

Petition to the Regina Board of Education

The Regina Board of Education has proposed a plan to close 12 elementary schools and two high schools in Regina, increasing the number of students in each school and leaving some neighbourhoods without a public elementary school. In addition to the school closures, the board proposes to spend \$96.5 million to enlarge remaining school facilities to accommodate up to 50 per cent more students, as well as up to \$1.68 million annually to bus the students.

We, the undersigned, oppose this plan for the following reasons:

- enrollment statistics the Board has presented as rationale for the school closures are grossly inaccurate;
- the assumption of declining enrollment in the current climate of our city is dated and inaccurate;
- the Board has overlooked the evidence that children learn better in small neighbourhood schools;
- the Board has failed to consider the value of these schools to students, communities and local economies;
- the proposed plan has a disproportionately negative affect on disadvantaged students and in particular aboriginal youth;
- the proposed plan limits geographic access to French immersion;
- the Board has failed to consider the environmental and health impacts of increased busing;
- the Board has failed to consider the effect that increased busing and school closures will have on sustainable communities and urban renewal within the city of Regina.

The Board has not publicly responded to written questions and concerns submitted to the Board at public meetings (including but not limited to the above concerns).

Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Regina Board of Education to immediately impose a **moratorium on school closures**.

Further, we call on the Board to reject the current plan and to initiate an independent third-party review, using the Ontario Ministry of Education's pupil accommodation guidelines as a model. Such a review would be overseen by a joint board-community committee that would address the above concerns and present a revised plan for public consultation.

Name	Address	Signature

Please return completed petition by **Saturday March 8** to the Groovy Mama shop 3100-13th Ave., Ph. 347-2229.
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