

Ta'talu Elementary Consultation FAQ

Process

What is the process to go from gathering feedback to the board decision?

The feedback window closes on October 27, 2023. A report will then be written and presented to the Board at the December 13th Public Board meeting.

The area north of 22nd Avenue is denser than the stepped area in Option B. Were homes north of 22nd Avenue considered in the drafting of the options?

The area north of 22nd Avenue was not considered because it is in very close proximity to Edgewood Elementary School.

Is the size and scale of new schools based on enrolment projections or current enrolment numbers?

Enrolment projections.

How does the district and the city work together to ensure zoning changes and building permits aren't approved before schools are built?

The City of Surrey has jurisdiction on the approval of zoning changes and building permits, and invites input from the School District. However, the City makes the final decision. The timing of when schools are built is determined by the Provincial Government.

Will more options be considered?

We have presented two options through the consultations. As we go through the consultation process we will consider additional information that comes forward.

When will a final decision be made? Will there be an appeal process?

The report will go to the Board at the December 13th public board meeting. There is no appeal process in regards to the setting of school catchment boundaries.

Boundaries

Do students on the north side of 24th Avenue attend Edgewood or Pacific Heights?

Students north of 24th Avenue are either attending Pacific Heights or Sunnyside. Please see the [School Boundaries Map](#) online for the exact boundary lines.

Enrolment

Are enrolment projections based on current enrolment or “predicted” numbers based on anticipated density in the proposed Ta’talu catchment?

Enrolment projections are based on anticipated growth in the Ta’talu catchment.

How many students at Edgewood have moved once already from Sunnyside or Pacific Heights?

270 students moved to Edgewood from Sunnyside and Pacific Heights when Edgewood opened.

How many of those students are proposed to move again to Ta’talu in Option A and B?

In Option A, a total of 22 students (including siblings) would be proposed to move again if Option A is selected. Option A is the original boundary proposed in 2019 for Ta’talu Elementary, along 20th Avenue; students living south of 20th Avenue were expected to move when Ta’talu Elementary opened.

In Option B, a total of 34 students (including siblings) would be proposed to move again if Option B is selected. This figure includes the 22 students who are also impacted in Option A.

Were the new early build stage townhomes on the south side of 24th Avenue factored into the projections?

Yes.

Out-of-Catchment Students

Why doesn’t the district send out-of-catchment students to their in-catchment school?

There are many reasons why a student may be out-of-catchment. For example, a student may be in-catchment but then move. This process is about having students living in the Ta’talu catchment attend their new school.

In the recent boundary change, why were students who live north of 24th Avenue and students east of Highway 15 allowed to stay at Edgewood, but students in the stepped area of Option B are not allowed to stay?

No decision has been made at this time. We are consulting on options.

Has the district considered moving the students north of 24th Avenue who were grandfathered into Edgewood to Pacific Heights instead?

No. We are not altering the catchment area of Pacific Heights during this process.

Future

With further development slated east of the Edgewood catchment, is the district considering building another elementary school there to ensure Edgewood and Ta'talu don't become more overcrowded?

Yes. The district is looking at the need for additional space east of the Edgewood catchment.

Why aren't new elementary schools large enough to accommodate the current student population and outpace development to prevent overcrowding?

The Ministry of Education and Child Care determines and approved the size of any new school construction. The District is working with the Ministry to try to have larger schools approved.

What's being done now to prevent overcrowding in the future and ensure there are enough student spaces as the population continues to increase?

The district is growing significantly and rapidly, and so is looking at options, including new school sites to ensure space for students as we continue to grow.

How accurate are the projections if new schools and additions aren't enough to accommodate density?

Projections are based upon factors such as current population in a given area, birth rates, migration rates, retention rates, new construction and residence yields. This work is done by a professional company and includes data from Statistics Canada, as well as data from the school district, and City of Surrey. Projections are fairly accurate; however it is difficult to predict the pace of development as this is dependent upon approvals for the City, changes in density

allowance, and the pace of construction. Regardless of projections or growth in an area, new schools are approved and funded by the Provincial Government.

Exemptions

Will any students in the new Ta'talu catchment be grandfathered at Edgewood?

When contemplating both options shared by the district, the only students considered for potential grandfathering at Edgewood are students with significant learning needs with Ministry designations.

Could the district offer a phased transition to Ta'talu, rather than an immediate move, for Edgewood students?

No. The district will be looking to transition students to Ta'talu upon completion.

Would grandfathering students at Edgewood create disproportionate student populations, with Ta'talu under capacity and Edgewood over capacity?

Yes. The plan is to ensure that we are providing space relief at Edgewood, and that Ta'talu opens as close to capacity as is feasible.

If grandfathering is allowed for some students, will their younger siblings be grandfathered too?

Wherever possible, the district seeks to keep siblings in the same neighbourhood school.

Secondary School

Will Grade 7 Ta'talu students in 2024-25 go to Earl Marriott Secondary or Grandview Heights Secondary?

Grade 7 Ta'talu students will transition to Earl Marriott Secondary.

Will Edgewood Elementary eventually become a feeder school for Earl Marriott Secondary?

This is not something that is currently being discussed.

What is the plan for secondary school space, given that Grandview Heights Secondary is already over capacity? Is there another secondary school set to be built in the area?

The district is growing significantly and rapidly, and so is looking at options, including new school sites to ensure space for students as we continue to grow.

What is the current enrolment and capacity at Earl Marriott? What is the projected enrolment five years from now?

Earl Marriot has operating capacity of 1,500 with current enrolment of 1,401 students. In five years, the enrolment projection is 1,592.

Why not have Douglas students north of 16th Avenue attend Earl Marriott so Ta'talu students could attend Grandview Heights?

This consultation process is contemplating Edgewood and Ta'talu catchment areas.

Transportation

Would the district work with TransLink to ensure there are adequate bus routes for Ta'talu students attending Earl Marriot Secondary?

The school district shares information with TransLink on current and future catchment boundaries. The decision to change or add bus routes is the responsibility of TransLink.

Will a sidewalk be built along 16th Avenue between Highway 99 and 168th Street?

The school district shares information with the City on current and future catchment boundaries. The decision to build new sidewalks, as well as add stoplights, road crossings and other road infrastructure is the responsibility of the City.

Child care

Will there be before and after school care onsite at Ta'talu? If so, what is the timeline for registration?

We anticipate that before and after school care will be available at Ta'talu.

If families are forced to move to Ta'talu, will they be guaranteed a spot with before and after school care?

Prioritizing families would be the decision of the childcare provider.