

# JUST ASK



You asked York Region public school board chairperson Bill Crothers:

If my children are currently attending Summitview P.S. and I move to another school district (Northeast E.S. which is proposed, but not built yet) and Summitview is less than a kilometre away, do my children have to change schools?

**MICHAEL FARRELL**  
STOUFFVILLE

A: While I can't answer your question directly, I can describe and rationalize the board policy.

Each school in the board has an attendance boundary, that is, students who reside inside that boundary are assigned to that

school. All geographic areas are included in the attendance area of one of the board schools.

When new communities are being built, as in Stouffville, new homes are being built in an area which, at that time, is inside a particular school's attendance area. When enough homes are being built to generate more students than can be accommodated at the original school, a new school is identified and is built.

When that happens, boundaries are examined (and altered) for all schools impacted by the growth in the number of students generated by the new subdivi-

sion. When the new boundaries are examined and created, the board policy then extends to that school as well.

In other words, students within the new attendance boundary are expected to attend the new school.

The board does have a policy that permits parents to apply to have their child transfer to a different school, subject to meeting certain criteria:

- there is space at the school requested (and is expected to be so for the duration of the child's education)

- there is no negative impact on the school being left

- there is no entitlement to bus-ing after the transfer

- that it is in the best interest of the child.

The situation in Stouffville is a good example. Until about six years ago, there were only two elementary schools in Stouffville (Summitview and Orchard Park), with surrounding schools at Bal-lantrae and Whitchurch High-lands, at which time Glad Park was opened.

With the tremendous growth in Stouffville which will occur over the next 15 to 20 years, there will be an additional five or six schools built.

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