

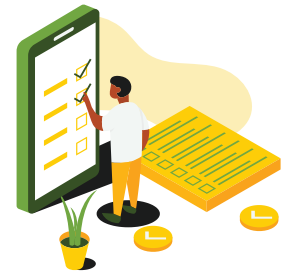
# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## WEST LETHBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT SURVEY

Respondents  
**448**

**SURVEY  
UPDATE**



An Open House was held on April 30th at G.S. Lakie Middle School to invite members of the public to view potential options to realign boundaries for elementary schools in west Lethbridge beginning the 2025-2026 school year. We had a great turnout with approximately 200 people walking through the displays throughout the evening. There were three options presented that may address growth and capacity concerns at Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School and Coalbanks Elementary School while creating a new enrolment catchment for the new K-5 Elementary School in Garry Station. Participants at the Open House and the public were asked to complete a survey to provide feedback on the options. The survey closed on May 16th.

We are pleased that we received **448 responses** to the survey. The data that was received will be carefully reviewed. in the up-coming months.



### Next Steps

The Division will be taking the time in the summer to carefully analyze the survey results and consider additional information that will be needed to make the best decision possible for the realignment of boundaries.

A few of the survey questions asked for additional feedback. This additional feedback is summarized on the following pages and has led the School Boundary Alignment Committee to request additional information prior to any final consideration of new boundaries for West Lethbridge Elementary Schools.

The School Boundary Alignment Committee will meet in September to review the detailed survey results, and additional information gathered. A recommendation along with the full survey results will be provided to the Board of Trustees for the realignment of boundaries in late September or early October with the final approval by the Board of Trustees on or before November 30th, 2024.



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO  
COMPLETE THE SURVEY. WE APPRECIATE YOUR  
PERSPECTIVE AND IDEAS!**

# WEST LETHBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT SURVEY

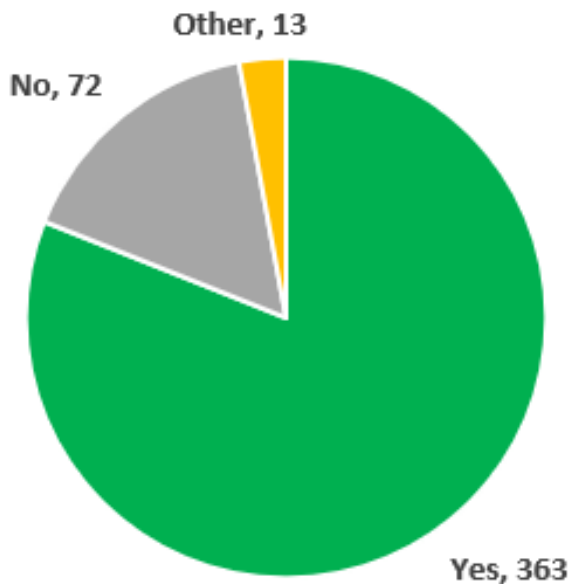
## We Asked:

In the options, some communities have been designated to a different school to create an attendance area for the new school in Garry Station and attempt to balance enrolment amongst other schools.

For example, in all options, Country Meadows, Garry Station and Crossings are designated to the new school. In option 1 and 2, Heritage and Ridgewood previously with Nicholas Sheran, will be designated to Mike Mountain Horse.

Based on these adjustments, do you believe that students in some grades should be allowed the option to remain at their current school until completing grade 5? (e.g. 2024-2025 students in grade 3 or 4 would be in grade 4 and 5 in 2025 and would have the option to attend newly designated school)

## You Answered:



# WEST LETHBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT SURVEY

## We Asked:

Lethbridge School Division has provided three potential options for west Lethbridge elementary school realignment. What questions do you have about these options?



## You Answered:

### Below are the top 10 themes for this question:

1. **Decision Timeline:** When will a final decision be made regarding the school boundaries and program changes?
2. **Student Stay Duration:** Can current students remain at Coalbanks Elementary until Grade 5, or will they have to move schools in 2025?
3. **Consideration of Future Schools:** How does the school board consider future schools to avoid frequent boundary adjustments?
4. **Staffing for Spanish Program:** How will the Spanish bilingual program be staffed if it is moved to another school?
5. **Impact on Copperwood Community:** Why is splitting the Copperwood community being considered, and how will it impact the residents and their children's education?
6. **Transportation and Access:** Will transportation be provided for students from the south or north side if there is interest in the Spanish program?
7. **Capacity and Infrastructure:** Why doesn't the school board build larger schools to accommodate future growth instead of adding portables?
8. **Middle School Zoning Impact:** How will changes to elementary school boundaries affect middle school zoning and student transitions?
9. **Teacher and Program Support:** How are the current Spanish program teachers being consulted in this decision, and what do they think is best for the program's growth and stability?
10. **Options and Alternatives:** Why are the current options the only ones being considered, and why isn't limiting Coalbanks enrollment to current boundaries or adding a Spanish program to another school an option?

# WEST LETHBRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT SURVEY

## We Asked:

Are there any comments you would like to provide related to the options presented?

## You Answered:

### Below are the top 10 themes for this question:

#### **Opposition to Splitting Copperwood:**

Many comments express strong opposition to splitting the Copperwood community and sending students to different schools. Families chose to live in Copperwood specifically for its proximity to Coalbanks Elementary, and they want their children to continue attending their community school.

#### **Support for Relocating the Spanish Program:**

There is significant support for moving the Spanish program to another school, as it is seen as a specialty program that can be relocated without disrupting the local community. Many believe this would alleviate overcrowding at Coalbanks and allow all Copperwood residents to attend their community school.

#### **Minimizing Disruption:**

A recurring theme is the desire to minimize disruption for current students. Comments suggest that any changes should strive to keep students in their existing schools to avoid upheaval and stress for families.

#### **Community Integrity and Cohesion:**

Maintaining community integrity is important to many commenters. They emphasize the value of keeping neighborhood children together in the same school to foster a sense of community and stability.

#### **Long-term Planning and Boundary Consistency:**

Comments highlight the need for a solution that will provide long-term stability and minimize the need for future boundary changes. Some believe that moving the Spanish program now will prevent overcrowding and boundary redraws in the near future.

#### **Parental and Student Preferences:**

There are calls to consider the preferences of Spanish program families regarding relocation. Some comments suggest directly asking these families for their input to ensure their needs and desires are considered in the decision-making process.

#### **School Capacity and Utilization:**

Concerns about school capacity and effective utilization are prominent. Commenters argue that Coalbanks is over capacity and that moving the Spanish program to a school with more space, like Nicholas Sheran, would make better use of available resources.

#### **Impact on Transportation and Proximity:**

Proximity to school and the ability for children to walk to school are significant factors for many families. Comments indicate that moving children to a farther school would create transportation challenges and reduce the convenience of having a neighborhood school.

#### **Equity and Fairness:**

There is a sense of unfairness in prioritizing a specialty program over community children. Many believe that community residents should have priority access to their local school, and specialty programs should be relocated if there are capacity issues.

#### **Concerns about Future Growth:**

Comments reflect worries about the future growth of Copperwood and surrounding areas. There is concern that current plans may not adequately address the anticipated increase in population and school enrollment, leading to further capacity issues down the line.