

TO: The Chairperson and Members of the
Business and Facilities Standing Committee

FROM: Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

SUBJECT: **ATTENDANCE AREA REVIEW 2020:01 CITY OF BARRIE -
CUNDLES HEIGHTS AND MAPLE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

1. **Background**

The Board of Trustees approved an Attendance Area Review (AAR) for elementary schools in the City of Barrie as set out in Report No. BF-D-2, Capital Plan 2020-2021, dated February 5, 2020. Schools included in the review were Cundles Heights Public School and Maple Grove Public School and the designated secondary feeder schools, Eastview Secondary School and Barrie North Collegiate Institute.

Following the guidelines of Policy 2317 – School Attendance Area, the review was undertaken to balance enrolment between the two elementary schools of Cundles Heights Public School and Maple Grove Public School. Those schools in the northeast portion of the City of Barrie have had varying degrees of low enrolment, except for Maple Grove Public School, which has seen a small increase in enrolment. The Maple Grove Public School site is unable to accommodate further portables, resulting in the need for an attendance area review to balance enrolment.

When considering new attendance areas and changes to existing attendance areas, the intent is to balance school enrolments, create sustainable, stable school populations and school programs, efficiently use accommodation, and realize transportation efficiencies while also preparing for future growth.

The City of Barrie is considered a growth community under the Growth Plan and the Province has allocated a net growth of approximately 68,657 people to the City of Barrie by 2031. This is an increase from 141,343 to 210,000 over 10 years, which translates into an average of 1,400 building permits per year generating an average of 350 to 475 students per year based on demonstrated yields and trends.

As of October 31, 2021, enrolment at Cundles Heights Public School was 385 students with the school having a capacity of 450. School utilization was at 86 percent with zero portables on site. Enrolment at Maple Grove Public School was 485 students with the school having a capacity of 412. School utilization was at 118 percent with four portables on site (four portables being the limit). The designated secondary school sites are Barrie North Collegiate Institute with enrolment at 1,210 students and a school capacity of 1,299 at 93 percent utilization. Enrolment at Eastview Secondary School is 1,299 students with the school having a capacity of 1,227 at 106 percent utilization.

The following provides a summary of current enrolment and utilization:

Elementary School	On The Ground Capacity	Portables 2021	Students 2021	Utilization
Cundles Heights PS	450	0	385	86%
Maple Grove PS	412	4	485	118%
Total	862	4	870	101%

Secondary School	On The Ground Capacity	Portables 2021	Students 2021	Utilization
Barrie North CI	1,299	0	1,210	93%
Eastview SS	1,227	4	1,299	106%
Total	2,526	4	2,509	99%

2. Current Status

The AAR was approved to commence in 2021. Due to the public health guidelines resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the board's usual practice of holding large in-person public meetings was not possible. As a result, the board utilized ThoughtExchange®, an online communication and consultation tool, to share information on the proposed new boundaries and collect feedback and comments related to the attendance area review.

A presentation was provided, explaining the process, timing and implementation of the elementary boundaries in November 2021. Participation in ThoughtExchange® was open from December 6 to December 17, 2021. A summary of the proposed attendance area changes is outlined on page 3. The full presentations and frequently asked questions documents that were provided via the ThoughtExchange®, are attached as APPENDIX A.

Proposed Transfer Area – Cundles Heights Public School and Maple Grove Public School

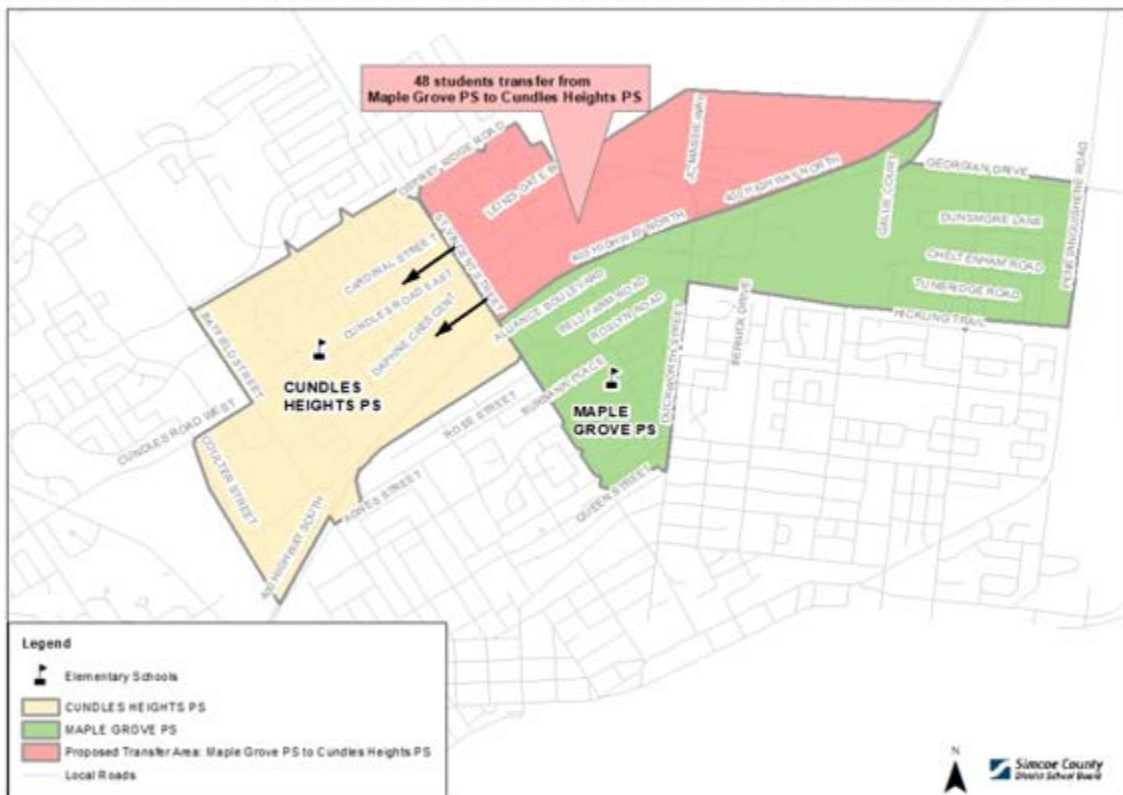
As illustrated on page 3, one area was considered for transfer as part of the Attendance Area Review (AAR). The proposed transfer area from Maple Grove Public School to Cundles Heights Public School would result in 48 students being transferred. Elementary attendance boundary changes would be implemented in September 2022, and our current Grade 7 students (who will be in Grade 8 in September 2022) will have the choice to transfer or remain in their current school to graduate as per board policy.

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCTSC) provided input and feedback on the scenario under consideration. SCSTC analysis has indicated that the staff recommendation maximizes the number of walking students in the secondary school area for Barrie North Collegiate Institute in the community and minimizes the number of bussed students to the degree of approximately 30 students. Staff also requested a review on the safety of the walk zones and the SCTSC confirmed sidewalks are located along each street segment on one or both sides of all streets, and the walk areas includes subsequent crossings to be accommodated at an intersection which includes traffic and pedestrian controls.

The board considered alternative options upon reviewing the results of the ThoughtExchange® and email correspondence received. Planning staff analyzed alternative options, such as keeping the current enrolled students at Maple Grove Public School, moving only the primary division or a specific grade of students and moving students based on walk zones. All alternative scenarios presented significant challenges and implementation issues, such as dual transportation matters and short to long-term school capacity concerns.

Given the changes to the elementary attendance boundaries, the designated secondary feeder areas illustrated on page 4 will be amended to align with the new elementary attendance boundaries. The proposed secondary school attendance boundaries do not affect the existing Grade 8 students, nor the current enrolled secondary students.

Proposed Transfer Area: Cundles Heights Public School and Maple Grove Public School



Secondary Alignment – Eastview Secondary School and Barrie North Collegiate Institute

The proposed attendance area for the alignment of the designated secondary schools for Eastview Secondary School and Barrie North Collegiate Institute is illustrated below. Areas within the Maple Grove Public School elementary area which currently attend Eastview Secondary School will be transferred to Barrie North Collegiate Institute. Secondary attendance boundary changes will be implemented in September 2023, and the current Grade 7 students (Grade 8 in September 2022) will feed into Barrie North Collegiate Institute upon graduation in June 2023.

Proposed Transfer Area: Eastview Secondary School and Barrie North Collegiate Institute



3. Comments and Feedback

Staff received written correspondence via email from two unique community members. The following summarizes the topics and issues raised:

- (i) concerns about walking zone safety,
- (ii) the school attendance area was a consideration for families housing choices;
- (iii) sibling will be registering for JK at Maple Grove Public School in the future;
- (iv) parent/guardian has taken a job on the basis of Maple Grove Public School hours;
- (v) mental health impacts on students; and,
- (vi) no opportunity for options or choice of school.

Substantially more feedback was obtained via a ThoughtExchange®, with approximately 44 thoughts being shared. A detailed summary report is provided in APPENDIX B. The feedback was primarily received from Maple Grove Public School and the following represents the overall Thoughts per Theme. Common comments and concerns:

- (i) loss of friends and support network;
- (ii) transitioning schools will be emotionally challenging;
- (iii) too much change while in the midst of a pandemic;
- (iv) overall opposition to being transferred;
- (v) preference to keep current students in same school and transition new students;
- (vi) opportunities for Before and After child care; and,
- (vii) concerns on keeping siblings together at same school.

Some suggestions to help mitigate the above concerns were provided:

- (i) allow family choice in moving schools;
- (ii) only new students should be directed to the new school; and,
- (iii) Cundles Heights Public School has available spaces for Before and After child care.

Staff appreciate the time and contributions from the community during this process. The information received is valuable and helps guide not only the outcome of this review, but other board practices as well.

4. Final Staff Recommendations

After thorough and refined analyses, and taking into consideration all factors and feedback, the following outlines staff’s proposed recommendations:

- (i) transfer northeast portion of Maple Grove Public School (north of Highway 400 and east of St. Vincent Street) to Cundles Heights Public School (approximately 48 students) commencing 2022-2023; and,
- (ii) transfer northeast portion of Eastview Secondary School (north of Highway 400 and east of St. Vincent Street) to Barrie North Collegiate Institute, commencing September 2023-2024.

The following table provides a summary of the projected enrolment and utilization if the staff recommendation is implemented. While enrolment is better balanced, it is evident that schools will continue to be over utilized now and into the future. Staff believe that the proposed enrolment balance is manageable and does allow for flexibility with regards to portable accommodation opportunities.

Elementary School	On The Ground Capacity	Portables 2021	Projected Students 2022	Utilization
Cundles Heights PS	450	0	439	98%
Maple Grove PS	412	2	444	108%
Total	862	2	883	102%

5. Conclusion

As the SCDSB continues to react and prepare for future accommodation pressures, change is often necessary. Staff believe that the recommendations outlined best address the current accommodation and program pressures at the schools involved in this review, while taking into account feedback from the community and adhering to Policy 2317 – School Attendance Areas. The recommended changes would alleviate accommodation pressures and create viable and sustainable school populations and programs. The proposed recommendations also take into account future accommodation pressures and sets the stage for further actions, when required. Subject to Board of Trustee approval, and in order to assist students, board staff, and parents/guardians will begin immediate transition planning in order to make the experience positive and exciting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Business and Facilities Standing Committee recommend that the Board approve the proposed attendance areas effective September 2022 for the elementary schools and September 2023 for the secondary schools, as set out in APPENDIX C and D of Report No. BF-D-1, Attendance Area Review 2020:01 City of Barrie - Cundles Heights Public School and Maple Grove Public School dated, February 2, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by:

Corry Van Nispen
Superintendent of Business and Facility Services

APPENDIX A – Pages 1 to 17

**Maple Grove Public School and Cundles Heights Public School
Attendance Area Review
ThoughtExchange® Presentation**

North Barrie Attendance Area Review 2020:01

Elementary Schools:

Maple Grove Public School

Cundles Heights Public School

Secondary Schools:

Barrie North Collegiate Institute

Eastview Secondary School

Communication and feedback

Your voice is important as we work on adjusting boundaries at Maple Grove Public School and Cundles Heights Public School. Due to COVID-19, the board will be using an online communication tool, ThoughtExchange®, to share information and collect comments related to the attendance area review. ThoughtExchange® is an online consultation tool where you will provide feedback by answering one key question:

What feedback would you like to share regarding the new attendance area changes?

While you're there, you can rank the thoughts and ideas added from other parents/guardians. Your name is not collected, and no one will know who you are, or which ideas are yours.

You can participate from December 6 to 17, 2021. Continue to return to the ThoughtExchange® often during this time so that you can view and rank new thoughts and ideas from others as they are added.

After the closure of the ThoughtExchange®, the data collected will be evaluated and used to finetune the proposed attendance review areas. A report will be provided to the SCDSB's Business and Facilities Committee in February 2022. Implementation of the elementary boundaries will occur in September 2022, while the secondary boundaries will occur in September 2023.

North Barrie Attendance Area Review

The 2020-2021 Capital Plan recommended staff undertake an attendance area review (AAR 2020:01) for northeast Barrie schools.

Schools in the northeast portion of the City of Barrie have had varying degrees of low enrolment, except for Maple Grove Public School, which has seen a small increase in enrolment. The Maple Grove Public School school site is unable to accommodate further portables, resulting in the need for an attendance area review to balance enrolment.

The goal of the new boundaries will be to:

- maximize walk zones
- minimize busing
- reduce enrolment among area schools
- align secondary feeder schools

SCDSB Policy 2317 – School Attendance Areas sets out the guidelines for the establishment of school attendance areas.

Administrative Procedures Memorandum A7000 – School Attendance Areas is the procedure used to guide implementation of Policy 2317.

Current enrolment and other data

This chart represents the enrolment, utilization, and portable count for the schools involved in the attendance area review as of Oct. 31, 2021:

Elementary School	On The Ground Capacity	Portables 2021	Students 2021	Utilization
Cundles Heights PS	450	0	385	86%
Maple Grove PS	412	4	485	118%
Total	862	4	870	101%

Secondary School	On The Ground Capacity	Portables 2021	Students 2021	Utilization
Barrie North CI	1,299	0	1,210	93%
Eastview SS	1,227	4	1,299	106%
Total	2,526	4	2,509	99%

Areas involved in the AAR

Current Elementary Attendance Areas – Cundles Heights Public School and Maple Grove Public School



Establishing new attendance boundaries

Given the site limitations for portables and the opportunity to balance the utilization between Cundles Heights PS, Maple Grove PS and their associated secondary regular and French Immersion feeder schools, a boundary change is recommended.

The proposed boundaries would involve:

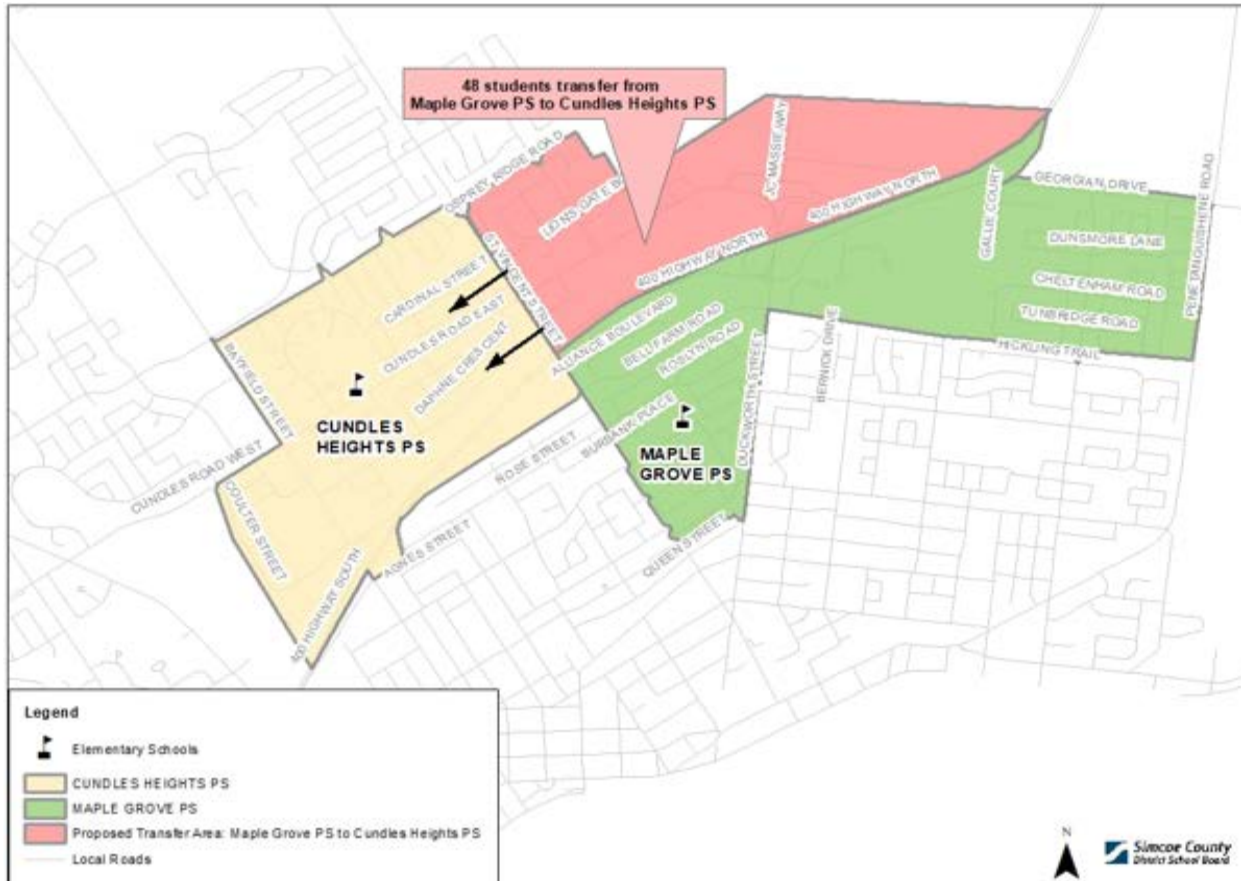
- Transfer of approximately 48 students from Maple Grove Public School to Cundles Heights Public School
- No changes to French Immersion feeder schools

The following chart represents the projected elementary enrolment after the boundary change:

Elementary School	On The Ground Capacity	Portables 2021	Projected Students 2022	Utilization
Cundles Heights PS	450	0	439	98%
Maple Grove PS	412	2	444	108%
Total	862	2	883	102%

Areas under review (non-French Immersion)

Proposed Transfer Area: Cundles Heights Public School and Maple Grove Public School



Proposed elementary attendance areas

Proposed Attendance Areas for Maple Grove Public School and Cundles Heights Public School



Areas under review (walk zone)

As shown on the map, a portion of the area proposed to be transferred will be in the Cundles Heights Public School walk zone. The walk zones and eligibility for school transportation will be confirmed by the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium upon approval of the boundary review.

Potential Cundles Heights Public School Walk Zone



Areas under review (secondary alignment)

As part of the boundary review, the secondary attendance boundary will be amended to align with the proposed elementary boundary changes.

The proposed secondary boundaries would involve:

- Transfer of approximately 10 students from Eastview Secondary School to Barrie North Collegiate Institute

Students within the area being proposed to move to Cundles Heights PS will transition into Barrie North Collegiate Institute as they reach secondary school age (i.e. - current Grade 7 students would attend Barrie North Collegiate Institute).

Secondary students from the proposed transfer area who currently attend Eastview Secondary School may choose to attend Barrie North Collegiate Institute or remain at Eastview Secondary School until graduation.

The following maps illustrate the change to the secondary school attendance boundaries.

Proposed secondary attendance areas

Proposed Attendance Areas for Eastview Secondary School and Barrie North Collegiate Institute



Transition strategy

Principals at Maple Grove Public School and Cundles Heights Public School will ensure that transition of students is well planned, and that students and staff are supported.

Elementary attendance boundary changes will be implemented in September 2022, and current SCDSB Grade 7 students (who will be in Grade 8 in September 2022) will have the choice to transfer or remain in their current school to graduate.

Secondary attendance boundary changes will be implemented in September 2023, and current SCDSB Grade 7 students (who will be in Grade 8 in September 2022) will feed into Barrie North Collegiate Institute upon graduation in June 2023.

Questions and answers

When will the boundary change occur?

New attendance boundaries will take effect September 2022 for the elementary schools, and September 2023 for the secondary schools.

What are the policies for students entering Grade 8 the year of the move? Do they have to go to Cundles Heights Public School?

The recommendation being considered does not transition the Grade 8 students.

What are the policies for children currently attending Eastview Secondary School? Do they have to go to Barrie North Collegiate Institute?

The recommendation being considered does not transition the existing Eastview Secondary School students.

What type of transitions are put into place?

As we get closer to the date, the school principals will plan events and activities to ensure students from each of the schools meet.

Questions and answers

Will there be before and after school care at Cundles Heights Public School?

Yes, York Professional Care and Education operates a before and after school care program at Cundles Heights Public School.

What are the bell times for Cundles Heights Public School?

The bell times are 8:30 a.m. and 2:50 p.m.

Will transportation service be provided?

The Grade 8 students wishing to stay will continue to have transportation to Maple Grove Public School. Secondary students who wish to continue at Eastview Secondary School will continue to have transportation. A portion of the boundary change will be within the Cundles Heights Public School walk zone, and a portion will be bussed. Upon approval of the boundary review, the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium will provide finalized walk zone boundaries and determine student eligibility for transportation.

Next steps and timelines

We value and encourage your input on the proposed plan.

The ThoughtExchange® will be open for feedback from December 6 to 17, 2021. After the closure of the ThoughtExchange®, the data collected will be evaluated and used to modify the proposed attendance and program review areas. A report will be provided to the SCDSB's Business and Facilities Standing Committee meeting in February 2022.

Implementation of the elementary boundaries will occur September 2022, while the secondary boundaries will occur in September 2023.

Questions?

- For questions about ThoughtExchange®, contact research@scdsb.on.ca.
- For clarification on details related to the attendance area review, contact planning_MapleGrove@scdsb.on.ca.

APPENDIX B – Pages 1 to 3

Maple Grove Public School and Cundles Heights Public School Attendance Area Review ThoughtExchange® Results

RESULTS OF THE MAPLE GROVE AND CUNDLES HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA REVIEW
ThoughtExchange®

Exchange Date: December 6 to 17, 2021

Exchange Question: What feedback would you like to share regarding the new attendance area changes?

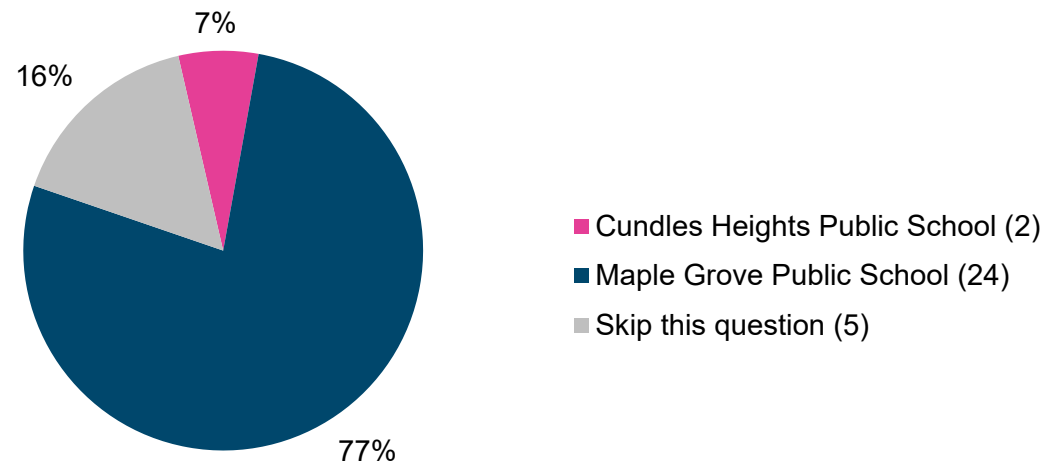
Participants:

 **34**
Participants

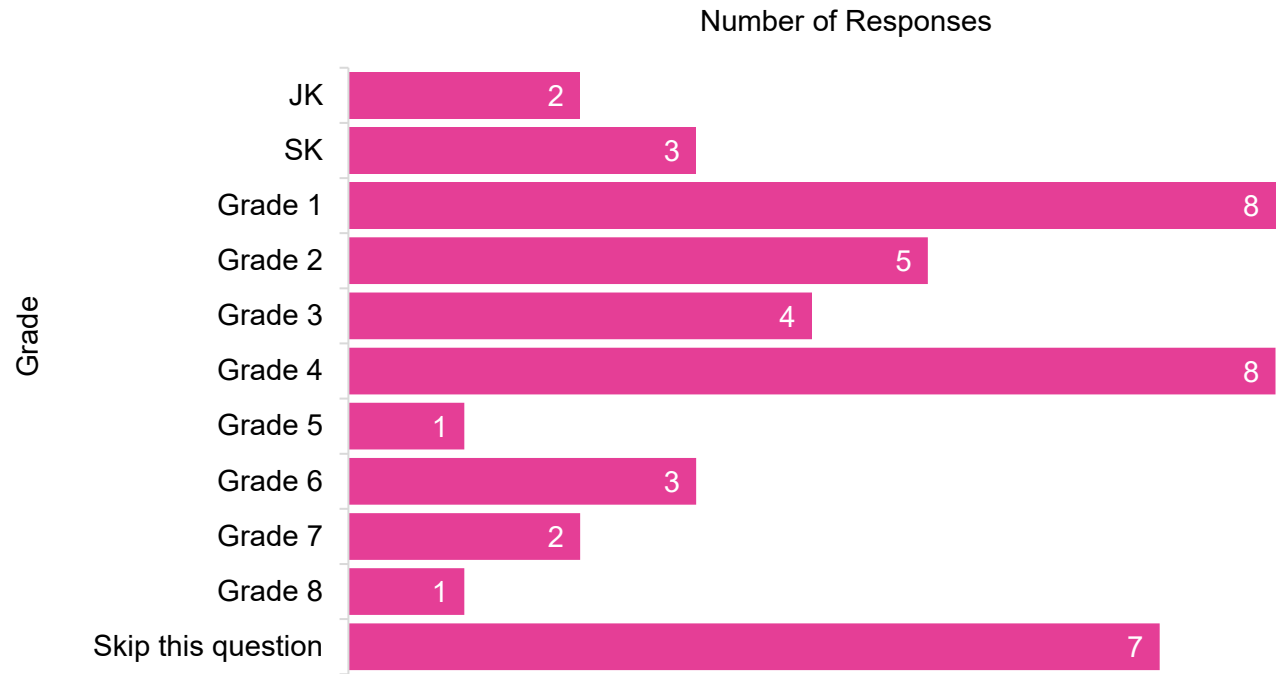
 **40**
Thoughts

 **352**
Ratings

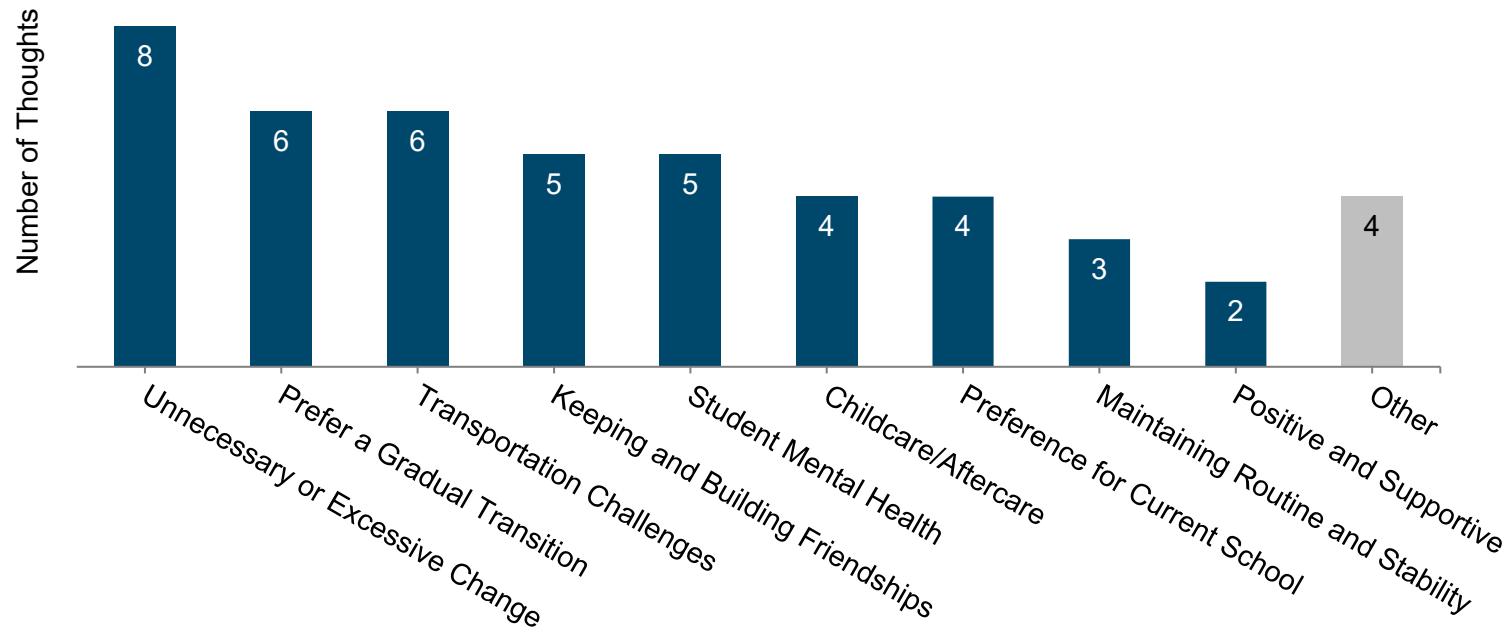
My child(ren) currently attends this school:



My child(ren) is currently in grade:



Key Themes by Number of Thoughts:



Note: A thought may be included in more than one theme.

Proposed Attendance Areas for Cundles Heights Public School and Maple Grove Public School

