



**Waterloo Region
District School Board**

Education Centre

51 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener ON N2C 2R5

phone: 519 570 0003 fax: 519 570 2172

www.wrdsb.ca

Very important boundary change information: Your response is required.

February 7, 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian of «First_Name» «Last_Name»:

Please note that on January 14, 2013, the Waterloo Region District School Board voted to change the public elementary school boundaries in your area from Highland Public School to Tait Street Public School, **effective this September 2013**.

Based on your home address of «Address», «City», we have determined that you reside in “Affected Area A.” There is a map attached to this letter indicating the area affected by this change. There are a number of parts to this boundary change:

- Effective September 2013, Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 students residing in “Affected Area A” will be in the Tait Street Public School boundary. Tait Street Public School is located at 184 Tait Street, Cambridge
- Students residing in “Affected Area A” who are attending Highland Public School on June 27, 2013 are given the option to enrol at either Highland Public School (SK-5) or Tait Street Public School (SK-6) during the 2013/14 school year
 - Transportation will be provided for the 2013/14 school year to either Highland Public School or Tait Street Public School based on the eligibility criteria set out in *Board Policy 4009 – Student Transportation*
- Grade 4 and Grade 5 students residing in “Affected Area A” who are attending Highland Public School on June 27, 2013 are given the option to enrol at either Tait Street Public School or St. Andrew’s Public School for Grade 6 during the 2013/14 or 2014/15 school year
 - Transportation will be provided for these students to either Tait Street Public School or St. Andrew’s Public School based on the eligibility criteria set out in *Board Policy 4009 – Student Transportation*
- Effective September 2014 all regular track students in “Affected Area A” will be required to attend Tait Street Public School for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6
- Tait Street Public School will offer a Partial French Immersion program beginning with Grade 1 in the 2013/14 school year. Any current SK students interested in enrolling in Grade 1 Partial French Immersion for 2013/14 must register ASAP as space is limited. Please note, any SK student residing in “Affected Area A” will be considered a Tait Street Public School home school

Affected Area A

student for the purposes of Grade 1 Partial French Immersion registration starting in 2013/14. For more information visit: french.wrdsb.ca

- Tait Street Public School will offer the Full Day Kindergarten program beginning in September 2014. For the 2013/14 school year, there will be an all-day, alternate day program.
- An addition of approximately 6 classrooms has been approved for Tait Street Public School. This addition will be completed prior to September 2014
- Any student enrolled in Partial French Immersion who is attending Highland Public School on June 27, 2013 is given the option to remain at Highland Public School as long as the student remains in a Partial French Immersion class. Siblings of Partial French Immersion students will also be eligible to stay
 - Transportation will be provided for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 school years only and is subject to the eligibility criteria set out in *Board Policy 4009 – Student Transportation*

Please note that the options as described in this letter will only apply to the student's address in "Affected Area A" on June 27, 2013. If a student moves within or outside of the affected area, the options no longer apply. To determine transportation eligibility, please contact Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) at 519-650-4934 or log onto: www.stswr.ca

There will be no other exceptions granted at this time. To be considered for an exception at a later date, please fill out an out of boundary request form available at your home school. All out of boundary requests will be dealt with through the Superintendent of Education in mid-September.

We are requesting that you fill out, sign and return the attached form by **no later than February 28, 2013**. The information you provide on this form is extremely important to our staffing process that occurs in March. For this reason, please carefully consider the choice you indicate on this form as to the school your student(s) will attend next year as this will be your only opportunity to do so.

We appreciate that this will be a change for your family. Plans will be made to give both you and your children opportunities to visit Tait Street Public School to meet staff and members of the school community. It is our hope that these opportunities will help everyone to make this transition a smooth one.

If you have any questions about the boundaries, please feel free to contact Ms. Lauren Manske, Senior Planner in the Board's Planning Department at 519-570-0003 ext. 4596. For school-specific questions, please contact Ms. Wendy Bowker at Highland P.S. (519-621-9981), or Ms. Marcia Lubert at Tait Street P.S. (519-621-7621).

Sincerely,



Lauren Manske
Senior Planner, Planning Department
519-570-0003 ext. 4596
Lauren_Manske@wrdsb.on.ca

Please fill out, sign and return to the Highland P.S. office **no later than February 28, 2013**

RE: SEPTEMBER 2013 HIGHLAND P.S./TAIT STREET P.S. BOUNDARY CHANGE

Address: «Address», «City»

I am the parent/guardian of:

Name: «First_Name» who will be in Grade «Grade_1314» this Sept. 2013
«Last_Name»

For the 2013/14 school year, «First_Name» will attend: Highland P.S. ____ Tait Street P.S. ____

Reminder: Please carefully consider the choice you indicate on this form as to the school your student will attend next year as this decision is final.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the attached letter and understand that based on my above noted address, «First_Name» will be required to attend «M_201415_school_1» effective September 2014.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

«Teacher_Name», Class «Class_Room_»

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I live in the affected area. I have one child currently in Gr. 1 at Highland P.S. (not in Partial French Immersion) and another that will be entering JK in September 2013. Can my JK student attend Highland P.S. with their sibling for the 2013/14 school year instead of enrolling at Tait Street P.S.?

A: No. If you want to keep your children together, they will both have to attend Tait Street P.S.

Q: I live in the affected area moving to Tait Street P.S., will I have to go into the school to register my child?

A: No. All student records will be transferred automatically from Highland P.S. to Tait Street P.S. Please make sure to fill out the attached form to indicate which school your child will be attending in 2013/14 so that their records can be dealt with accordingly. If you are registering a student for Kindergarten for September 2013, you will have to do so at Tait Street P.S.

Q: Why are there no exceptions given at this time?

A: Boards are required to meet primary class size caps as set out by the Ministry of Education. Staffing allocations for schools are based on class organizations that have to stay within the primary class size caps. Out of boundary requests may only be accommodated if class organizations can stay within this cap without having to add additional teaching staff to the school. Often this cannot be confirmed until school starts in September (families often move over the summer).

Q: I just bought my house so that I could be in the Highland P.S. boundary, now the Board has decided to change the boundary for my area, can't I stay at Highland P.S.?

A: Sorry, no. The rules are the same for everyone.

Q: My child has special needs and has great supports at my current school. Will they receive these same supports at their new school?

A: Special Education supports (including resource teachers, child and youth workers and educational assistants) are determined by the overall needs of a school's student population. A student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) identifies what modifications and/or accommodations are needed to support that student. If a student moves to another school anywhere in the Province, their Ontario Student Record (OSR) which includes their IEP, moves with them. It is the IEP that assists schools in determining how best to support that child.

Q: I would like my child to continue to attend Highland P.S. in the 2013/14 and they are currently eligible to ride a bus to Highland P.S. Will they still be eligible?

A: Board Policy 4009 – Student Transportation sets out the eligibility criteria for student transportation. There are different distances for students in JK and SK than for Grades 1-8. Please consult with Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) at 519-650-4934 or log onto: www.stswr.ca to determine if you will be eligible based on your child's grade in 2013/14.

Boundary Change - September 2013

Bewteen Highland Public School and Tait Street Public School

