

Espoo International School Student Council
Date: 4th April 2023

ESPOO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL STATEMENT

Written by representatives from the STUCO Leadership team



TOPIC

Espoo City Statement Request from Juha Nurmi regarding proposed changes to English-language education in Espoo.

Change 1 - changes in pupil admission (entrance exam)

Change 2 - English-language education in Espoo in separate schools (Espoo International School and Kivimies School)

STATEMENT

Introduction

The Espoo International School community is shocked, frightened and disappointed in the request proposed by the City of Espoo. The community condemns the proposal and is speaking out against it. Furthermore, many have concerns and unanswered questions about the request and the sudden movement.

Concerns

The community has many concerns, which are the following:

- 1. Changes in pupil admission.** Many students see it as unfair that students who have had previous education in English do not have to take an entrance exam and are given priority over students who have not studied in English programs. We, the community, see it as unfair if two students who have the exact same proficiency in the English language are given different treatments merely based on a diploma showing they've studied in an English program for a small amount of time. Many students are also unsure whether the system would be functional, due to the fact that diplomas and report cards can be forged. It is also a large concern that changing the method of pupil admission will highly increase the number of students applying for admission, which is not functional as we're reducing the number of classes at EIS.
- 2. English-language education in Espoo in separate schools.** The students of Espoo International School are concerned with the possible change in campus to Kivimies. Many are left wondering about the possibility of them being moved out of the Opinmäki Campus and put in the Kivimies Campus. Many families had bought homes and settled down near the Opinmäki Campus to provide convenient access to the school. If this movement is to take place, many families will be affected and will have to relocate. This could cause many issues as families strategically choose a place to settle down. Siblings who also go to the same school could be separated, which is highly inconvenient for families.

Many families who live in Suurpelto tend to rely on public transport to get around. The fastest route to Kivimies from Suurpelto by public transport is about 35 minutes and requires 2 buses. This is not very ideal and is inconvenient for many of the families, as many of the younger students would need to get on 2 buses, which is difficult to arrange for the youngest students.

3. **Communication.** Many students feel that their voices are not being heard. The lack of communication has led to confusion among the masses of students. The vast majority of students are not informed, their parents are not informed and overall and people are upset that they do not get a say in how their school is being run. Students want a thorough explanation of the proposal, perhaps in the form of an assembly, and they want the chance to express their opinions so that they can be taken into consideration when deciding the ratification of the proposal.
4. **Clarity.** Evidently, the proposal is extremely brief and highly unclear in places where it should be. Students want a more thorough proposal explaining everything in depth before we progress. Students do not want to be confused any longer and want to be a part of the process, as shown by concern number 3. More information is **needed** from the people who proposed the idea as a simple two-page document cannot say everything that needs to be said about such a large matter.

Conclusion

Given all the issues and complaints, the vast majority of the Espoo International body believes that the request has more cons than pros. We as a community want a more comprehensive and detailed proposal, and we all wish to be part of the process of deliberation on whether the school splits or stays.

STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP TEAM