

2026-27 School Registration & Out-of-Catchment Process



The district is preparing for the 2026–27 school year and recently announced new catchment boundaries. We know that catchment changes can bring questions for families, especially about staying at a current school or requesting another school.

This guide outlines what you need to know about registering your child for next year. Our goal is to make the process clear, fair, and supportive for all families.

1. Catchment School

- 1.1. Every home address has a designated catchment school.
- 1.2. New students must register at their catchment school.
- 1.3. If you are attending or want to attend an out-of-catchment school you must register at your catchment school and then fill out an out-of-catchment request.

✓ You can check your updated school catchment on the district website.

2. What You Need to Register

Please bring the following documents:

2.1. Identity & Guardianship

- Parent/guardian photo ID
- Child's long form birth certificate
- Guardianship documentation (if applicable)

2.2. Proof of Residence

Provide two documents:

- **One Primary** (property tax notice, home insurance, lease)
- **One Secondary** (utility bill, internet bill, medical document, pay slip)

3. How Registration Priority Works

If a school has more requests than available space, the district uses the following order:

- 3.1. Current students who live in the catchment
- 3.2. Siblings of those students
- 3.3. New catchment students
- 3.4. Current students who live out of catchment
- 3.5. Siblings of these students
- 3.6. New out-of-catchment students
- 3.7. Students from outside the district

Note: All requests are date and time stamped within each priority category.

Important for Families Affected by Catchment Changes

If your catchment has changed and you wish to stay at your current school, you must submit an out-of-catchment request. Your child will be considered a current student who lives out of catchment.

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4. Applying to Attend a School Outside of Your Catchment Area

- 4.1. Out-of-Catchment Request Forms must be submitted by March 31 to your catchment school.
- 4.2. Applications are date and time stamped and reviewed according to district registration priority categories and out-of-catchment consideration criteria.
- 4.3. Whenever possible, early applications received by March 31 will receive a placement decision by June 30.
- 4.4. If the requested school is full, your child may be placed on a waitlist.
- 4.5. Families on the waitlist will receive an update by the end of the second week of September.
- 4.6. Waitlists remain active until that time.
- 4.7. The district may close a school to out-of-catchment applications when enrollment pressure exists, when program or facility capacity is limited or at the discretion of the Superintendent.

If an out-of-catchment placement is granted, parents will not be required to reapply each year. Out-of-catchment placements will be reviewed every year by the district to ensure there is still space for out-of-catchment students. Families will be contacted individually if there is any concerns about placement for the following year.

5. How Out-of-Catchment Decisions Are Made

We understand that families want to know exactly how requests are considered—especially with catchment boundary changes. To ensure fairness, each request is reviewed carefully and individually.

The following Out-of-Catchment Consideration Criteria may be reviewed:

- Student learning needs and required supports
- Family circumstances (e.g., siblings, childcare, transportation challenges)
- Personal situations that may affect schooling
- School capacity and building space
- Operational needs (e.g., staffing, class composition, program availability)
- Any other relevant information that helps support the student

These criteria do not have a set priority order.

They help ensure decisions are thoughtful, supportive, and aligned with available resources.

6. Transportation for Out-of-Catchment Students

- 6.1. Transportation is not provided for out-of-catchment placements. This is current practice; the district tries to accommodate transportation for all students where space is available.
- 6.2. Families are responsible for arranging travel to and from school.
- 6.3. If you wish to apply for courtesy bus service, you must contact the bus garage.

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7. District-Directed Placement

In certain cases, the district may place a student at a different school due to:

- space limitations,
- shifting enrollment patterns, or
- operational needs.

Transportation assistance may be provided where possible.

8. Registration Timeline

- **Kindergarten:** Opens first Monday in February (Feb 2nd) and continues through early September
- **Grades 1–12:** Same timeline
- **Late applications:** Reviewed case-by-case based on available space

9. Forms

- There are new Registration and Out-of-Catchment forms
- These forms will be available at schools and online by Feb 2nd
- The forms must be submitted at catchments schools
- There is no online submission process for this year

10. Appeals

If you disagree with a placement decision, you may request an appeal through the district's appeal process.

What Families Need to Do Now

- ✓ **Check the new catchment maps** to confirm your school for 2026–27
- ✓ **Gather your documentation** for registration
- ✓ **Register at your catchment school** starting Feb 2
- ✓ **Submit any out-of-catchment requests by March 31**
- ✓ **Contact your school if you have questions about your child's placement**

School staff and district departments are ready to support families through this transition.

We're Here to Help

We know catchment changes can be stressful.

If you have questions about how these updates affect your family, please reach out.

✉ catchment@sd28.bc.ca

🌐 sd28.bc.ca

🏠 You may also contact your school directly.