



## Exploring Possible Approaches for Future School Lottery Zones

Recently, provincial legislation changed how transportation eligibility is calculated. Driving distance is now used instead of walking distance, which alters how walk zones are determined.

As a result, the CBE must decide whether to continue aligning lottery zones with provincially mandated walk zones or establish a separate standard for lottery purposes.

The CBE has developed four lottery zone options described on the following page. Each description includes a map for the same school boundary to help you visualize the options within the same area.

Each option has strengths and limitations. Your feedback will help guide a solution for the 2027-28 school year and beyond.

## Information and Context to Help You Consider the Lottery Zone Options

### CBE Lottery Process and Priority Levels

The CBE lottery process and priority levels are not changing and will be applied to the lottery zone option that is selected.

Visit [Lottery Process](#) for more information.

- Priority 1**
  - Students living within the lottery zone who have a sibling (brother/sister [half or step, not cousins]) that will be attending the same program in the same school; concurrently (occurring or existing simultaneously).
- Priority 2**
  - Students living outside the lottery zone but in the designated area for the school, who will have a sibling in the same program at the same school concurrently; or
  - Students living within the lottery zone who do not have a sibling in the school.
- Priority 3**
  - All other students living in the designated attendance area.

### Provincial Rules for Transportation

Rules for transportation, including walk zones and transportation service areas, are mandated by the province in the [School Transportation Regulation](#).

Visit [School Walk Zones](#) for more information.



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More information about this engagement initiative can be found on the project website at [tinyurl.com/Lottery-Engagement](https://tinyurl.com/Lottery-Engagement).

If you have questions about this engagement, please email [dialogue@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:dialogue@cbe.ab.ca).

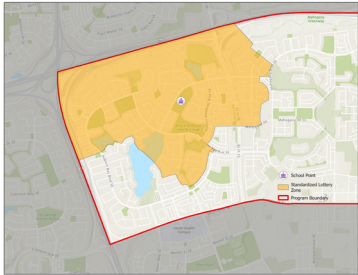
### Option 1: Continue to use 2024-25 walk zones developed by the CBE Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)



#### Considerations

- Prioritizes students who live closest to the school by considering walking distance to school, pedestrian pathways and roadways, natural hazards and barriers, and community boundaries.
- Familiar to families.
- Inconsistent from school to school due to grade levels, programs offered, and different community entry grades.
- Not aligned with transportation services.
- CBE can create and revise maps using this methodology as necessary.
- Requires explanation on how lottery zones differ from walk zones developed using provincial rules for transportation service areas.

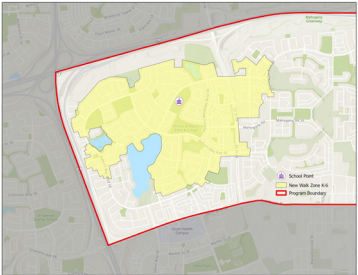
### Option 2: Apply a single distance for all grades (or one distance for K-9 and another for high school) to the walk zone methodology described in option 1



#### Considerations

- Prioritizes students who live closest to the school by considering walking distance to school, pedestrian pathways and roadways, natural hazards and barriers, and community boundaries.
- Standardizes lottery zones across schools.
- Not aligned with transportation services.
- CBE can create and revise maps using this methodology as necessary.
- Requires explanation on how lottery zones differ from walk zones developed using provincial rules for transportation service areas.

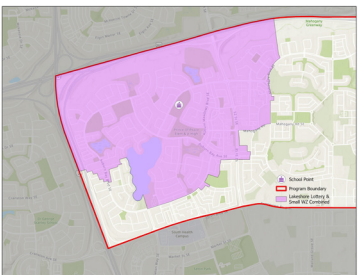
### Option 3: Use walk zones developed using provincial rules for transportation service areas



#### Considerations

- One map for both transportation and lottery, aligning with the CBE's past practice.
- Ties lottery zones to provincial mandates, leaving them subject to change when the provincial government makes adjustments.
- Provincially mandated walk zones are based on driving distance from the front door of a house to the front door of the school. Students within walking distance on pedestrian pathways but with a much longer distance to school by car may be outside the walk zone and, therefore, excluded from the Priority 1 or 2 group.
- Multiple lottery zones are required for schools spanning multiple provincially mandated grade configuration categories (e.g., a Grade 4-9 school would have one lottery zone for Grades 4-6 and another for Grades 7-9).
- Provincially mandated walk zones are larger for middle school grades. At schools spanning multiple grade configuration categories, the Priority 1 and 2 groups for students in middle school grades would be larger than for students in elementary school grades, which may result in older students being prioritized at the designated school.

### Option 4: Blend 2024-25 walk zones (option 1) with walk zones developed using provincial rules for transportation service areas (option 3)



#### Considerations

- Prioritizes students who live closest to the school.
- Puts more students in the Priority 1 and 2 groups, including all students in 2024-25 walk zones and in walk zones developed using provincial rules for transportation service areas.
- Ties lottery zones to provincial mandates, leaving them subject to change when the provincial government makes adjustments.
- CBE would need to create new maps using this methodology for new schools.
- Multiple lottery zones are required for schools spanning multiple provincially mandated grade configuration categories (e.g., a Grade 4-9 school would have one lottery zone for Grades 4-6 and another for Grades 7-9).
- Provincially mandated walk zones are larger for middle school grades. At schools spanning multiple grade configuration categories, the Priority 1 and 2 groups for students in middle school grades would be larger than for students in elementary school grades, which may result in older students being prioritized at the designated school.