

Summary of Feedback | Joseph Howe Elementary

Introduction

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) is considering moving the Grade 6 students from Joseph Howe Elementary School (JHES) to Oxford School (OS) starting in September 2024, due to growth pressures at JHES. The HRCE asked families for feedback through an online survey. This document summarizes the common themes in the feedback based on the responses from 43 people.

Themes

The feedback is divided between those who support the idea of moving Grade 6 to OS and those who oppose it.

- The main reasons for supporting the idea are:
 - It will benefit the Grade 6 students by giving them more space, preparation, and opportunities at OS.
 - It will alleviate the overcrowding and the quality of education issues at JHES.
 - It will not affect the continuity or the community of the students, as they will still be with their peers and close to their neighbourhood.
- The main reasons for opposing the idea are:
 - It will disrupt the Grade 6 students by removing them from their familiar environment, staff, and activities at JHES.
 - It will cause extra stress, inconvenience, and safety concerns for the parents and the students, especially for those who have multiple children at different schools or who rely on public transportation.
 - It will not solve the long-term problem of population growth and infrastructure needs on the Peninsula, and it may create more issues at OS, which is also close to its capacity.
- Some of the suggestions or questions from the feedback are:
 - Provide school bus service for the Grade 6 students who will move to OS.
 - Allow parents to choose whether to send their Grade 6 children to OS or not.
 - Freeze the applications to JHES or move the Pre-Primary program out of the school building.
 - Provide more information about the capacity and the quality of education at OS.

- Plan for new buildings and partnerships with developers to accommodate the future growth of the Peninsula.
- Consider the impact of the move on the teachers and staff at both schools.