



May 2, 2024

Families,

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on Halifax Regional Centre for Education's (HRCE) recommendation to move Grade 6 (English) students from Grosvenor-Wentworth Park Elementary to Clayton Park Junior High, and Grade 6 (French Immersion) students from Grosvenor-Wentworth Park Elementary to Fairview Junior High.

We met with your School Advisory Council and collected 118 thoughts in ThoughtExchange about the proposed change. [Click here](#) to view the ThoughtExchange report.

### **What We Heard**

- Some participants believe that moving Grade 6 students to junior high makes sense given the growing school population. They feel the grade configuration is common in other regions and will provide a more suitable environment for these students.
- Others think that Grade 6 students are too young and not emotionally or physically ready to be in a more mature environment. Some expressed concerns about safety.
- Participants believe that the change could cause anxiety, stress, and sadness among students. There is also worry about the loss of opportunities for Grade 6 students to be leaders in their school.
- Participants agree on the need for long-term solutions to address overcrowding, such as the construction of more schools and the revision of school boundaries.

### **Our Response**

We know that moving Grade 6 students to a new school is an adjustment. Throughout HRCE, many schools seamlessly and safely blend students of various ages and stages. As always, school staff will ensure that all students are appropriately supported in their learning, so they feel welcome in their new environment.

The community around Grosvenor-Wentworth Park Elementary is one of the region's fastest growing areas. HRCE's planners are tracking this growth and monitoring it closely as we wait for the new Fairview-Clayton Park school, announced in 2018, to be built. Once the new school opens, we expect more stability within the Halifax West Family of Schools.

### **The Decision**

After careful consideration, and after hearing from you, we are proceeding with moving Grade 6 (English) students to Clayton Park Junior High, and Grade 6 (French Immersion) students to Fairview Junior High in September 2024.

We know that a strong transition plan is important for students who will be moving to Clayton Park Junior High and Fairview Junior High. Staff at these schools will now begin working together to support students and families with this change.

Once again, thank you for taking part in this consultation, and sharing your thoughts, ideas, and questions. You can look forward to updates on the transition plan from principals in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Gallagher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Gallagher  
Regional Executive Director  
Halifax Regional Centre for Education

