. Mother Teresa High School.

Students in this area directed to St. Mother Teresa High School would be eligible for transportation, subject to meeting criteria. A signalized intersection to assist students crossing Greenbank Road to St. Joseph HS is not currently present.

Once a new secondary school is required in Barrhaven South, the direction of elementary and secondary students living in South Nepean will be reviewed.

C1. I fully support an attendance boundary revision - it has been a long time coming. St. Joseph HS is overpopulated, and change is needed.

C1A. Under a status quo scenario (without the proposed revisions to current attendance boundaries), projected enrolment at St. Joseph HS would reach over 2,900 students in five years.

Enrolment of this magnitude would require an estimated 15 portable classrooms, which can only be accommodated on-site with significant impact on the site and the use of playing fields.

Q3. Under the proposal, existing students at St. Joseph High School have a one-time option to choose to remain at the school. Can you not extend this provision to permit siblings of those students to attend St. Joseph High School?

Q3A. A majority of the students in our system have siblings.

Providing the siblings of current Lester B. Pearson High School students who choose to remain to attend the school would significantly increase projected enrolment and classroom needs.

A one-time option to remain at Lester B. Pearson High School was provided to reduce student disruption. Extending this to their younger siblings would result in an estimated 225 additional pupils at the school for 2028 (a total enrolment of 2,533). An enrolment of this size would require the placement of approximately 26 portables on-site at St. Joseph High School.

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Implementing a sibling provision would also require an administrative decision around when that provision would no longer be available to families - younger siblings could range in age from 4 to 12.

Students who wish to remain together at the same school can choose to attend St. Mother Teresa High School together.

C2. I want the size of St. Mother Teresa High School to stay the same in the future - I am comfortable with my children being at a smaller enrolment school.

C2A. Understandably, a smaller secondary school is desirable to some parents and students, as there are some benefits to attending smaller enrolment schools.

Without changes to its boundaries, however, enrolment at St. Mother Teresa HS will continue to decrease. The school's current attendance area is relatively mature regarding housing composition, and there is limited potential for future growth.

In these situations, enrolment at a school can decrease to a point where it becomes challenging to provide a fulsome educational experience to all students. Course selection and access can become an issue, and extracurricular student opportunities and peer experience can be limited.

It should be noted that individual class sizes do not reflect a school's total enrolment; a school with a smaller enrolment will not necessarily have smaller class sizes.

The proposal being considered would not only result in the management of future accommodation pressures at St. Joseph HS but also create an attendance boundary for St. Mother Teresa HS that would increase student enrolment and provide stability in the longer term.

Q4. Can I please see a 'heat map' of the subject area which shows student enrolment location densities?

Q4A. Below are links to maps showing the densities of student enrolment at St. Mother Teresa HS, St. Joseph HS, St. Patrick ES, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton ES within their respective school attendance boundaries.

[St. Patrick ES and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton ES Student Density Location Map](#)

[St. Mother Teresa HS and St. Joseph HS Student Density Location Map](#)

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C3. I live within the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton ES attendance boundary and have a student who will enter Grade 7 in September 2023 and has younger siblings. I would like all my children to attend St. Mother Teresa HS together.

C3A. The proposal being considered would redirect students residing in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton ES boundary area to St. Mother Teresa HS (instead of St. Joseph HS) for September 2024.

A consultation process regarding the proposal is underway, and we are soliciting input from potentially impacted school communities and the public. Changes to the proposal will be considered from the information we receive through the process.

The extended consultation timeline was implemented to recognize the complexities of changing designated schools at the secondary panel and the potential significant impact on families and students.

Final recommendations regarding the proposal are scheduled to be brought forward to the Board in November 2023. The timing of the decision recognizes the importance of providing certainty to incoming secondary students so that they may begin planning for the following school year as early as possible.

Although we understand the desire to avoid unnecessary disruption, deciding between schools in advance of final decisions being made by the Board could be problematic and could result in unforeseen additional impacts on students.

Under Board policy, a parent can apply for a Cross Boundary Transfer to attend a school other than that they are currently designated.

Q5. Did the board consider redirecting only St. Patrick ES students to St. Mother Teresa HS?

Q5A. Staff examined this scenario.

It was evident in the process that including only those students residing within the St. Patrick ES attendance boundary in the redirection to St. Mother Teresa HS would not sufficiently reduce the expected future accommodation pressures at St. Joseph HS. As a result, this scenario was not deemed a viable option.

C4. Please build a new high school in Barrhaven South to solve the accommodation pressures St. Joseph HS will experience in the next five years.

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C4A. Planned needs in South Nepean identify a long-term requirement for three secondary schools at full build-out (including St. Mother Teresa HS and St. Joseph HS).

In the 2019 Capital Plan, the Board identified a requirement for opening a new Barrhaven South Catholic High School in the medium to longer-term (2024 to 2034). That timing was based on existing trends and uncertainty around potential provincial increases to grade 9-12 class sizes.

Staff will continue to monitor enrolment and development trends in South Nepean and the timing of the need for a new high school in Barrhaven South as we prepare an updated 2024 Capital Plan.

It should be noted that a critical mass of student enrolment is required before a new school can be opened. That number is significant in the secondary panel (approximately 800 students).

Based on current enrolment projections and the permanent pupil capacity available at St. Mother Teresa HS and St. Joseph HS, we will only reach that number once we are beyond the next five years.

The attendance boundary proposed for St. Mother Teresa HS (except for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton ES boundary area located south of Strandherd Drive) is planned to be sustainable in the longer term.

This will make use of available permanent instructional space within the local area. This is a criterion the province considers to determine funding approval as part of its Capital Priority review process.

C5. Please examine redirecting the Chapman Mills area to St. Mother Teresa HS instead of the current proposal.

C5A. We did examine the possibility of an east-west attendance boundary division using a combination of Greenbank Road, Jockvale Road, and Longfields Drive. This option would redirect the Chapman Mills neighbourhood that St. Emily ES serves to St. Mother Teresa HS instead of St. Joseph HS.

On balance, the location of the two existing secondary schools and the composition of current elementary school attendance areas made this option less preferable.

The St. Joseph HS site is currently constituted within the St. Emily ES attendance boundary. A revision to the school's attendance area should be made to redirect this area to St. Mother Teresa HS.

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The St. Emily ES attendance boundary serves a north-south area. It includes the Chapman Mills neighbourhood but extends south to the eastern portion of the Stonebridge Community located south of the Jock River.

In examining options, staff also wanted to ensure that we had regard for the potential future opening of a third secondary school in the Barrhaven South area. The Board has a reserved site at the corner of the future-realigned Greenbank Road and Dundonald Drive. Most of the new residential development potential remaining in the community is located south of Strandherd Drive.

The long-term direction of that portion of the current St. Elizabeth Ann Seton ES attendance area located south of Strandherd Drive will be examined once a third secondary school in Barrhaven South is required to serve the community.

*Q - recurring question received during the consultation via the Google Survey to date
C - recurring comment received during the consultation via the Google Survey to date
QA - staff response to the recurring question
CA - staff response to the recurring comment*