

Summary Elementary School Catchment Boundary Review

The Vancouver School Board proposes to change some elementary school catchment area boundaries, the geographic areas that determine how students are assigned to each school. The school district determines these catchment areas so that the student population is balanced with the student capacity of each school.

The proposed changes would come into effect in September 2019. Students currently enrolled at any of the impacted schools are not affected.

Parents and community members are encouraged to attend one of the following meetings to learn more about the proposed changes to elementary school catchment boundaries and to visit [our website](#) for more detailed information. Email your questions or comments to engageplanning@vsb.bc.ca.

Sir Charles Tupper Secondary School

419 E 24th Ave Library on Main Level	May 10, 2018	4:00pm to 6:30pm
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Kitsilano Secondary School

2706 Trafalgar St Entrance Lobby Area	May 15, 2018	4:00pm to 6:30pm
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King George Secondary School

1755 Barclay St above Joe Fortes Library	May 22, 2018	4:00pm to 6:30pm
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Why are the Elementary schools in these areas under review?

These schools are being considered for boundary adjustments because they cannot currently accommodate all of their kindergarten applicants, so the district would like to adjust boundaries to match the available school capacity.

Why is there a review of the School Catchment Area Boundaries?

While there are capacity pressures in some areas of the district, we have surplus capacity in other areas.

- The catchment boundary review is an opportunity to use this available surplus capacity.
- It is difficult to receive capital funding if there is surplus capacity and catchment area boundaries are not adjusted to match the school capacity.

A catchment boundary change is one way to deal with enrolment pressure. If a school is experiencing enrolment pressure, the following tools will be reviewed, and if possible, utilized first before applying catchment changes:

- Can more capacity be created through interior renovations?
- If more capacity is needed temporarily, can it be created through the use of portables?
- Are there district programs in the school that could be accommodated at other schools with less enrolment pressure?
- Is any classroom space rented or leased to non-school users?
- Is there capital work planned that will increase the capacity?

What does “pressure” mean regarding a catchment review?

As a result of details in the District’s Long Range Facilities Plan, including the growth pressures and new residential land developments in the City of Vancouver, steps need to be taken to review impacted school catchment areas.

There are greater numbers of students registering for elementary schools along the Cambie corridor, in Mt. Pleasant, in Kitsilano, and in the downtown core as new medium and high-density housing is constructed. The City of Vancouver is increasing efforts to make higher density housing more family friendly and some young families do look favourably at medium or high density living for lifestyle and affordability reasons.

Individual schools are facing enrollment requests, and this has resulted in:

- Schools using temporary portables
- Schools accommodating students in rooms that were not originally designed for regular classroom instruction
- Schools that are over-crowded compared with provincial Ministry of Education standards.

The school board limits the number of students accepted through the cross-boundary application process to ensure that capacity is available for students who reside in the catchment (neighbourhood) where they live. If there is not enough capacity for students living within the immediate catchment, the school catchment area boundaries should be adjusted to redistribute student enrolment.

What basis in law or policy governs these catchment area boundaries?

Under the School Act, the Board of School Trustees has the duty, after considering the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, to assign students to various schools in the school district and the power to divide the district into attendance areas. The attendance areas are defined by the Board and are subject to periodic review.

Guiding principles approved by VSB that serve as the foundation for the development and review of school catchment boundaries include:

- balance the catchment student population with the capacity of a given school;
- regular enrolling students should attend their “home” in-catchment school. Cross boundary enrollment should be administered according to the [School Act](#) and the provisions contained within the [School Attendance Area Policy](#) and [Student Admission and School Choice Policy](#); and
- when school catchment boundaries are revised, existing students have the option to continue attendance at their current school (“grand-parent” provision).

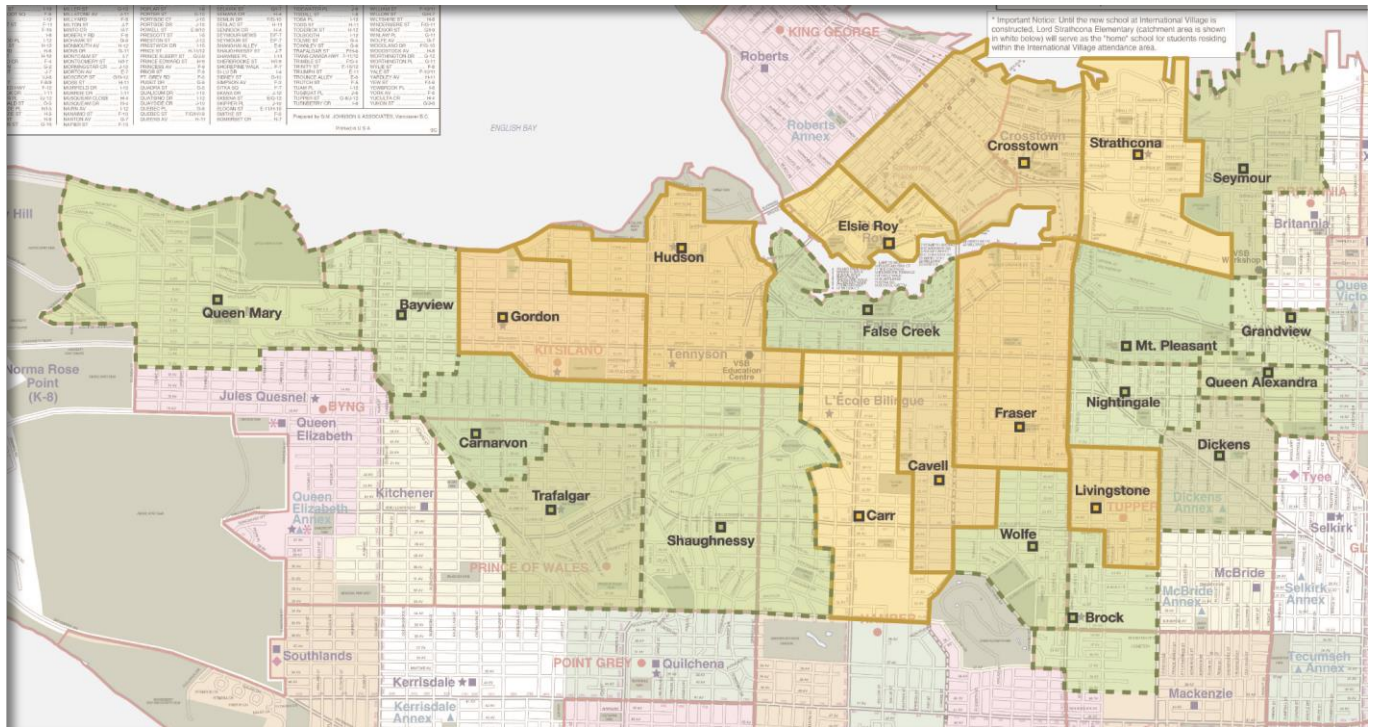
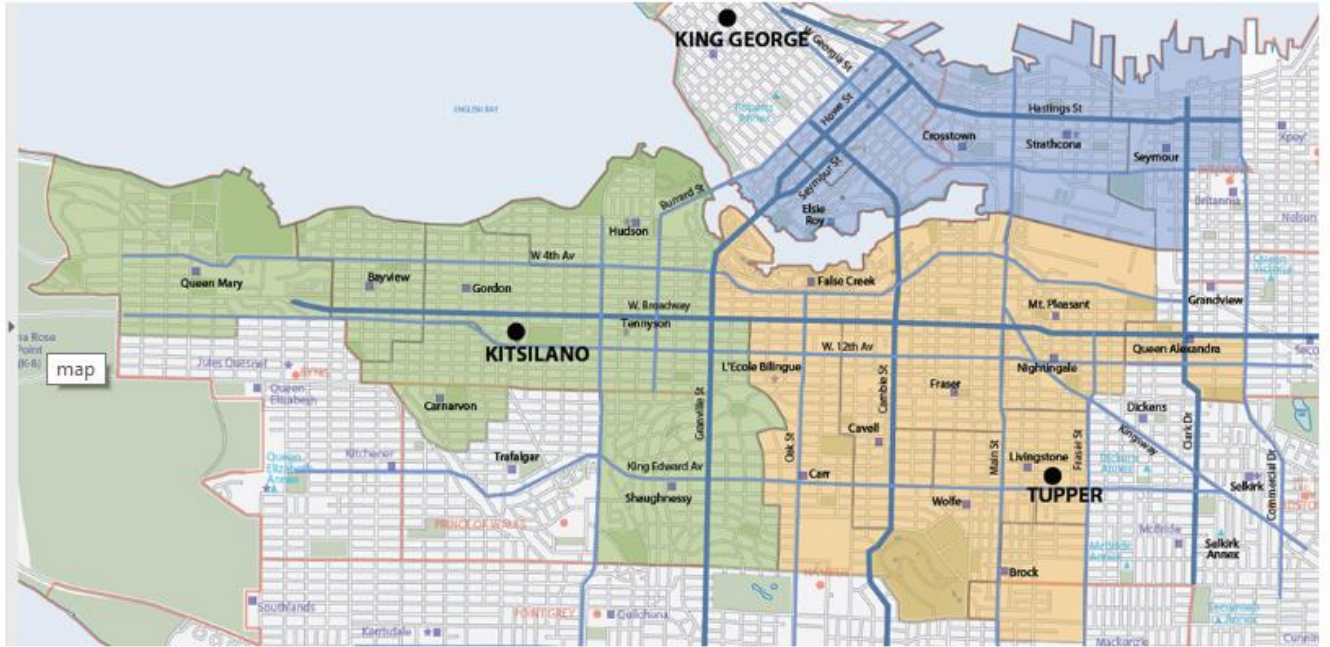
What criteria does the District use to change the catchment areas?

In accordance with the guiding principles, consideration to specific criteria will be given in the revision of catchment boundaries. These criteria include, and are not limited to:

1. Walking distance to/from school
2. Proximity of schools to one another
3. Public transit and active transportation routes
4. Family of schools transition, i.e. groups of elementary schools feed to secondary schools
5. Major roads
6. Physical terrain, such as major hills, waterways, parkland pathways

What areas are potentially impacted?

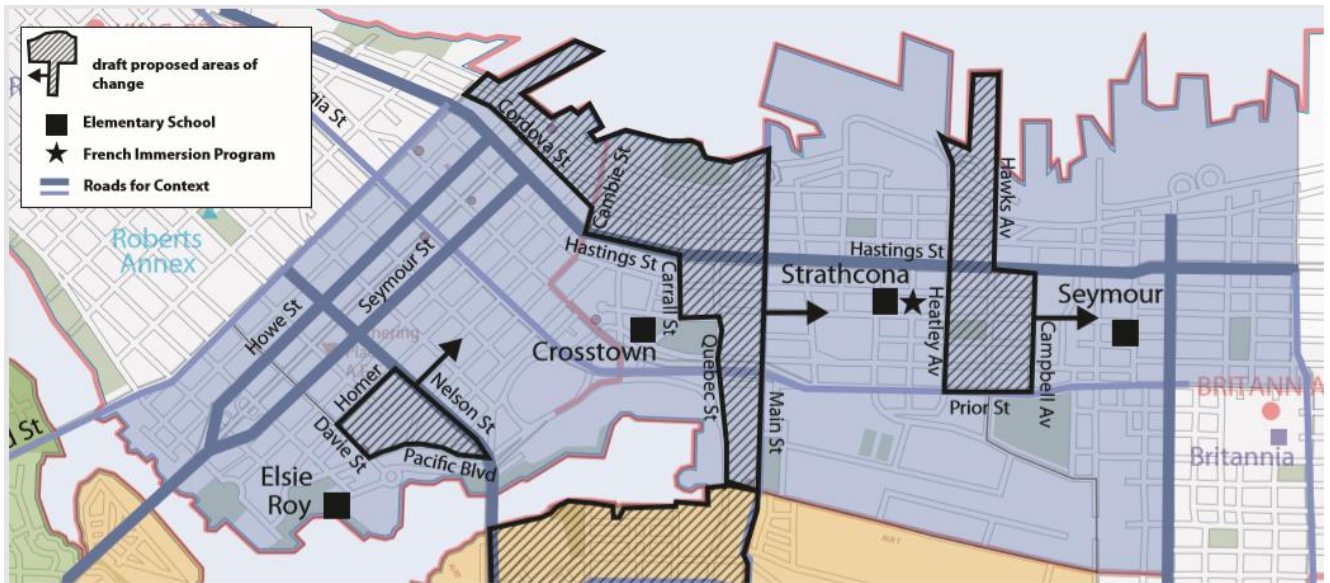
There are three zones under consideration are shown in the accompanying map. A map of all of the potentially affected catchments are also shown.



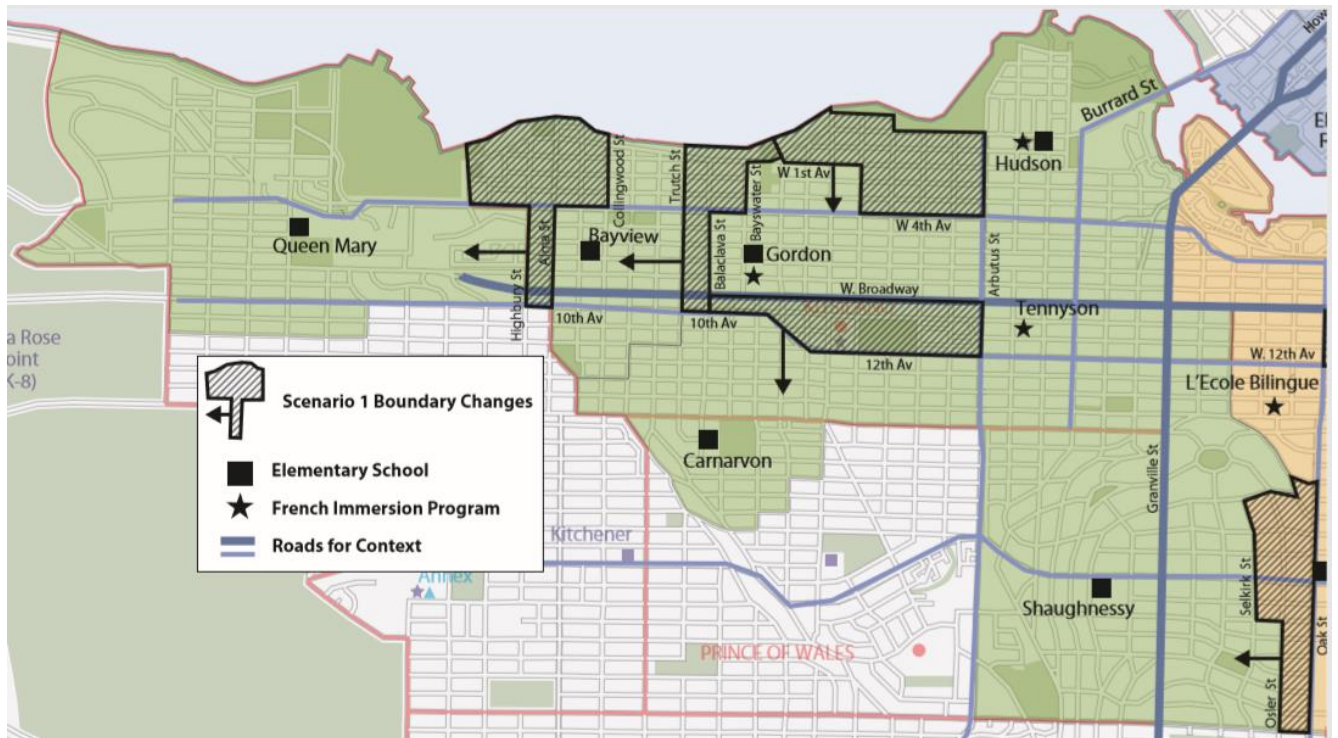
The detail of the affected schools for each of the three zones (Downtown, Kitsilano, Mt Pleasant) are shown in each of the maps below. The hatched or shaded area shows the portion of one catchment zone that would move to the adjoining catchment, indicated with an arrow.

In the example of Elsie Roy, the future newly enrolled students that live in the hatched area would enroll at Crosstown.

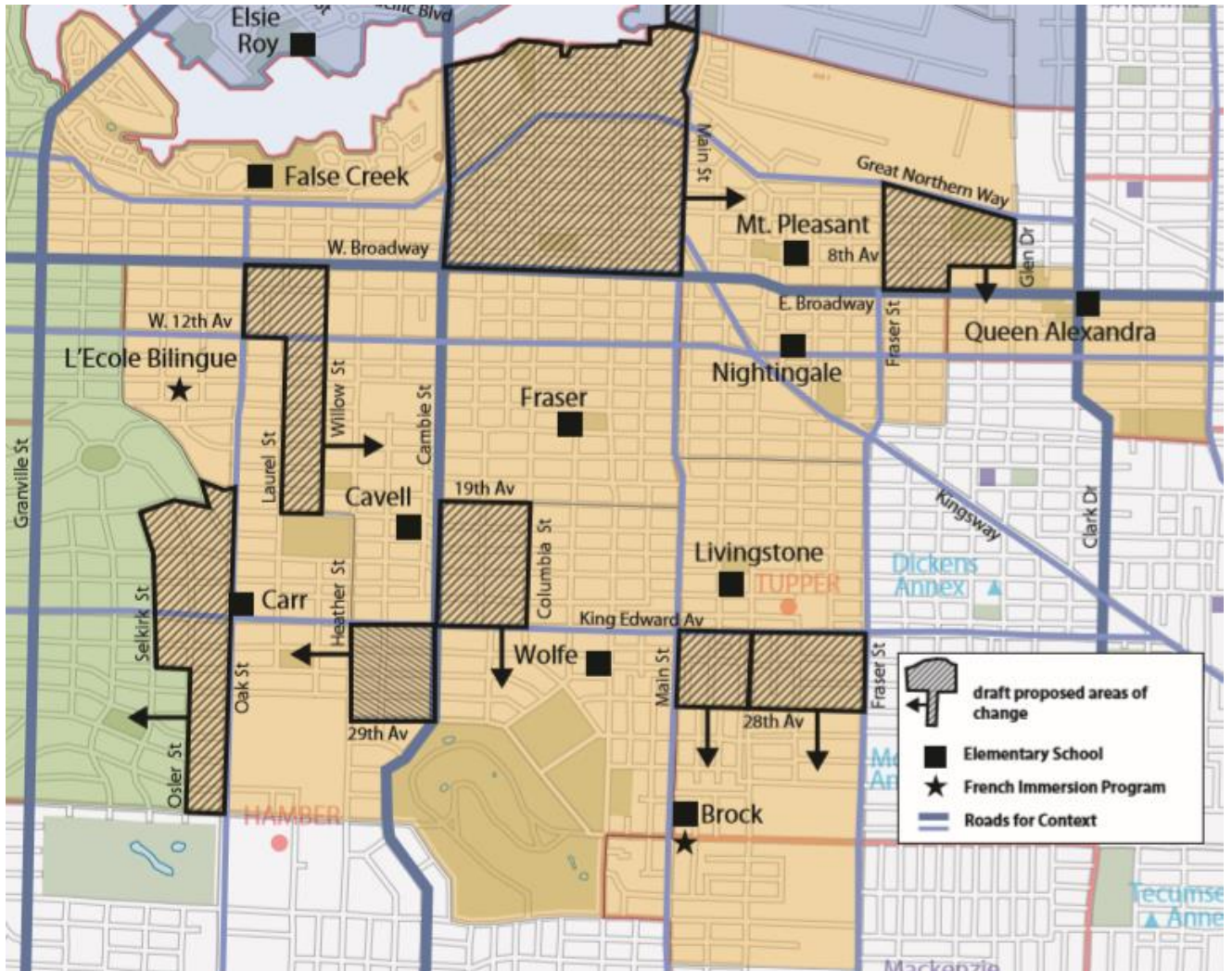
Downtown Zone:



Kitsilano Zone:

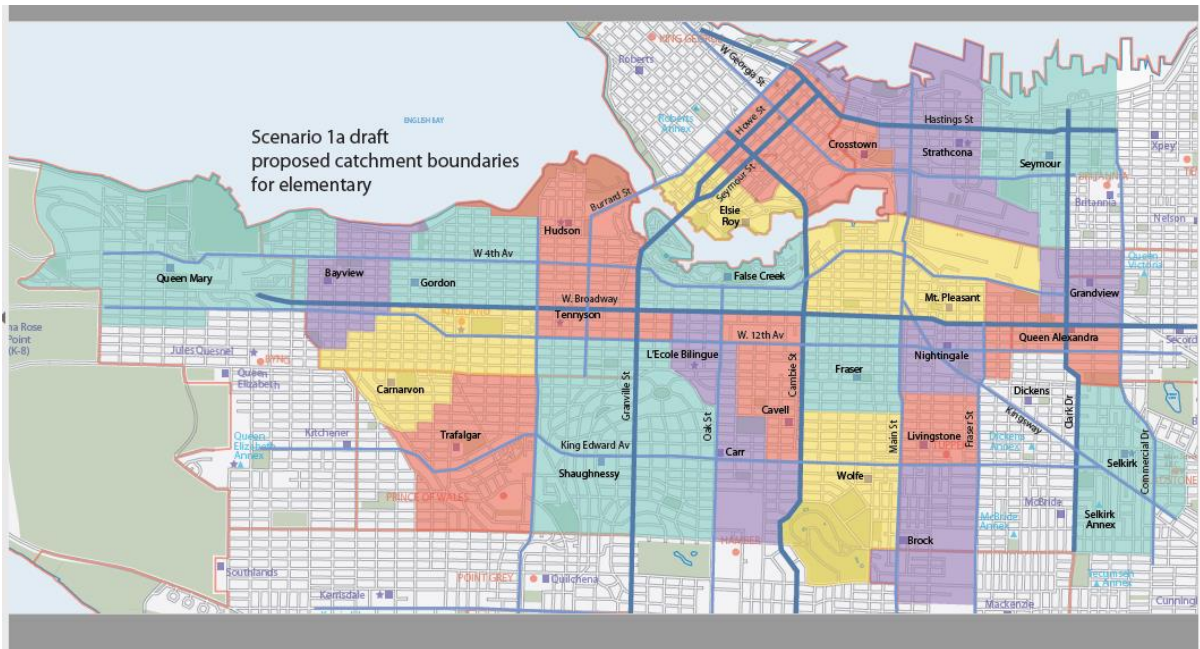


Mt. Pleasant Zone:



What are the proposed new catchment areas across the 3 zones?

The 3 zones together will have new boundaries shown in the following Map.



When do the changes take effect if they are approved?

Any catchment changes made would take place in September of 2019. Current students enrolled at any of the impacted schools would not be affected.

What happens to students whose catchment school has changed as a result of changes made to school boundaries?

When a continuing student becomes out-of-catchment due to boundary change, they would be automatically re-enrolled.

1. Students who are already attending a school have continuing status. These students are automatically re-enrolled for the next school year.
2. Students who wish to attend their new catchment school will be provided with that option, and will need to follow the district prescribed application process.

What is the enrollment priority for kindergarten siblings?

Sibling Priority

1. Kindergarten-aged siblings who are out-of-catchment as a result of boundary adjustments are considered to be out-of-catchment applicants. They will need to apply through the cross-boundary application process and may be accepted only after all catchment applicants have been accommodated.
2. Sibling cross-boundary applicants have top priority for non-catchment students but all non-catchment students are lower priority than catchment students
3. For catchment students - sibling priority only applies for K's who have applied within the priority application window – prior to Jan 31
4. Sibling priority does not apply for Gr 1-12 catchment applicants or K applicants after Jan 31

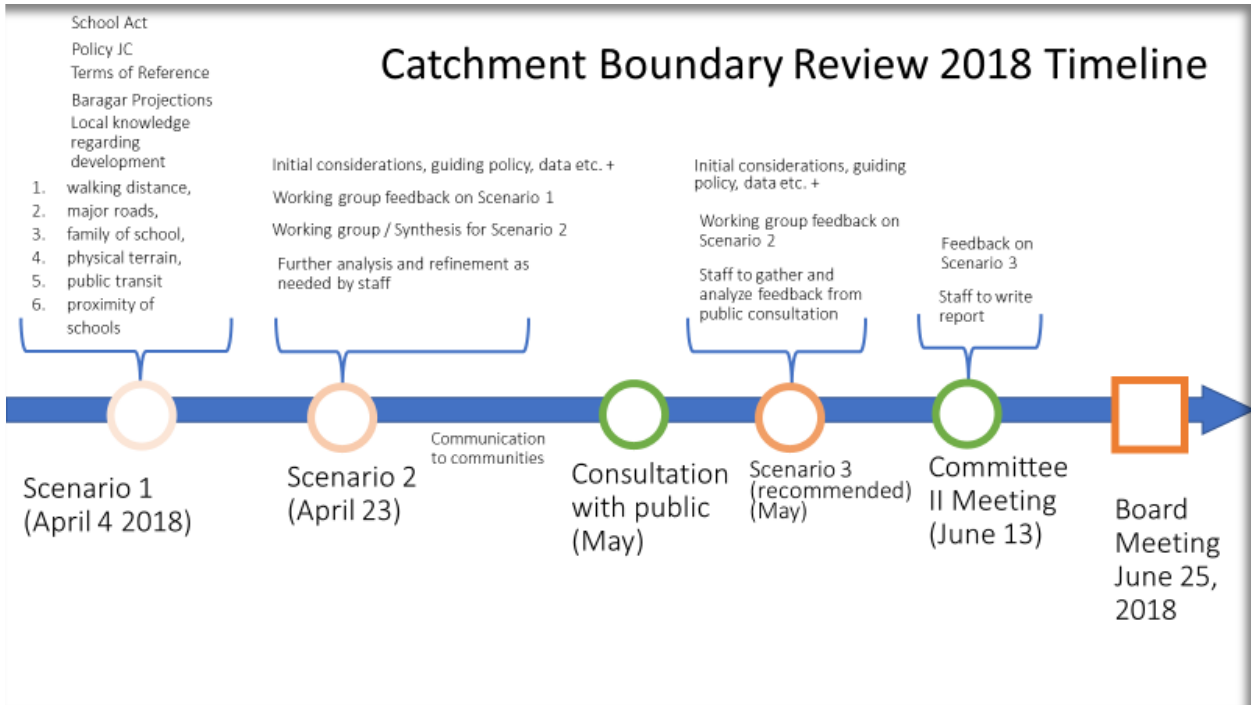
The big message for people to understand is that these schools are being considered for boundary adjustments because they can't currently accommodate all of their K applicants, so it would not make sense to adjust boundaries and then start accepting cross boundary applicants.

What's the timing or schedule for the review?

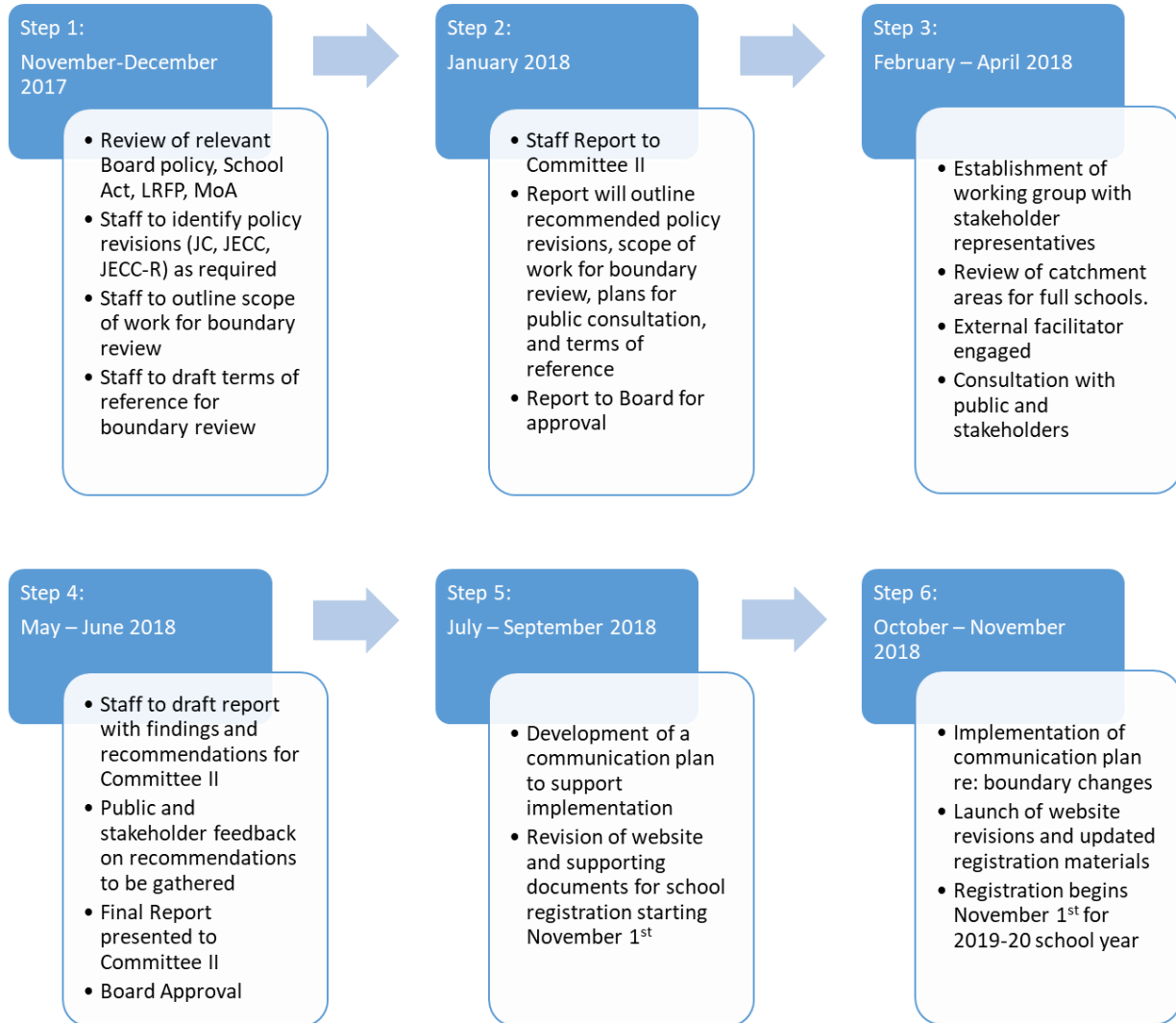
The catchment review process began in January 2018 and produced a first round scenario in April 2018. A working group including a variety of stakeholders met four times in spring of 2018 to discuss the boundary change process and provided feedback from their constituents. The following lists the stakeholders engaged through the working group.

Shannon Burton – VEPVPA	Jim Meschino – VSB Facilities	Adrian Keough - Director of Instruction (Educational Programs)
Annerieke van Hoek – StudioHub	Anne Montgomery – DPAC	
Sarah Bjornson – StudioHub	Allison Jamber – VESTA	John Dawson – District Principal (School Services)
Hayden O'Connor – VSB Planning	Anne Lee – VSB Planning	Aaron Davis – Director of Instruction
Jim deHoop – VSB Planning	Rory Brown – VSTA	
	Kelly Egilsson – VASSA	

A summary of the timelines going forward are shown below. The final report and recommendations are expected to be produced for Committee II on June 13, 2018 with the Board of Trustees considering a final determination on June 25, 2018. Changes would be implemented prior to registration for September 2019 enrollments. Current students would not be impacted.



The full timeline for the review is shown in the following charts with six major steps. We are at Step 4 now:



Who has reviewed the proposed boundaries and what process was followed?

The process steps that have been undertaken are:

- Public Committee and Board of Trustees has accepted Terms of Reference to initiate the review based on an approved planning process / timeline
- A Working Group conducts the detailed work. It has been formalized, facilitator appointed, relevant documents provided including Terms of Reference and School Information Profiles reviewed.

- The Working Group has held regular meetings and options developed with the current preferred option prepared and documented for Steering Committee (SMT) review and is now before the public for information inputs.
- Three meetings have been held at the public Facilities and Planning Committee, to 1) present process and objectives for the School Catchment Review, 2) present draft scenarios (receive feedback); and 3) present a preferred catchment revision scenario (receive further feedback).
- A final report and recommendations is scheduled to be submitted for June 13, 2018.
- School Board Meeting for final consideration is scheduled on June 25, 2018.

What is the Governance Body involved in the review?

The VSB Senior Management Team (SMT) is the Project Steering Committee to receive the findings and recommendations of the Working Group, consider options for further consultation, and endorse final recommendations for Committee II.

The main work of the catchment review has been undertaken by a Working Group comprised of each of the following district representatives:

- Secretary – Treasurer’s office
- Superintendent’s office
- Facilities Planning (2)
- DPAC – District Parents Advisory Committee
- VASSA – Vancouver Association of Secondary School Administrators
- VEPVPA – Vancouver Elementary Principal and Vice Principal Administrators
- VTF (2) – Vancouver Teachers Federation
- District Student representative

The Working Group has reported findings and recommendations to a Steering Committee made up of the district’s Senior Management Team. Both the Steering Committee and the Working Group has been assisted by facilitators, to ensure that adequate information and communications are made available to stakeholders during the review.

What district or specialized programs are offered at these schools?

The district programs in areas where catchment review of elementary schools is underway include:

Early French Immersion Schools

- Henry Hudson (K-7)
- Lord Tennyson (K-7) French Immersion ONLY
- Quilchena (K-7)
- Strathcona (K-7)
- Trafalgar (K-7)

Intensive French Grade 6 and 7

General Brock Elementary

Late French Immersion: Gr 6-7

General Gordon Elementary

Montessori

Tyee Elementary

Gifted Challenge Summer program

Van Horne Elementary

Is there anything else that will help to understand this issue?

It is important to summarize that the School Act has requirements around enrolment priority located [here](#).

What other resources are there to understand the issues?

Other Resource links that provide details about the School district policies for catchment areas can be found at <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/policy-manual> with the main policies shown below:

- JC: School Attendance Areas (Boundaries)
- JECC-R: Student Admission and School Choice - Regulation
- JECC: Student Admission and School Choice