



May 2, 2024

Families,

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on Halifax Regional Centre for Education's (HRCE) plan to move Grades 7 and 8 from West Bedford School to West Bedford High.

We met with your School Advisory Council and collected 408 thoughts in ThoughtExchange about the change. [Click here](#) to view the ThoughtExchange report.

What We Heard

- Concerns about mixing younger students with older high school students.
- Questions about the potential for increased noise and disruption and the use of shared spaces.
- Suggestions of a boundary review or the construction of a new school as alternative solutions.
- Expressions of support for the change, noting the need to address overcrowding and make better use of available space.

Our Response

Throughout HRCE, many schools seamlessly and safely blend students of various ages and stages. As you know, Grades 7 and 8 students are already occupying spaces in the high school side of the building on the third floor. This adjustment will help staff better balance the use of shared spaces in the building and the capacity of both schools.

West Bedford is one of the fastest growing communities in our region. HRCE's planners are tracking this growth and monitoring it closely. We have identified Bedford as an area needing additional schools. Given the continued growth in the area, a boundary review may be possible in the future.

We know that a strong transition plan is important for students who will be shifting to West Bedford High. Staff at both schools will now begin working together to support students and families with this change. As always, staff will ensure that all students are appropriately supported in their learning, and feel welcome in their new environment.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts, ideas and questions. You can look forward to transition plan updates from West Bedford principals in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Steve Gallagher
Regional Executive Director
Halifax Regional Centre for Education
