

23 November 2010

To Whom it may concern,

I have a son in grade 3 in the FI program at École College Heights Elementary and I am delighted with the education he is receiving in his neighbourhood school. Last spring, after a few stressful months I was relieved that the FI program would stay at our school and my two children would be able to attend their neighbourhood school where they would learn in their second language.

However, the next day I learned that the FI Kindergarten program was to be cut from 2 classes (44 children) to 1 class (22 children) and the English program would also be capped. A school that used to accept 66 Kindergarten children now accepts a maximum of 44.

And now there is this proposed policy states that although I have a child already attending the FI program at ECHE and I live in the within walking distance to the school, my youngest son will not be guaranteed a spot in either the FI or English stream. How did this happen? How did I go from celebrating and looking forward to September of 2011 when my youngest son is to start Kindergarten to dreading what will happen in April of 2011 when I sit in front of the computer hoping to be one of the lucky few who presses enter in the first few minutes after 9 am when registration opens?

As more schools are closed (and we know there will be more), schools will near capacity just like ECHE and more families will be threatened as siblings are forced to attend separate streams or go to different schools.

I need to ask you what the motivation behind this proposed policy is. Why don't you want to keep families together?

Carolyn Holmes