

**Name: Jeanine Wilson**

**Brief summary of issue or topic of discussion:**

Impact of the proposed EPR on Arch Street Public School and Hawthorne Public School. I am a parent at Arch and a member of the school council. I would like to speak on behalf of Arch and Hawthorne to present the information we have recently gathered via a survey around offering French immersion at both schools.

Hello Trustees,

My name is Jeanine Wilson. I am a parent at Arch Street Public School (Arch) and the secretary-treasurer of the school council (SC). My daughter is currently enrolled in JK. It was a difficult decision to enroll at Arch instead of Pleasant Park Public School, the French Immersion (FI) school in our catchment. Ultimately, it was important for us to be at our community school because our daughter has severe allergies. We want to be close enough to the school that we can conveniently walk there in the event of an emergency. We have also started building a community around us with our neighbours and members of Arch so it would be difficult to switch schools. As a parent at Arch, I am **not** aware of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) surveying the parents specifically at Arch to ask if they would be interested in having FI offered. I completed the OCDSB survey to provide my feedback but none of those questions were specifically around offering FI.

Following the proposed revisions to the Elementary Program Review (EPR), Arch SC took it upon itself to prepare, translate into Arabic and Somali, and circulate a survey to the current parents of Arch and Hawthorne Public School (Hawthorne) to gather information and advocate for these schools. We received 51 responses to date.

Some of the questions we asked included:

1. Would you like to see FI offered in your child(ren) school?  
76.5% of respondents said yes. 11.8% said no, and 11.8% said no preference.
2. Would you enroll your child(ren) in FI if it were offered?  
74.5% said yes. 23.5% said no, and 2% not sure.
3. If FI is not offered, will you stay enrolled in the English program with core French or go

to another school that offers FI?

74.5% said they would stay enrolled in English and 25.5% would go to another school

These results suggest that there is an interest from current parents in seeing FI offered at Arch and Hawthorne. We would like to see the OCDSB investigate further. If Arch SC can be of assistance, please let me know.

It is disappointing that, under the current revisions to the EPR, Arch and Hawthorne are 2 of 4 schools across the entire district that will not be getting FI for the 2026/2027 school year. As schools in lower-income communities, where a high population of families do not speak English as their first language, how is the OCDSB being equitable with this decision?

In conclusion, I would like the Trustees to consider the potential positive impacts on the Arch and Hawthorne communities if FI were offered.

Best regards,  
Jeanine Wilson