

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Report No. 21-065**

**14 September 2021**

**Westwind Public School – Fernbank Area Elementary Interim  
Accommodation Measure #2**

**Key Contact: Michael Carson, Chief Financial Officer, 613-596-8211  
ext. 8881**

**PURPOSE:**

1. To seek approval of a second temporary elementary school attendance boundary redirection of new students moving in to the Fernbank area, west of Terry Fox Drive and east of Robert Grant Avenue in Stittsville (interim Westwind Public School boundary area), who will ultimately be directed to the new Fernbank elementary school upon its opening.

**CONTEXT:**

2. In December 2019, a study commenced that examined accommodation pressure at John Young Elementary School (ES), which was the result of increased enrolment taking place in advance of the opening of the new Fernbank elementary school.

At the Board meeting of 25 February 2020, trustees approved an interim accommodation measure between John Young ES and Westwind Public School (PS).

The objective of the interim accommodation measure was to alleviate some of the growing enrolment pressures at John Young ES, until the new Fernbank elementary school is open. A general location map of the area has been included. See Appendix A - General Location Map.

Effective September 2020, year 1 and year 2 kindergarten students who attended John Young ES in 2019-2020 and lived within the attendance boundary of the new Fernbank elementary school were redirected to Westwind PS. Incoming year 1 kindergarten students from the same boundary area were also redirected. A sibling provision was approved, which allowed affected students who had older siblings attending John Young ES to remain at the school with their siblings.

In addition to the above, new elementary students in all grades moving into the Fernbank elementary school boundary who never attended John Young ES were also directed to Westwind PS.

2021-2022 marks the second year of the interim accommodation measure. Current enrolment pressure at Westwind PS requires a second interim accommodation measure be enacted.

## **KEY CONSIDERATIONS:**

3. Since the interim accommodation measure study was completed, the rate at which homes are being constructed within the Fernbank area has increased significantly in part due to families looking to relocate to the suburbs outside the Greenbelt.

Developers have concentrated their efforts to build homes in certain areas of the city which have had a higher interest by consumers. Stittsville and Kanata are the fastest growing communities in Ottawa.

Due to the higher construction rates, the actual number of students residing within the Fernbank area is higher than anticipated for this time period. These numbers are resulting in accommodation concerns for Westwind PS.

The capacity of Westwind PS is 628. Its 30 October 2020 bricks and mortar enrolment was 535. An additional 201 students living in the Westwind PS boundary (including the Fernbank area under interim redirection) attended Ottawa-Carleton Virtual (OCV) schools. The combined total enrolment for Westwind PS was 736.

The projected bricks and mortar enrolment for Westwind PS for 31 October 2021 is 960, with an additional 42 students projected to attend the Ottawa Carleton Virtual School (OCV). (See Appendix B – Historical and Status Quo Enrolments). With an in-school enrolment of 960, the utilization factor at the school will be 153%. Fifteen portable classrooms will be required for instructional use. The maximum the site can accommodate is 12 portable classrooms.

Construction is ongoing in the Fernbank area, along with residential development taking place in the Westwind PS core boundary. Staff anticipates that new students will continue to enroll at the school throughout the school year. The school will not be able to accommodate its growing enrolment for the 2021-2022 school year.

The rising enrolment level at Westwind PS has resulted in an urgent need to stabilize accommodation pressures as soon as possible.

To stabilize enrolment, a redirection of new students who move into the new Fernbank elementary school attendance boundary area is proposed. This redirection would apply to students who have not already attended John Young ES or Westwind PS. Younger siblings of students attending John Young ES or Westwind PS would be allowed to attend the school with their older siblings.

The new Fernbank elementary school is currently scheduled to open in September 2022 as a year 1 kindergarten to grade 5 school, with grade 6 phasing in the following year. At that time, Fernbank-area students attending Westwind PS and

John Young ES will be block moved to the new school, which will help to further alleviate the current accommodation pressures being experienced at both schools.

4. The Proposed Plan

When considering interim accommodation measures, the OCDSB typically engages in a consultation plan with a range of potential options. Due to the urgency of the accommodation pressures at Westwind PS, along with limited local options to consider, staff is proposing that the following plan be considered for implementation, effective 4 October 2021:

- New elementary students moving into the attendance boundary area of the new Fernbank elementary school be directed to Stittsville PS.

As described above, this interim accommodation measure would not apply to students currently attending John Young ES or Westwind PS and their younger siblings.

Stittsville PS is located west of the Fernbank elementary school boundary area, north of Abbott Street East and west of Iber Road. Its 30 October 2020 bricks and mortar enrolment was 469, with an additional 179 students attending OCV. The total combined enrolment was 648. The school's capacity is 626.

The projected bricks and mortar enrolment for Stittsville PS for 31 October 2021 is 640, with an additional 42 students projected to attend OCV. With an in-school enrolment of 640, the utilization factor at the school will be 102%. Three portable classrooms will be required for instructional use. One surplus portable classroom is currently located on site and an additional 8 can be placed there, for a total of 12.

If this interim accommodation measure is implemented, the projected 31 October 2021 enrolment for Stittsville PS is 682 (utilization factor of 109%). See Appendix C – Interim Accommodation Measure Enrolment Projections. Five portable classrooms would be required for instructional use.

The projected 31 October 2021 enrolment for Westwind PS would be 918 (utilization factor of 146%). Twelve portable classrooms would be required for instructional use.

5. Other Options Considered

Viable options for an interim accommodation measure are limited in this area of the District, due to existing accommodation pressures and a lack of available instructional space. The following options were examined:

Stittsville

In addition to Westwind PS and Stittsville PS, the third elementary school located in Stittsville is A. Lorne Cassidy ES. Four portable classrooms will be required for instructional use for the 2021-2022 school year, with 2 additional units currently on site. Three additional portable classrooms can be placed there, for a maximum of 9.

### Kanata South

John Young ES is the school located closest to the Fernbank area. As noted above, the initial interim accommodation measure was approved to help alleviate accommodation pressures at the school. Eight portable classrooms will be in use on the site for the 2021-2022 school year.

Glen Cairn PS (grade 7 and 8) is located in proximity to John Young ES. It was discounted as an option due to its grade structure and site limitations regarding the number of portable classrooms that can be placed on site.

Castlefrank ES (Year 1 kindergarten to grade 3) and Katimavik ES (grade 4 to 8) are located north of John Young ES and Glen Cairn PS. The nature of the schools' grade structures, along with distance from the Fernbank area make them less desirable options for this interim accommodation measure.

Bridlewood Community ES, Roch Carrier ES and W.O. Mitchell ES are located east of John Young ES and Glen Cairn PS. These schools were not considered viable options for an interim accommodation measure due to distance/lack of a direct route from the Fernbank area and accommodation pressures/portable classrooms already on site.

### Kanata North

Stephen Leacock PS, Roland Michener PS, W. Erskine Johnston PS and Kanata Highlands PS lack instructional space and/or were deemed too distant from the Fernbank area to be viable options.

### South of Stittsville

Goulbourn Middle School (MS) (grade 6 to 8) is the school in closest proximity to the Fernbank area. It was not considered a viable option for the interim accommodation measure due to its grade structure and site limitations regarding placement of portable classrooms.

Richmond PS (year 1 kindergarten to grade 5) was discounted as an option due to its grade structure and distance from the Fernbank area.

Munster ES was closed to students effective September 2015. The costs associated with reopening the school on a temporary basis, along with the distance from the Fernbank area made it an unfeasible option for this interim accommodation measure.

### Forming a new school in advance of the Fernbank elementary school opening

As part of the initial interim accommodation measure study, staff examined forming the new Fernbank elementary school at another location, in advance of the school receiving funding and being built. This option was discounted at that time as there were no elementary schools in close proximity to John Young ES that had adequate available instructional space to accommodate the Fernbank-area students. The lack of available local instructional space continues today.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

6. There will be financial implications as a result of implementing the interim accommodation measure. Additional buses will be required to transport students between the Fernbank area and Stittsville PS. An additional portable classroom would also need to be relocated to Stittsville PS.

## **COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:**

7. The urgency of accommodation pressure at Westwind PS requires an immediate solution. An extended consultation period with affected school communities is not possible in this instance. This report was circulated to the schools involved prior to the September 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting. Feedback is welcome prior to the Board meeting which takes place on September 28, 2021.

Should the recommendations in this report be approved by Board, staff will notify impacted school communities as soon as possible.

## **STRATEGIC LINKS:**

8. Reviewing pupil accommodation pressure in this part of the District in order to provide a student with improved access to learning environments serves to optimize the use of District resources which is consistent with culture of caring objectives of the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A. THAT future students moving into the Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, who are in kindergarten (year 1) through grade 6 be directed to Stittsville Public School as of 4 October 2021, subject to sibling provisions outlined in Recommendations B and C to Report 21-065;
- B. THAT incoming year 1 kindergarten (4 October 2021 and beyond while the redirection is in effect) students who reside within the new Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, but who had older sibling(s) in grades 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 (2019-2020) attending John Young Elementary School be provided a one-time option to attend at John Young Elementary School;
- C. THAT incoming year 1 kindergarten (4 October 2021 and beyond while the redirection is in effect) students who reside within the new Fernbank elementary school (k-6) attendance area, but who currently (2021-2022) have older sibling(s) in year 1 kindergarten, year 2 kindergarten, grade 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 attending Westwind Public School be provided a one-time option to attend Westwind Public School;
- D. THAT Recommendations A through C to Report 21-065 shall remain in effect until such time as the new Fernbank elementary school is opened or until other accommodation measures are approved;

- E. THAT upon the opening of the new Fernbank elementary school all of the students who reside within the Fernbank elementary school attendance boundary and are enrolled at John Young Elementary School, Westwind Public School or Stittsville Public School, move in a block (year 1 kindergarten through grade 5) to the new Fernbank elementary school; and
- F. THAT the only exception to the redirection outlined in Recommendation E to Report 21-065 shall be those students entering grade 6 and their younger siblings who are attending John Young Elementary school or Westwind Public School, having exercised a one-time option to remain.

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Michael Carson  
Chief Financial Officer  
(ext. 8881)

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Camille Williams - Taylor  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board

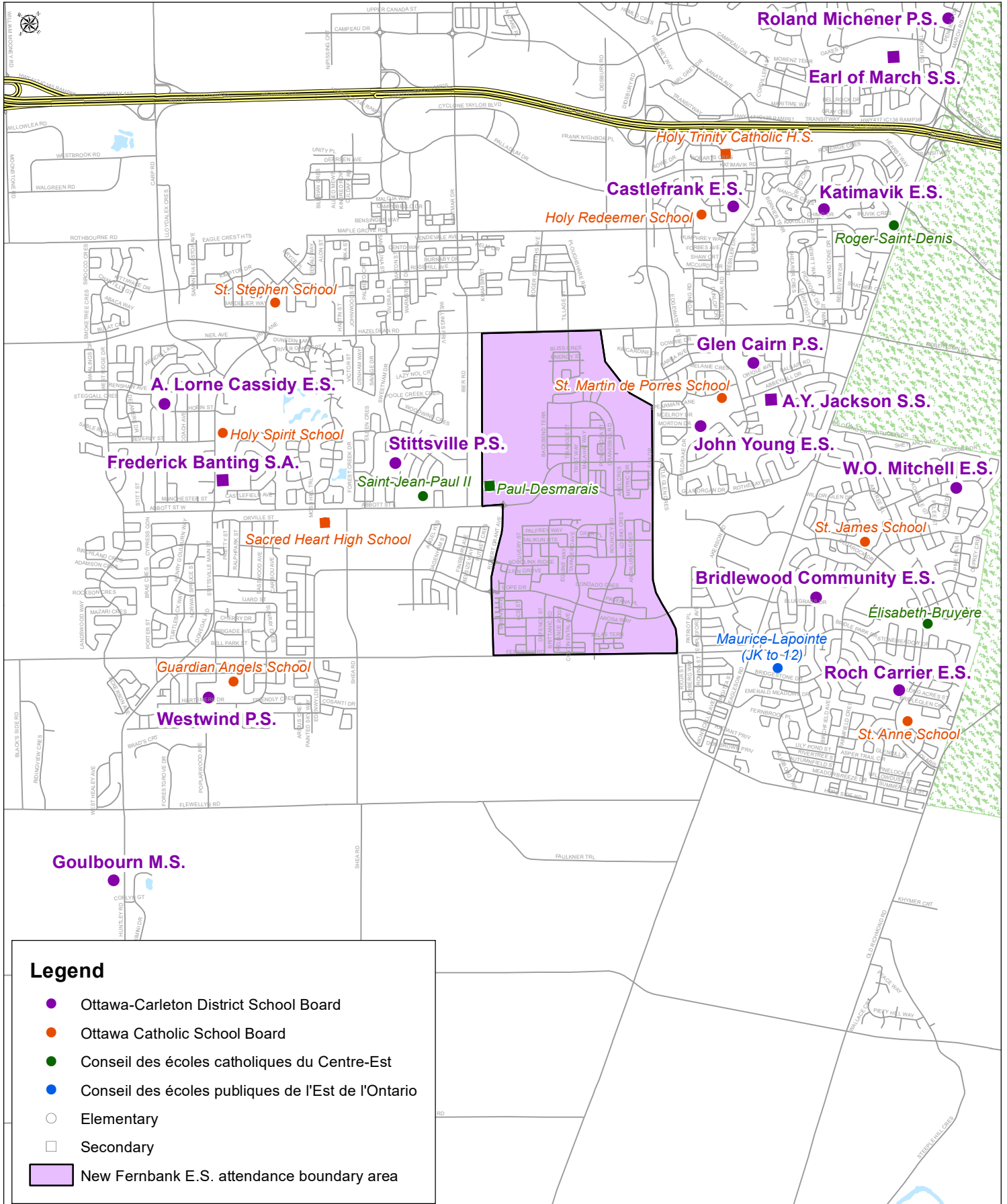
**Appendix A General Location Map**

**Appendix B Historical and Status Quo Enrolment Projections**

**Appendix C Interim Accommodation Measure Redirection Enrolment Projections**

**Appendix D Westwind PS - Interim Accommodation Measure Redirection –  
Attendance Boundary Map**

# General Location Map Westwind Public School Fernbank Area Elementary Accommodation Measure #2



## Historical and Status Quo Projected Enrolments

School:

Westwind Public School

Capacity: 628

Year	Program	Year 1	Year 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	SE	TOTAL	Portables	UF %
Actual Enrolment 2016	KGTN	48	69								117	0	91.9%
	ENG			4	18	23	34	31	13		123		
	EFI			55	58	66	61	51	46		337		
	TOTAL	48	69	59	76	89	95	82	59	0	577		
Actual Enrolment 2017	KGTN	47	52								99	0	89.5%
	ENG			11	7	28	21	33	33		133		
	EFI			54	52	48	64	60	52		330		
	TOTAL	47	52	65	59	76	85	93	85	0	562		
Actual Enrolment 2018	KGTN	41	47								88	0	85.2%
	ENG			6	19	11	27	21	36		120		
	EFI			50	54	51	50	64	58		327		
	TOTAL	41	47	56	73	62	77	85	94	0	535		
Actual Enrolment 2019	KGTN	47	46								93	0	83.0%
	ENG			3	12	21	13	28	24		101		
	EFI			53	50	57	55	49	63		327		
	TOTAL	47	46	56	62	78	68	77	87	0	521		
Actual Enrolment 2020 (B and M)	KGTN	69	66								135	0	85.2%
	ENG			22	18	25	24	18	24		131		
	EFI			57	39	44	44	44	41		269		
	TOTAL	69	66	79	57	69	68	62	65	0	535		
Actual Enrolment 2020 (OCV)	KGTN	26	37								63	N/A	N/A
	ENG			12	5	9	10	7	13		56		
	EFI			18	18	10	14	13	9		82		
	TOTAL	26	37	30	23	19	24	20	22	0	201		
Actual Enrolment 2020 (Total)	KGTN	95	103								198	N/A	N/A
	ENG			34	23	34	34	25	37		187		
	EFI			75	57	54	58	57	50		351		
	TOTAL	95	103	109	80	88	92	82	87	0	736		
Year	Program	Year 1	Year 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	SE	TOTAL	Portables	UF %
Status Quo Projection 2021 (B and M)	KGTN	165	135								300	15	152.9%
	ENG			42	43	34	38	36	34		227		
	EFI			87	88	68	63	64	63		433		
	TOTAL	165	135	129	131	102	101	100	97	0	960		
Status Quo Projection 2021 (OCV)	KGTN	4	7								11	N/A	N/A
	ENG			3	5	4	3	5	1		21		
	EFI			2	1	2	2	2	1		10		
	TOTAL	4	7	5	6	6	5	7	2	0	42		
Status Quo Projection 2021 (Total)	KGTN	169	142								311	N/A	N/A
	ENG			45	48	38	41	41	35		248		
	EFI			89	89	70	65	66	64		443		
	TOTAL	169	142	134	137	108	106	107	99	0	1002		

Note

SE = Congregated Special Education Classes

UF % = Enrolment divided by Capacity

B and M = Bricks and mortar

OCV = Ottawa-Carleton virtual schools

N/A = Not applicable



## Historical and Status Quo Projected Enrolments

School:

Stittsville Public School

Capacity: 626

Year	Program	Year 1	Year 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	SE	TOTAL	Portables	UF %
Actual Enrolment 2016	KGTN	70	80								150	4	107.2%
	ENG			21	25	32	28	35	28		169		
	EFI			71	68	63	53	39	58		352		
	TOTAL	70	80	92	93	95	81	74	86	0	671		
Actual Enrolment 2017	KGTN	66	72								138	4	102.2%
	ENG			12	29	25	28	33	33		160		
	EFI			66	63	64	59	50	40		342		
	TOTAL	66	72	78	92	89	87	83	73	0	640		
Actual Enrolment 2018	KGTN	93	71								164	4	107.3%
	ENG			21	21	35	27	31	31		166		
	EFI			58	60	58	60	56	50		342		
	TOTAL	93	71	79	81	93	87	87	81	0	672		
Actual Enrolment 2019	KGTN	69	91								160	3	104.6%
	ENG			18	21	25	35	30	33		162		
	EFI			60	50	55	56	60	52		333		
	TOTAL	69	91	78	71	80	91	90	85	0	655		
Actual Enrolment 2020 (B and M)	KGTN	44	48								92	0	74.9%
	ENG			7	18	17	21	31	27		121		
	EFI			66	38	38	31	40	43		256		
	TOTAL	44	48	73	56	55	52	71	70	0	469		
Actual Enrolment 2020 (OCV)	KGTN	17	23								40	N/A	N/A
	ENG			4	12	8	11	8	10		53		
	EFI			15	14	11	17	15	14		86		
	TOTAL	17	23	19	26	19	28	23	24	0	179		
Actual Enrolment 2020 (Total)	KGTN	61	71								132	N/A	N/A
	ENG			11	30	25	32	39	37		174		
	EFI			81	52	49	48	55	57		342		
	TOTAL	61	71	92	82	74	80	94	94	0	648		
Year	Program	Year 1	Year 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	SE	TOTAL	Portables	UF %
Status Quo Projection 2021 (B and M)	KGTN	95	71								166	3	102.2%
	ENG			17	16	31	24	30	38		156		
	EFI			56	77	41	48	45	51		318		
	TOTAL	95	71	73	93	72	72	75	89	0	640		
Status Quo Projection 2021 (OCV)	KGTN	3	4								7	N/A	N/A
	ENG			3		3	2	2	2		12		
	EFI			1	4	5	2	4	7		23		
	TOTAL	3	4	4	4	8	4	6	9	0	42		
Status Quo Projection 2021 (Total)	KGTN	98	75								173	N/A	N/A
	ENG			20	16	34	26	32	40		168		
	EFI			57	81	46	50	49	58		341		
	TOTAL	98	75	77	97	80	76	81	98	0	682		

Note

SE = Congregated Special Education Classes

UF % = Enrolment divided by Capacity

B and M = Bricks and mortar

OCV = Ottawa-Carleton virtual schools

N/A = Not applicable

## Interim Accommodation Measure Enrolment Projections

New students moving into Fernbank elementary school attendance boundary  
are redirected to Stittsville Public School effective 4 October 2021

School: **Westwind Public School** Capacity: **628**

Year	Program	Year 1	Year 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	SE	TOTAL	Portables	UF %
Interim Measure Projection 2021 (B and M)	KGTN	155	130								285	12	146.2%
	ENG			40	41	32	36	34	32		215		
	EFI			84	85	65	61	62	61		418		
	TOTAL	155	130	124	126	97	97	96	93	0	918		
Interim Measure Projection 2021 (OCV)	KGTN	4	7								11	N/A	N/A
	ENG			3	5	4	3	5	1		21		
	EFI			2	1	2	2	2	1		10		
	TOTAL	4	7	5	6	6	5	7	2	0	42		
Interim Measure Projection 2021 (Total)	KGTN	159	137								296	N/A	N/A
	ENG			43	46	36	39	39	33		236		
	EFI			86	86	67	63	64	62		428		
	TOTAL	159	137	129	132	103	102	103	95	0	960		

School: **Stittsville Public School** Capacity: **626**

Year	Program	Year 1	Year 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	SE	TOTAL	Portables	UF %
Interim Measure Projection 2021 (B and M)	KGTN	105	76								181	5	108.9%
	ENG			19	18	33	26	32	40		168		
	EFI			59	80	44	50	47	53		333		
	TOTAL	105	76	78	98	77	76	79	93	0	682		
Interim Measure Projection 2021 (OCV)	KGTN	3	4								7	N/A	N/A
	ENG			3		3	2	2	2		12		
	EFI			1	4	5	2	4	7		23		
	TOTAL	3	4	4	4	8	4	6	9	0	42		
Interim Measure Projection 2021 (Total)	KGTN	108	80								188	N/A	N/A
	ENG			22	18	36	28	34	42		180		
	EFI			60	84	49	52	51	60		356		
	TOTAL	108	80	82	102	85	80	85	102	0	724		

Note

SE = Congregated Special Education Classes

UF % = Enrolment divided by Capacity

B and M = Bricks and mortar

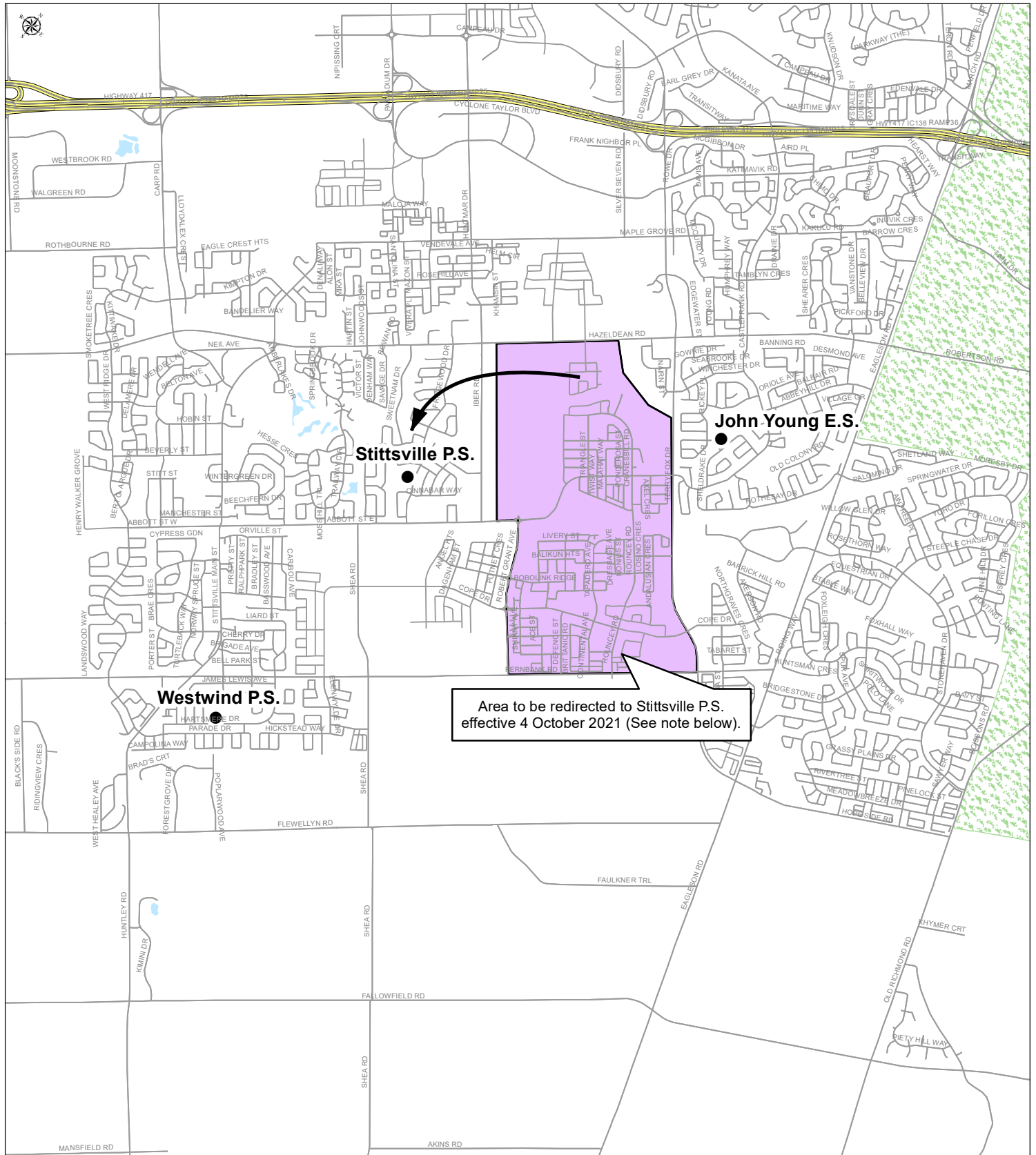
OCV = Ottawa-Carleton virtual schools

N/A = Not applicable

Incoming younger siblings are allowed to attend John Young Elementary School or Westwind Public School with older siblings



# Westwind P.S. Interim Attendance Boundary Redirection



Area to be redirected to Stittville P.S.  
effective 4 October 2021 (See note below).

**Note:** The interim attendance boundary redirection of students living in the attendance boundary of Fernbank elementary school applies to brand new students who have never attended John Young E.S. or Westwind P.S. Younger siblings of students attending John Young E.S. or Westwind P.S. will be allowed to attend the school with their older siblings.