



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 students from Joseph Howe Elementary to Oxford School.

We met with your School Advisory Council and collected feedback from 43 community members through the Google Form about the proposed change. [Click here](#) to view a summary report.

What We Heard

- About half of the people who responded supported the idea of providing Grade 6 students with new opportunities and more space at Oxford School.
- Others expressed concerns about removing students from their familiar environment at Joseph Howe Elementary one year sooner than planned.
- A few people noted concerns about ongoing enrolment pressures in HRCE, specifically on the Peninsula, and what it could mean for future changes.

Our Response

We know that moving Grade 6 students to a new school will be 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 Halifax Regional Municipality continues to grow. HRCE's planners are tracking this growth and monitoring it closely, including that on the Peninsula. Moving Grade 6 students to Oxford School is one of the ways we are responding to this growth to ensure students have comfortable and safe learning spaces this fall.

The Decision

After careful consideration, and after hearing from you, we are proceeding with moving Grade 6 students to Oxford School in September 2024.

We know that a strong transition plan is important for students who will be moving to Oxford. Staff at both schools will now begin working together to support students and families with this change.

Once again, thank you for sharing your perspectives, thoughts and ideas. You can look forward to updates on the transition plan from principals about in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



Steve Gallagher
Regional Executive Director
Halifax Regional Centre for Education
