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Parent, Student & Community Survey Results: Transition Planning for Proposed Relocation of CBE Home Education

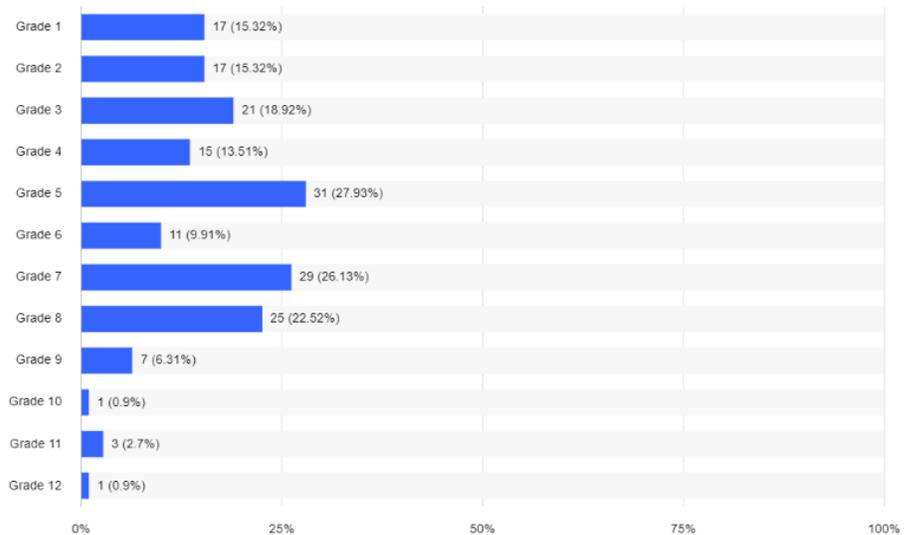
An online survey was available to CBE Home Education parents, students and community members Oct. 17 – 31, 2024. 118 people answered one or more questions on the survey. The results are provided below.

Below you will find all comments provided in the survey as they were written. Comments have not been edited for accuracy, spelling, grammar, sentence structure, truncation or otherwise. Comments may have been edited to ensure anonymity. We may also edit or omit abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

1. Please choose the category that best describes you.



2. What is the current grade of the CBE Home Education student?





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3. Please indicate what aspects are important to you in ensuring a smooth transition for staff, students and families to a new location (should the relocation of CBE Home Education be approved by the Board of Trustees).

ANSWER OPTION	COUNT	PERCENTAGE
CBE Home Education staff work with students to support them in transition to a new location	66	60%
Provide students and families with an orientation to the new site/location	79	71.82%
Maintain strong connections between CBE Home Education staff and students	80	72.73%
Other (please specify)	17	15.45%
Total	242	

Other:

- access to the new building by school council members or other parent volunteers to help ensure parent led initiatives such as our library can be set up prior to the start of the school year to help create a sense of normalcy for students
- better playground at the new site
- bringing many of the things our community has built
- have the building in optimal working order prior to classes beginning, with necessary furniture in place for the first day of school.
- having kids help decorate to make it their new "home".
- help students make the space their own together.
- i have no concerns about the transition
- i just don't want to leave my current school
- i think if you want parents and kids to feel comfortable and valued, it would be nice to see some funding for furniture. all of our current furniture has been cobbled together from highfield and it would be a huge boost to morale to get some new furniture that fits the new spaces. as well, money for library books. parents have worked hard to cull outdated books that have been donated over the years and having \$ to purchase new books, shelving, tables, etc. would be nice. all of our current books have been donated by home-ed families and it would lift school spirit and morale around moving to have some new furniture and books. in the same vein - sports equipment, science equipment would be lovely. in the webinar, it was clearly stated that parents weren't being asked for opinions on if the move should happen, but how to make it an easier transition. bottom line: spend some money on the furniture and make families feel valued instead of always getting hand-offs from other schools
- i've been quite happy with windsor park, so personally i would need to see measurable improvements due to moving locations to be persuaded that it's a great idea.



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- i would like to ensure that if the homeschool program is moved to a different facility that they have adequate room for the growing program. i walked around the outside of the belaire school and it seems like a nice enough facility and the location is convenient but the building and green space are quite a bit smaller than windsor park school. according to the city of calgary property listing, windsor park school is 23,973 square feet on a 2.98 acre lot and belaire school is 15,514 square feet on a 3.11 acre lot though there is more space used for parking, tennis courts, and the front yard at belaire. based on the mapping, it looks like the modular unit attachment isn't included in that size but it's approximately 2971 square feet for a total area of 18,485. windsor park school is fully utilized as is and it is hard to understand how the same program can be run in a smaller building.
- maintain the home ed community
- my only and main concern is accessibility since i don't drive, so location is the most important for me at this time
- please make sure all the actual staff members are going to move to the new school (bel-aire) to provide a smooth transition for all children.
- talk about the differences and similarities and see if it makes sense to move
- the kids are informed as to why they are moving and what great new things they can look forward to in the new location.
- we do not want to relocate

4. If you have other thoughts you'd like to share on ways we can provide a smooth transition for staff, students and families, please provide them below.

Sentiment Analysis



■ Positive (26.83%) ■ Mixed (14.63%) ■ Neutral (43.9%) ■ Negative (14.63%)

- Bringing WindsorPark memorabilia/photos to new space; extensive welcome celebration; pre-opening access for parent volunteers to make the new location "ours"
- Parking looks like it will be an issue. The Windsor park children are not bussed. The families are very social and after school parking can be an issue.
- the facility is equal in terms of the size and offers gym, dining area, drinkable water etc.



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- Give the kids a chance to see the new location before school begins in the new building
- Maybe staff and students together can do brain storming pros and cons of moving to a new location versus staying in the current one.
- CBE Homeschool Students at Windsor Park are chronically underfunded. The program is not a priority for the CBE and it is evident in the treatment of requests for materials at the Windsor Park School. It took many years to get a spout to fill water bottles and even so, the water is disgusting and the kids won't drink the water. The library is almost 100% parent-run with donated books. Parent volunteers cleared out hundreds of books dating back to the 50's from that library with no funds to replace those books, leaving us at the mercy of whatever parents felt like donating. The band teacher funds any band support she needs. The entire school is a mish-mash of desks and chairs discarded from other schools. It would be incredible and would send a strong message about the value of our program by the CBE to have the building in the same working order any other public program would be for the start of a new school year in a new school location. As a former CBE teacher myself, homeschooling is not going away, and the blended program is the way forward. It should be supported and valued as such. Thank you.
- I suggest an opportunity to gather in the space before school starts in the 2025/2026 school year.
- I think the kids will do just fine, as long as they are kept with their existing classmates so they can keep the relationships they have built so far and continue to be able to lean on their peers for support in the classroom.
- Please consider the fact that Windsor park is a second home, and has been for a long time, for many of these students. Having this space taken away from them will be hurtful to many. Involve the students as much as possible in the transition. Perhaps the students and parents can help move materials, supplies, equipment over to the new space together. Also, maybe there is some kind of ceremony that can take place to honour their time at windsor park, and to say goodbye to that space. Creating experiences where they can all feel like they are in this together can help, where they can talk about their sadness around leaving, and where they can celebrate and reminisce about their time there would be really beautiful and support them moving forward.
- An Open House / tour of new school before the end of this school year. The program must have a different name than Bel Aire. That does not reflect the home school community. There are many programs in CBE schools that have names fitting to their values and community using them (eg. Discovering Choices, Alternative High School, etc.). Parking may be an issue for the community because there is less parking available than at Windsor Park. It will feel very different for our students to be in a school and playground / outdoor area that is situated among multi-million dollar mansions. We hope the current teachers have an active role in supporting the students and keeping the program inline with the students and families using it.
- I don't support the proposed move.



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- Give the teachers and support workers sufficient time to setup. Allow families an orientation.
- “Windsor Park” has become synonymous with CBE Home Education. Some way to retain and celebrate that identity would go a long way in easing the transition. There are a lot of unanswered questions and instability surrounding the move that is creating a rise in anxiety for students, parents, and staff. Feels a lot like we’re being shunted off to another location as the program isn’t seen as valuable as the regular program that CBE wants to run through Windsor Park. We found a place of belonging at Windsor Park after being traumatized by the CBE at another school, feels like that safety net is being taken away.
- Please share what facilities and spaces will be available at the new location.
- A video tour they can watch more than once with narration where someone points out where they will eat, where they will hang their bags, where the office is, what the playground looks like, if there are desks or tables etc.
- Maintain the class size and school schedule.
- My kids concerns are with the playground... it is significantly smaller at the new location. Please add on to it!
- A preview tour for homeschooling families, to allow involvement in the organization of the new environment. Homeschooling families make broad use of the school and its facilities and it is important to have time to plan how best to utilize spaces.
- Please provide the families with information about what will be different about the new location and any changes we will have to face. Please find strategies for dealing with the changes and share them with the community.
- Why are we moving rather than opening the public school there? What are we losing and what are we gaining? We have put a lot of heart into the current building. What about the Mount Royal students working on the learning commons design? Do they follow us to the new campus or does the new student body take it from us?
- Making sure to say "goodbye" to WP and not just focusing on the new location. It will be sad even if the new location will be exciting.
- Location I don't see resonable for the CBE homeschooling community. Windsor park allows a closer approach to families and the community is better equipped for the community size. I find Belair can benefit from near by attendance as they community is closer and in a closed in and out street.
- Please keep the learning class structures (example: Monday - Tuesday and Wednesday - Thursday)
- visiting the school during the current school year - focusing on all things that will remain the same (teachers, programs, etc) - setting up a parking/drop off plan so that there's enough space for parents to do so in the am and pm without disrupting the community - planning for community "feedback" (based on previous CGCS issues with neighbours) and how to minimize discord - having a plan for if/when the



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community decides they aren't happy with this new school moving in and ensuring the longevity of the Home Education program - safety in the backyard of the school in terms of multiple access points and ensuring children aren't exiting the area - portable use and temperature

- Maybe an event hosted at the new location to end this school year, as well as to begin the next? An arts/craft fair, a dance, something like that.
- Sharing relevant information with all stakeholders in a timely manner would be appreciated. The opportunity to visit the school before the first day of fall class 2025 would be helpful for students
- I love the space here, but there is not much space at the new school and I love the nature here, but there is not much nature in the new school, and I just don't want to leave
- -the library and Family Flex room are vital parts of the school and a big reason why this program is different from others. Please ensure that the new space has a library and flex room and that they're set up and ready to go in Fall. Please don't drag old furniture from Windsor Park over to BelAire the first week of September and make teachers scramble to set up classrooms and leave parents without a space to work and support their children. The more set-up and established the school is, the better children will be able to transition. Give tours in June to help prepare kids over the summer so they're not anticipating a scary change "sight unseen" all summer long and also stagger the entrance in Fall with orientation tours. Kids and parents will take pride in a new space if they feel seen, heard, and valued. Part of this is spending some decent money on the facilities to make it look good and functional. Very little money has been spent on this program in the past and it's time to do-so if you're going to uproot an established program.
- Consistent communication with families to ensure everyone is aware of what to expect. An efficient plan for the move so the first year in the new location is not chaotic. Care to ensure symbols of our school community are preserved and transferred (osprey mascot painted on the gym wall) The opportunity for families to visit the school prior to the first day or school (e.g. our annual Welcome Back Celebration) to get familiar with the building. Access to the building by the School Council or other parent volunteers to ensure parent led initiatives such as the library are set up prior to the school year to create a welcoming, settled feel to the new school.
- Provide staff and parent volunteers access to the new location with ample time to set up the space (e.g., classrooms, library, family resource room) to create a warm and welcoming feeling for the students and staff with school begins. If this change is approved, I would like to see an official school name change process commence immediately so that the new name is approved by September 2025.
- Give all information possible needed. Make sure the parents are well informed! I called 4 places over the course of 3 weeks before my son could get started schooling and I ended up missing out on the funding thanks to being misinformed by many.



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- Would appreciate all maps being shared. All surrounding communities be properly informed so that no neighbours are surprised or opposed to the change, or create problems related to parking, children playing etc.
- Perhaps including the students in the packing up and moving of items to allow them to feel apart of the relocation process and to have a sense of community, connection and contribution. Excited for the staff and students to explore a new school together.
- Ensuring the same dedicated art space at the new location
- How will parking be like? The field and playground are too small, so that would have to be extended somehow. Hopefully there will not be too much tech at the new school as well. Will it be as cozy as the old area?
- As stated above, help kids (via teachers and parents) understand the reasons why the school is moving, and what's in it for them. This will reduce resistance to the change for them, and build understanding.
- Provide staff and parent volunteers access to the new location with ample time to set up the space (e.g., classrooms, library, family resource room) to create a warm and welcoming feeling for the students and staff with school begins. If this change is approved, I would like to see an official school name change process commence immediately so that the new name is approved by September 2025.
- This survey is not asking whether or not we approve of the move. The meeting and this survey seem to be formalities, and it seems that we don't and won't have a say in this change. Many families (including ours) are upset about it - the school holds so many memories for the students. Many parts of the school were fundraised and personalized (e.g., murals on the walls). If the change is happening no matter what, it would be helpful if that was communicated directly instead of giving the impression that our feedback will make a difference.
- We do not wish to relocate to downtown. The reason being is crime increase in those communities.
- I'm not too worried about kids adapting to a new location as long as it still allows them similar facilities and access. My concern would be adequate gym equipment, playground equipment and space for an art program. My other concern is parking and convenient access to yhe building
- Time to see the new building. Assurance that staff will stay the same. Explanation of new class planning (ie. will all grades be split or not?) Help with drop off in the am and pm pickup as the location isn't ideal for all the cars coming/going (previous school had bussing which was better as less traffic for the community).