

Central PS Enrolment Cap FAQ

What is an enrolment cap?

An enrolment cap limits the number of students at a school when it gets too full. Starting in the 2025-26 school year, Central PS can have only 12 classes.

Why do we need an enrolment cap?

Central PS is a small school for JK-6 students with space for 274 kids. In 2023-24, we had to use a portable classroom because we had 285 students. The school grounds are small, with limited parking and play areas, making it hard to add more portables. By 2025-26, we expect more students than the school can handle.

When will the cap be in effect?

The enrolment cap will start in the 2025-26 school year.

How is a cap implemented?

Each February, we plan for the next school year. We look at how many students will attend and how many teachers and classes we need. Starting in 2025-26, if we reach 12 classes, no new students will be accepted at Central PS. Extra students will go to Willow PS.

When is the JK registration period?

You can register for JK in January each year.

Who will this cap affect when it is implemented?

New students, regardless of grade, trying to enroll in Central PS could be affected. Students already attending in 2024-25 will not be affected.

What if my child starting JK has a sibling already attending Central PS? Will exceptions be made?

If your child has a sibling at Central PS, they will get preference when registering. But, if you register late, this preference might not apply. If we reach the 12-class cap, new students will go to Willow PS. Families will be told about any changes right away.

Will transportation be provided to the students redirected from Central?

Busing will be provided to students being redirected to Willow Road PS according to the Board's transportation eligibility criteria.

Transportation eligibility is based on the following maximum distance criteria:

- JK-6 - 1.6km
- Grade 7&8 - 3.2km

More information on transportation can be found here:

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/schools/transportation/>

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/304-A-Transportation-Procedures-Manual-2014-11-1.pdf>

Why did the Board choose to do an enrolment cap instead of a boundary review?

In November 2023, the Board decided not to change school boundaries but to gather more community input. They chose an enrolment cap as a temporary fix. There is enough space at Willow PS for redirected students, making the cap possible.

Can my child be placed on the wait list to return to Central PS if a spot becomes available?

No, there will not be a waitlist. Once your child is sent to Willow PS, they cannot return to Central PS.

Will registering early increase the chances of my child going to Central PS?

It's best to register in January. If more students register than there are spots, we will choose students based on the order they registered. Extra students will go to Willow PS.

What happens if the number of JK registrations exceeds the number of JK pupil places? (JK classes?)

If there are too many JK students, those with siblings at Central PS will get first preference. The rest will be chosen based on when they registered. Extra students will go to Willow PS.

Are there long-term plans to relieve pressures at Central PS and schools in the area or will the cap be in place forever?

Each year, we review student numbers and make long-term plans to fix overcrowding. We update our Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) with new options.

What if Willow PS faces enrolment pressure in the future?

Right now, Willow PS has enough space for extra students. We review student numbers each year and will suggest new solutions if Willow PS gets too full.