
SCI Grade 7 to 12 Secondary School Frequently Asked Questions

How will the transition be supported before, during and after the consolidation?

Transition activities have been ongoing throughout the 2017-18 school year.

Schools held transition events where students were able to see their new school environments and meet SCI staff and students. Students from all three schools were involved in planning and organizing these activities. Some of the transition activities included:

- Can You Feel It? anti-stress workshop
- SCI school visits
- a joint Winter Walk
- Explore SCI
- Paint the Town Pink
- Farmer's Day
- other mentoring activities

Parents were included in the Explore SCI event, and a joint School Council meeting was held. School and board staff will continue to work with the community to ensure a smooth transition to the Grade 7 to 12 model.

A Transition Committee that included a community representative and student, staff and parent representation from each of the three affected schools met throughout the school year to provide direction and feedback.

What time will school start and end?

The start time for SCI will be later to accommodate the inclusion of elementary-aged students at a secondary school site, approximately 8:30 a.m. As a result of the shared transportation plan, Clearview will begin their day about 10 minutes later than SCI, followed by Byng 10 to 15 minutes later than Clearview. Actual start and end of day times will be confirmed later this spring as they are directly linked to the transportation plan.

The school start and end times will be finalized once the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) determines their final routes for student transportation.

Will there be a Safe Arrival program for Grade 7 and 8 students?

Procedures regarding safe arrival and attendance and have not been finalized. Staff at SCI are working to integrate elementary office procedures into their processes. However, an attendance program will be in place for Grade 7 and 8 students.

Will Grade 7 and 8 students follow the same school year calendar as Grade 9-12? Will they have the same PA Days?

Grade 7 and 8 students will follow the elementary school year calendar. Some elementary PA Days are tied to the elementary teachers' collective agreement, so Grade 7 and 8 students will have the same PA Days as K-6 students at Byng and Clearview Meadows.

Will Grade 7 and 8 students follow an elementary balanced day, with nutrition breaks and recess, or will they follow the Grade 9-12 schedule?

Grade 7 and 8 students at SCI will follow the same schedule (common bell times) as students in grades 9 through 12, meaning the day will be divided into four, 75 minute periods. All students at SCI will have the same lunch period (following the second 75 minute period of instruction) to ensure that Grade 7 and 8 students will be able to participate in clubs, sports and other activities that may be offered during that time.

What will the Grade 7 and 8 program look like?

The Grade 7 and 8 curricula will be consistent with all Grade 7 and 8 programs in the SCDSB. Opportunities for access to specialized classrooms (science labs, music and art rooms) and programs related to the environmental and construction Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSMs) may be available.

Will Grade 7 and 8 students have access to the cafeteria, gym and extracurricular activities?

Grade 7 and 8 students will have access to the entire SCI facility and resources. The SCI cafeteria has space to accommodate students all SCI students.

Extracurricular programs are run by teachers who volunteer and community volunteers. The activities offered to students will be based on the availability and skill sets of staff and community volunteers.

Will the Grade 7 and 8 students be supervised during lunch, and before and after school?

Elementary teachers are required to provide 80 minutes to the school each week to supervise students outside of classroom instructional time. This means during lunch, and before and after school. The principal will develop a schedule for teacher supervision for school start up in September.

Will the Grade 7 and 8 students be kept separate from the Grade 9-12 students? What are the impacts of having Grade 7-8 students integrated with Grade 9-12 students?

SCI will be a Grade 7 to 12 secondary school. Grade 7 and 8 students will not be segregated from their older peers. Every student who attends SCI will be a Stayner Collegiate Spartan. The SCDSB continues to explore opportunities for senior students to mentor and support Grade 7 and 8 students attending SCI.

Will there be a separate 'Spartan Start' for Grade 7 and 8 students before school starts in September?

We hope to offer an orientation for Grade 7 and 8 students, but are not sure if it will be called 'Spartan Start', or given another name. This orientation will be discussed and planned with input from Grade 7 and 8 teachers, much in the same way that Kindergarten teachers are integral to planning the transition from Kindergarten to Grade 1. Orientation information will be shared with incoming Grade 7 and 8 students at the end of the school year through their current elementary school. This will include details about the first day of school, and what students can expect.

Will Grade 7 and 8 students miss out on leadership opportunities (being the 'big fish')? What happens to Grade 8 grad, field trips and other rites of passage?

All students will be provided opportunities to develop their leadership skills.

Field trips are curriculum based and will be offered based on student interest, learning opportunities and availability of staff supervision.

Grade 8 graduation has always been a school responsibility. Details regarding this event and others of a similar nature will be shared as they become available.

How will transportation work for a 7 to 12 school if the busing distances are different for elementary and secondary students? Will secondary students have to walk from the same area where elementary students are bused from?

Transportation of students will follow SCDSB policies. Grade 9-12 students who are inside the secondary school walk zone (3.2km) will walk to school, while Grade 7-8 students who are outside of the 1.6km walking zone will be bused.

Bus policies and additional information related to transportation are available on the [SCDSB website](#).

Will there be shared busing?

Based on discussions with the SCSTC, shared busing between Byng, Clearview Meadows and SCI students will be implemented in September 2018. The SCDSB currently uses shared busing in other areas of the county, specifically in the Elmvale and Midland areas.

The SCSTC is developing the plan for students who qualify for transportation to Stayner Collegiate, Clearview and Byng. Students from the same family will travel together on the bus regardless of the school they will be attending. The transportation plan will require additional buses and potential changes to bus routes. As with all schools undergoing a change to transportation routes, specific route information will be communicated to families once the SCSTC has determined the most efficient and effective plan.

There are students within the 1.6km walking zone that will have to cross Hwy. 26 and walk up Airport Road. How can we keep them safe?

Crossing guards and other traffic calming solutions are the responsibility of the municipality. Some walk path projects have already been undertaken to improve student safety along the routes to SCI and Clearview Meadows.

The Township of Clearview has an excellent record of working with the community and school board to ensure the safety of children. In some instances, this means that there are crossing guards provided.

A School Travel Planning Committee has been established. Membership includes representatives from Clearview Township, the OPP, the SMDHU and the Environment Network, as well as SCDSB central staff, parents and the principals from Clearview and Byng. They have been tasked with completing a walkability study, focusing on safe travel for all students and ensuring appropriate safety measures are in place.

Many of the students currently in the Byng PS attendance area are more than 1.6km from SCI, and so will be eligible for transportation.

Can students from other schools attend SCI in Grades 7 and 8?

Right now, the plan is to have only the Grade 7 and 8 classes from Byng and Clearview Meadows transfer to SCI. School board staff are studying enrolment numbers to determine the impact if students from other schools want to attend SCI starting in Grade 7 as well.

Will elementary teachers from Byng and Clearview Meadows transfer to SCI with the students?

Staffing at the JK-6 school will be based on the current collective agreements with the elementary teacher federation.

The staffing process at SCI has begun. The estimated number of Grade 7 and 8 students transitioning to SCI next year will generate the equivalent of approximately six full time elementary teachers. Three teaching positions have been filled from staff at Clearview and Byng, with teachers that have the qualifications to teach Grade 7 and 8. This was based on their seniority with the SCDSB. The balance of the positions have been filled through the Elementary Spring Staffing Process, outlined in our collective agreement with elementary teachers (ETFO).

Is there room at Clearview to accommodate all of the K-6 students?

The SCDSB received funding from the Ministry of Education for a six-classroom addition at Clearview Meadows. That capital project will take place over the course of the next two years.

Portables will continue to be used as required to accommodate students before, during and after construction.

Will SCI get any renovations to support this change?

The SCDSB has not received any funding from the Ministry of Education for renovations to SCI during the Ministry's capital priorities funding process. SCDSB annual renewal and school condition improvement funds will be utilized to ensure that SCI receives project funding for facility upgrades.

Board staff will continue to explore opportunities to access funding to ensure SCI continues to be a positive learning environment with opportunities for a range of programs.

Is there room at SCI for all for the Grade 7 to 12 students?

SCI can accommodate a much larger population than the numbers that currently attend in Grades 9 to 12. We do expect that there will be some portables required on site for September 2018 that will be used for the full range of grades at the school.