

Preparing for a new school with your children

We recognize that the potential of changing schools has a significant impact on students as well as parents. In many ways this is testimony to the strong connections and feelings families have for their school, teachers and friends. The potential for change can be unsettling and raise many questions.

We suggest that parents share information with children so they are aware of the upcoming changes, and can address any questions or concerns.

You have a significant influence on how your children will see and respond to this news. We all know that changes can be significant for many, it is important to provide positive cues and messages to your child. Being encouraging will be important in easing the transition while at the same time honouring the bonds and connections that everyone has for the current school.

Let them know why changes are being made

- we have a brand-new school in Inglewood and will have students moving into it
- some of our schools are crowded and we need to make room for students
- the changes will take place in September 2017
- just like families move to new homes and neighbourhoods, sometimes this happens with schools as well

Talk about what is unique and similar with schools

- what makes your current school a special place—you will always have special memories of the school you attend today
- all schools are special places and good places to be
- while there will be changes, you will soon love your new school as well
- other students who are attending your school will also be making those changes—you're in it together

Friendship and teachers

- this may be the biggest concern, losing friends
- you're not the only one making the change, many other students from the school also be moving along with you
- other children living in your neighbourhood will also change schools so those connections will remain
- there will be opportunities to make new friends at new schools
- new students will be coming to this school and that will create opportunities for new friends as well
- friendships can still continue outside of school

Welcoming and transitioning plans

- with implementation in September 2017, there will be lots of time to get ready and prepare for the new changes
- new schools will have welcoming plans and there will be opportunities to visit your new school before you go there
- schools work to make you feel welcome and be sure that you fit in with all the other students
- there will be other transitioning plans to ease the change
- it will be important to honour and remember all the events, activities and good things that happened at the school and part of the plans will be to celebrate before you leave
- we want families to know about their new school and be excited about the changes
- it's not just students who will be moving, some of the teachers in this school will also be moving to your new school as well so there will be familiar faces there too

Change is a part of life... It just happens

- changes are part of life and can be a good thing. Students have experienced many changes already and being resilient is a valuable skill that will prepare them for other chapters in their life.
- try to look at change as positive. If you see it is positive, it will be easier than if you see it is negative. Get excited about the possibilities change can bring
- recognize that students who will not be changing schools are impacted by these changes as well

What if you have questions

- acknowledge feelings of children and try to put them at ease. Allow them to express their feelings but try to limit this as well
- let students know that they should feel free to talk with teachers and principals as well as you about changes and any questions they have

What about parents

- often times parents have greater concerns and anxiety about these changes than students
- recognize that we're all in this together and we will make the very best of it
- kids are adaptable and resilient making the best of new situations
- parents will play an important role in getting their children ready for the change, it's important that you are positive about it as well

