

## **Laird School Transition Plan**

### **School Review process**

The Prairie Spirit Board of Education initiated the Ministry of Education's school review process for Laird School in September 2025, due to the school's enrolment trends and the condition of the school facility. Laird School currently operates as a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school.

Following extensive consultations and information gathering, the Board made a final decision in the school review process for Laird School. The Board passed a motion on April 20, 2026, to discontinue Grades 7 and 8 at Laird School effective June 30, 2026.

Beginning this fall, Laird School will become a Kindergarten to Grade 6 school, with Laird students in Grades 7 and 8 offered transportation to Waldheim School, which is approximately 12 km from Laird.

### **Communication to Laird families**

- Laird families received a letter from the Board of Education Chair and the Director of Education on April 20, to inform families of the Board's decision to discontinue Grades 7 and 8 at Laird School.
- To support a smooth transition for students, Laird School families with students in Grades 7 and 8 this fall will continue to receive updates from Laird School and Waldheim School.
- Laird School families with students in Grades 7 and 8 this fall who attend Waldheim School will receive information from Prairie Spirit about transportation to Waldheim School.

### **Transportation**

- Laird students currently receive transportation to Waldheim School for Grades 9 - 12. Starting this fall, transportation to Waldheim School will be offered to Laird students in Grades 7 - 12.
- Regular Division busing processes will be in place for Laird students in Grades 7 and 8 who attend Waldheim School this fall.
- Bus route details like pick up times and drop off times will be communicated to Laird families before the start of the school year this fall.

### **Property**

- As Laird School will remain open for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6, there will be no change to the Laird school property or contents. The Ministry of Education has committed to providing funds for repairs to Laird School. This was an important consideration in the Board's decision, and the Board thanks the provincial government for this investment in education.

### **Collaboration with Laird School SCC and Waldheim School SCC**

- The School Community Councils (SCC) from both Laird School and Waldheim School are being consulted for their feedback regarding the transition plan for Laird School students for the 2026/27 school year.
- Laird School will be holding an event in June to celebrate students in Grades 6 and 7.
- As part of the transition plan, Waldheim School will offer visits and orientation opportunities to help Laird students and families familiarize themselves with the school and build confidence in the transition.