

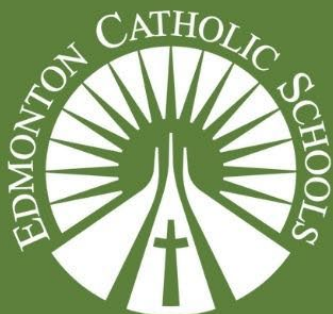
KATHERINE THERRIEN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ST. CHARLES
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ST. TIMOTHY CO
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHAT WE HEARD

NORTHWEST SOLUTION PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT



JANUARY 2026

Executive Summary

Edmonton Catholic School Division (ECSD) engaged families from Katherine Therrien, St. Charles, St. Timothy, and surrounding communities to gather feedback on the Northwest Solution Phase 2 project. Twenty-five parents and guardians completed the questionnaire after viewing an informational video outlining the proposed changes.

Overall, most respondents supported the proposed changes, particularly improved junior high access and modern learning environments, and emphasized the importance of academic enrichment and career-focused programming. Key concerns included transportation and traffic impacts, school continuity, and long-term capacity planning. While the majority were supportive or neutral, two respondents (8%) strongly opposed relocating St. Charles, citing community disruption and increased travel times.

This report summarizes the key themes and insights gathered through the engagement process.

Background

The Northwest Solution Phase 2 project aims to address school capacity pressures, modernize learning environments, and improve access to junior high programming in Edmonton's northwest communities. The project includes proposed changes affecting Katherine Therrien, St. Charles, and St. Timothy schools, with implications for feeder patterns and specialized programming.

To ensure transparency and responsiveness, ECSD sought input from families through an online questionnaire.

Engagement Objectives

The engagement process was designed to:

- Inform families about the proposed Phase 2 changes.
- Understand which benefits and programming priorities matter most to parents.
- Identify concerns or considerations that should guide planning.
- Gather feedback on preferred communication methods as the project progresses.
- Document both supportive and opposing perspectives to ensure balanced decision-making.

Engagement Process

- Families were invited to watch a video outlining the Phase 2 proposal.
- An online questionnaire was distributed to parents and guardians across affected schools.
- The questionnaire included multiple-choice and open-ended questions.
- Responses were collected between December 4–11, 2025.
- A total of 25 completed questionnaires were received and analyzed.

Engagement Results

Benefits Identified by Families

Respondents most frequently highlighted benefits related to access, modernization, and efficiency.

- Improved access to junior high education was the most valued benefit, selected by 19 respondents (76%).
- Modern learning environments were also highly valued (64%).
- Other benefits included reduced student travel times (40%), better geographic distribution of schools (28%), maintenance cost savings (24%), and increased student retention (20%).

These results indicate strong alignment with the project's core goals.

Programming Priorities

Families emphasized the importance of strong academic and career-focused programming.

- Academic enrichment was the top priority (72%).
- Career Technology Foundations followed at 48%.
- Additional priorities included sports (24%), career and trades preparation (24%), fine arts (16%), and language and culture (12%).

This reflects a desire for well-rounded programming that supports both academic excellence and practical skill development.

Preferred Communication Channels

Families expressed a clear preference for accessible, digital communication.

- School website updates were preferred by 60% of respondents.
- Online surveys/feedback forms and social media updates were each selected by 44%.
- School Advisory Council meetings were valued by 24%.

- Only one respondent preferred email as the primary communication method. These preferences highlight the importance of maintaining consistent, centralized online updates.

Qualitative Themes

Open-ended responses provided deeper insight into family concerns and expectations.

Themes included:

- Timing & Acceleration (12%): Families urged ECSD to fast-track junior high options and accelerate the K–9 build, reflecting urgency around current capacity pressures.
- Classroom Capacity & Population Growth (12%): Respondents expressed concern about overcrowding and emphasized the need for long-term planning to accommodate rising enrollment.
- Special Needs Supports (4%): A small number of families requested enhanced resources for students with autism, ADHD, and other learning needs.
- Transportation & Traffic (16%): This was the most frequently raised concern. Families worried about increased traffic, loss of walkability, and busing requirements for students who currently walk to school.
- School Identity & Continuity (12%): Parents sought clarity on the future of the existing schools, interim junior high arrangements, and the continuity of programming.
- Opposition/Disagreement (8%): A minority strongly opposed relocating St. Charles, citing community disruption, increased travel times, and concerns about demographic impacts.
- Neutral/No Additional Comments (28%): Over a quarter of respondents provided no further feedback, suggesting either satisfaction with the information provided or limited concerns.

Conclusion

The engagement results show broad support for the goals of the Northwest Solution Phase 2 project, particularly improved junior high access and modern learning environments. Families value strong academic and career-focused programming and prefer clear, consistent digital communication as planning progresses.

At the same time, respondents highlighted several areas requiring careful attention. Transportation and traffic concerns were prominent, as were questions about school continuity and long-term capacity planning. A smaller group expressed strong opposition to

relocating St. Charles, underscoring the need for continued dialogue and transparent communication.

Moving forward, ECSD can strengthen trust and support by addressing these concerns directly, providing clear transition plans, and maintaining open communication with families. By doing so, the Division can ensure that Phase 2 meets the needs of students and communities while supporting long-term sustainability and growth.

Edmonton Catholic School Division

What We Heard

NW Solution Phase 2- Engagement



Edmonton Catholic School Division (ECSD) engaged families from Katherine Therrien, St. Charles, St. Timothy, and other affected schools to gather input on the Northwest Solution Phase 2 project. There were 25 responses to the questionnaire, representing Kindergarten through Junior High.

