



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

Special project school consultation FAQ

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What is a special project school?

It is a school that offers specialized programs and has its own enrolment criteria. We can offer a variety of programs such as Mathematics and Science, Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Art and Music, Sports etc.

A special project school allows us to meet the needs of a larger population and more diversified programs to all the students in the board.

Why are we looking at opening a special project school?

We need to address the declining enrolment we are experiencing. Each year, a significant number of students are leaving the SWLSB to enrol in special project schools in Montreal.

Over the past years, we have lost more than 450 students (approximately 145 per year) that left SWLSB to go to a special project school offered in another school board.

We expect to lose at least another 250 over the next couple of years for the same reason.

What are the benefits of a special project school?

A special project school will meet the needs of diverse learners. It will satisfy the request of parents to offer enriched programs. It also makes our board more competitive. Not only will it allow us to retain our students, it will attract students from other boards, hence increasing enrolment. Obviously, because of its nature, a special project school will also increase the school board's success rate.

A special project school will bring value to our parents and community as well as provide additional resources in all our regions. Once again, increasing enrolment means more staff and resources that will benefit all the regions.

What will be the impact on other schools if we open a special project school?

The entire school board will benefit from increased enrolment. When we increase in enrolment, whichever the region, we have more resources, staff etc. that will benefit our regions.

Will other high schools in Laval lose their elite students to this new special project school?



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The aim of the school is to provide an enriched program to our board to make us competitive. We know that approximately 145 students a year have met the criteria for special project schools in other boards and are leaving SWLSB. We hope to target these students who are leaving. There are other students from other school boards in the Laval, Laurentides, Lanaudière regions, who may want to attend and may meet the criteria of our special project school, thus increasing enrolment.

There would be a minimal impact on the existing high schools who would lose a number of students to the special project school. This would be minimized through stringent enrolment criteria and a possibility of limiting the number of available spaces in the school. This would be a highly demanding school with an enriched program in the vocation that is subject to consultation. There would be a rigorous selection process.

Why did the school board choose Laval to open this special project school?

Laval is where we lose the most students. In the transition from grade 6 to secondary 1, we lose hundreds of students. 70% of the students we lose annually come from Laval. The Laval location will be the starting point for such a school. Students from all regions can benefit from having this enriched program in our board providing that they meet the entrance criteria.

What are the risks of not opening a special project school?

By not meeting the needs of our community we will continue to lose students and the result will be continued decreasing enrolment.

Decreasing enrolment unfortunately results in less jobs and less resources for our students in all the regions of our school board.

How will teachers be chosen for this school?

The school will be staffed following the staffing process in the collective agreement. Therefore, teachers who are surplus to their schools will have the opportunity of selecting a post at the new school and remaining posts would then be offered to voluntary transfers and if need be to the recall meeting.