

# Halton District School Board

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Report Number: 20024  
Date: February 10, 2020

**FOR DECISION**

TO: The Chair and Members of the Halton District School Board  
FROM: Stuart Miller, Director of Education  
Gord Truffen, Superintendent of Education  
RE: **Aldershot High School - French Immersion Boundary**

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## Background

Historically, at Aldershot HS the Grade 9 French Immersion (FI) class averages 23 students. With the uptake of applications to the I-STEM program, lower numbers are projected to enter the FI program. Within four years the FI program Grades 9 -12, is projected to decrease from 101 students in 2018 to under 35 students by 2022. These enrolment numbers will severely impact the viability of the French Immersion Program at Aldershot HS. It is recommended that the FI program at Aldershot High School be reviewed.

As a result, the following motion M19-0137 ([from Report 20008](#)) was approved by the Board of Trustees on January 22, 2020.

*Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board direct staff to undertake a school boundary review for the French Immersion program at Aldershot High School; with an expected completion date by February 2020.*

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## Recommendation

***Be it resolved that the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for Aldershot High School French Immersion as outlined in Option 1 as detailed in Report 20024 effective September 2020.***

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## Discussion

The 2019-2020 LTAP School Boundary Reviews Board report outlined declining enrolment in the secondary French Immersion (FI) program, with the conclusion that Board staff would continue to monitor FI enrolments at Aldershot and Burlington Central High Schools to ensure program viability. Given the concerns of the long term program viability of the FI program at Aldershot HS, Board staff concluded a FI program school boundary review be undertaken.

In September 2019, the Grade 9 I-STEM program was launched at Aldershot HS. The I-STEM program is projected to attract 43% of English students and 62% of FI current Grade 8 students from Aldershot Elementary for September 2020. Coupled with the relocation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Burlington Central HS and the number of students selecting English program for Grade 9, a limited number of students opted for the Grade 9 FI program at Aldershot HS. As outlined in [Table 1](#), there were only 9 students enrolled in the Grade 9 FI program at Aldershot HS for the 2019-2020 school year. For the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, less than 10 students have selected to continue French Immersion for Grade 9 at Aldershot.

**Table 1:**

| Aldershot Grade 9 Enrolment | English | I-STEM | French Immersion | Total |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|------------------|-------|
| 2019-20                     | 59      | 110    | 9                | 178   |
| Projections 2020-20         | 55      | 200    | 7                | 247   |

# Halton District School Board

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As a result the Board of Trustees approved a motion that directed Board staff to undertake a school boundary review for the French Immersion program at Aldershot High School; with an expected completion date by February 2020.

## **Boundary Review**

The process for the boundary review of French Immersion program (Grades 9-12) at Aldershot School followed the Halton District School Board Administrative Procedure: [School Boundary Reviews \(2016\)](#).

A Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) was established to lead the school boundary review process. The committee members included Burlington Superintendent Gord Truffen, Superintendent of Education Terri Blackwell, Superintendent of Education Julie Hunt-Gibbons, General Manager of Planning, Domenico Renzella; Senior Analyst of Planning, Michelle D'Aguiar; Trustee Leah Reynolds (affected area Trustee) and Trustee Tanya Rocha (non-affected Trustee).

The two affected school communities, Aldershot School (Grades 7-12) and Maplehurst (Grades 2-6 FI), were informed of the boundary review through SchoolMessenger on [January 24, 2020](#).

The Boundary Review Steering Committee (BRSC) initially met on January 29, 2020 and subsequently on January 30, 2020. At the first meeting the BRSC determined that Pathway 2 (Informing the Community) was the appropriate communication model to adopt given the unique circumstances, timelines for students to select grade 9 courses, limited number of impacted students, as well as the fact that there were limited options to review and consider.

Board staff from the Planning Department, Superintendents and Trustees reviewed pertinent information to the boundary review. Some of the data examined by the BRSC included:

- enrolment data, On The Ground (OTG) capacity, % utilization, portable capacity (refer to [Appendix 1](#))
- secondary school program information and viability of programs
- walking distance, transportation and associated costs

The following evaluation criteria from the Halton District School Board's Boundary Review administrative procedure were referenced throughout the process:

- **Viability of Program** – How many students are required to offer and maintain programs in an educationally sound and fiscally responsible way?
- **Balance of Overall Enrolment** - Is student access to programs, resources and extracurricular opportunities being maximized? Is over and underutilization of buildings avoided to the extent possible?
- **Fiscally Responsible** - **Does** the option strive to reduce unnecessary costs?
- **Student Experience** - Does the option demonstrate an effort to reduce the number of school moves students **have** experienced? Are cohorts kept together?

The BRSC initially reviewed the single option developed by board staff. The BRSC assessed the option as per the established criteria indicated above. Given the limited scope of this boundary review and the study areas, only one option was generated by the BRSC. As such, [Option 1 \(Appendix 1\)](#) was selected for this report.

Subsequently, the Director and Administrative Council reviewed the recommendation from the Boundary Review Steering Committee and confirmed that Option 1:

- provides viability of program for French Immersion at Burlington Central High School
- provides a larger cohort of students for French Immersion
- continues to ensure stable, long term boundaries for both Aldershot High School and Burlington Central High School
- is the preferred option of the BRSC; and
- addresses the recommendation in the Board motion.

# Halton District School Board

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As a result, the Director recommends the Halton District School Board adjust the boundaries for the for Aldershot High School (Grades 9 - 12) French Immersion to be directed to Burlington Central High School effective September, 2020.

## **Option 1**

Effective September 2020:

- Grade 9 French Immersion program will be directed to Burlington Central High School (Transportation will be provided in accordance with the HDSB Transportation Policy.).
- French Immersion program will begin to phase out at Aldershot High School (i.e., students in Grade 9 FI prior to September 2020 will complete the FI program at Aldershot High School).

The Board will continue to monitor the number of Aldershot French Immersion Grade 8 students opting for Grade 9 French Immersion. A commitment to continued monitoring will occur, as articulated in the Burlington Secondary School Program and Accommodation Review Final Report.

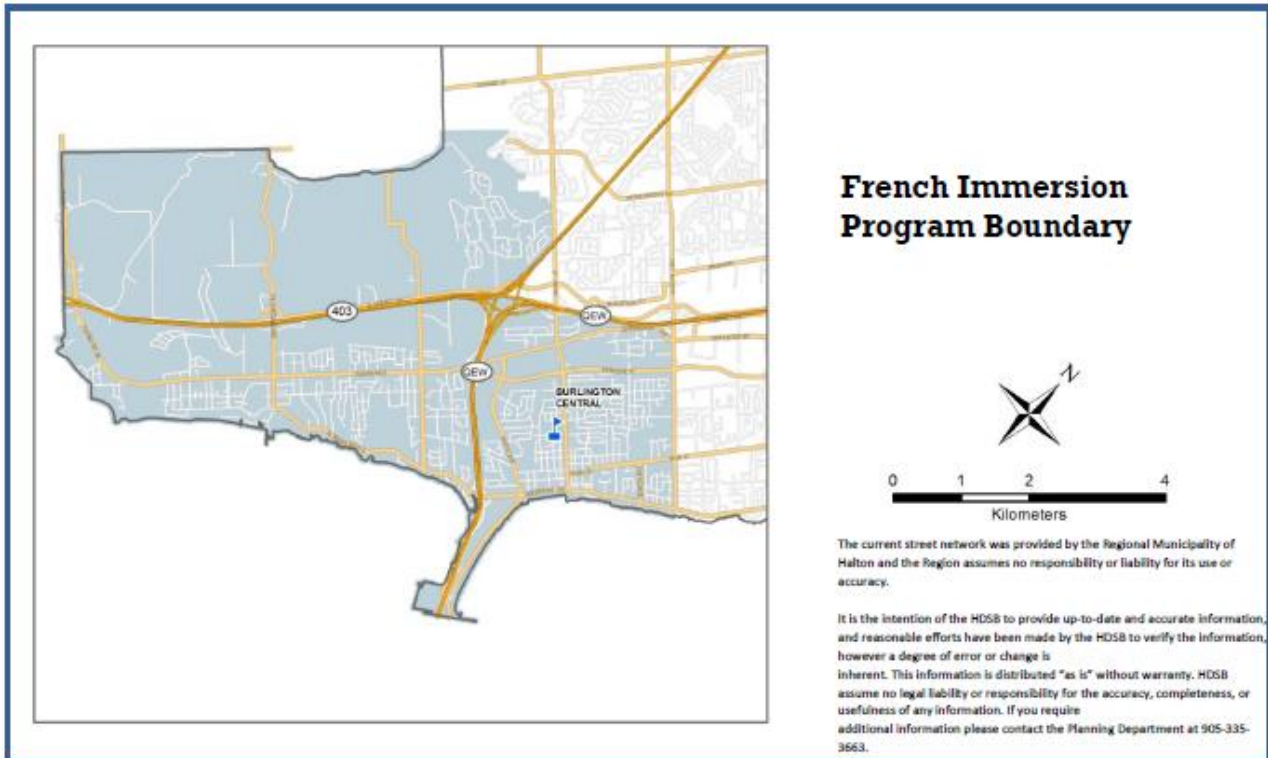
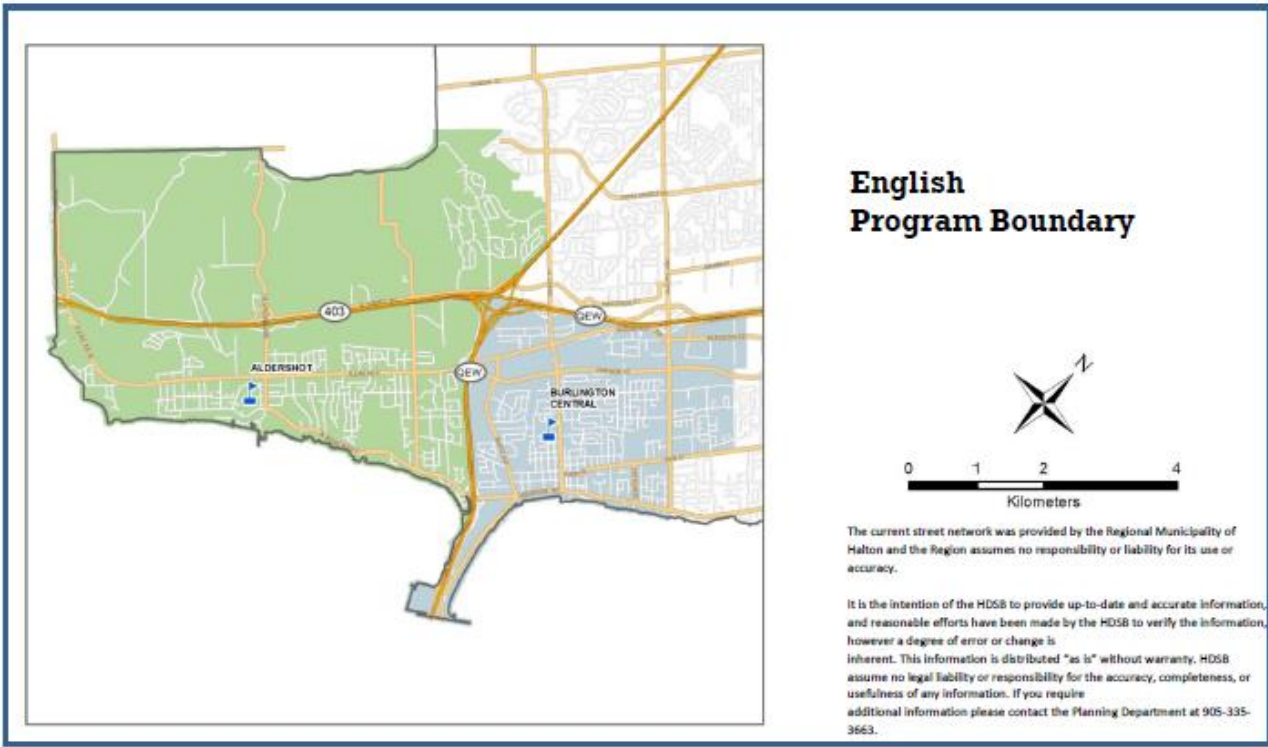
*Respectfully submitted,*

*Gord Truffen,  
Superintendent of Education*

*Stuart Miller,  
Director of Education*

# Halton District School Board

## Appendix 1



# Halton District School Board

## Option 1 Projections

|                                    |                               | Program                   | School Cap. | Max Port | Total Cap | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Aldershot<br>Elem & HS             | ENG                           | 954<br><i>Elementary</i>  | 10          | 1164     | 332       | 308  | 268  | 240  | 223  | 214  | 218  | 240  | 259  | 285  | 301  |      |
|                                    | FI                            |                           |             |          | 85        | 56   | 31   | 10   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    |      |
|                                    | ISTEM                         |                           |             |          | 110       | 293  | 424  | 545  | 555  | 496  | 484  | 497  | 497  | 497  | 497  |      |
|                                    | Total                         |                           |             |          | 240       | 224  | 216  | 212  | 213  | 255  | 247  | 259  | 259  | 261  | 268  |      |
|                                    | <i>Available Pupil Places</i> |                           |             |          |           | 767  | 881  | 939  | 1007 | 991  | 965  | 949  | 996  | 1015 | 1043 | 1066 |
|                                    | <i>Percent Utilization</i>    |                           |             |          |           | 187  | 73   | 15   | -53  | -37  | -11  | 5    | -42  | -61  | -89  | -112 |
|                                    | <i>Percent Utilization</i>    |                           |             |          |           | 80%  | 92%  | 98%  | 106% | 104% | 101% | 99%  | 104% | 106% | 109% | 112% |
| Burlington<br>Central Elem<br>& HS | ENG                           | 1271<br><i>Elementary</i> | 8           | 1439     | 541       | 521  | 514  | 507  | 522  | 555  | 561  | 571  | 558  | 551  | 561  |      |
|                                    | FI                            |                           |             |          | 66        | 86   | 102  | 103  | 107  | 108  | 93   | 90   | 87   | 88   | 93   |      |
|                                    | IB                            |                           |             |          | 53        | 176  | 190  | 199  | 197  | 196  | 187  | 183  | 177  | 173  | 169  |      |
|                                    | Total                         |                           |             |          | 257       | 275  | 249  | 256  | 242  | 238  | 233  | 232  | 257  | 252  | 243  |      |
|                                    | <i>Available Pupil Places</i> |                           |             |          |           | 917  | 1058 | 1055 | 1065 | 1068 | 1097 | 1074 | 1076 | 1079 | 1064 | 1066 |
|                                    | <i>Available Pupil Places</i> |                           |             |          |           | 354  | 213  | 216  | 206  | 203  | 174  | 197  | 195  | 192  | 207  | 205  |
|                                    | <i>Percent Utilization</i>    |                           |             |          |           | 72%  | 83%  | 83%  | 84%  | 84%  | 86%  | 85%  | 85%  | 85%  | 84%  | 84%  |
| <i>Study Total</i>                 |                               |                           |             |          | 1684      | 1940 | 1993 | 2072 | 2059 | 2061 | 2023 | 2072 | 2094 | 2107 | 2133 |      |