



Dear Parents and Caregivers;

As caregivers of the students who attend SD64 schools, YOU are the experts about their experiences and we want your input!

Setting the Stage:

Being a multi-island district means we face unique challenges. Our geography also makes it complicated to ensure that all students have equal opportunities. On top of that, over the next few years, the school district is facing a reduced budget due to enrollment decline. As such, the goal of the current configuration conversation is to have a real look at our schools and programs. Although configuration isn't the answer to everything, ensuring that we are meeting student needs as economically as possible will mean that as we move into the future, we won't compromise student learning.

All Ideas Count:

What is configuration, and why review it? In essence, it's a catchall way to describe the grades and programs that different schools in the district offer. It's important to regularly review district configuration to make sure that we are best meeting student's needs. Below are some examples of the kinds of things that are on the table when thinking about Configuration:

Schools: Currently, we have elementary, middle, and secondary schools, and we know that transitions are often hard on kids (especially given the transportation realities we face in SD64). Something that might be worth thinking about is having schools go from K-7 and 8-12 to reduce the number of transitions.

School Programs - School programs include everything from MYSeek and French Immersion to GISPA. These are all big parts of our identity as a district, and they require a lot of resources to offer them each year. Feasibility and equitable access need to be considered for each program.

Buses and Water Taxis - What would it look like to have the buses and water taxis move people around to different places at different times. Obviously, we have to stay within our budget means, but perhaps Salt Spring students want to attend programs on Pender.

As you can see, the topics for conversation are wide open and in this early phase of gathering ideas and perspectives, we invite your creativity, insights, and perspectives.

What input looks like:

We are interested in hearing everything from what works and doesn't work for your child in the classroom, to your thoughts on the schools and programs, to big ideas you may have about the structure of the school district. Again, you are the experts about your kids, and your voice matters. Don't miss this opportunity.