

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 20, 2026**



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Strategic Priorities

Intellectual Development

Human & Social Development

Career Development

Community Partnership Development

Organizational Development

Effective Governance & Leadership



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Aligning Our Work & Priorities

Effective Governance & Leadership

STRATEGIC FOCUS
Connecting Our Priorities

SD83

December 2025 Highlights

HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As we approach the holiday season and the end of another year, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to each of you.

This year has been marked by significant systemic changes to school configurations, it has also been a year filled with incredible celebration, collaboration, and partnership. To each of you, thank you for your ongoing trust, collaboration, and support. Your partnership strengthens our schools and enriches the learning experiences of our students. Together, we continue to build environments where children and youth are supported to grow, learn, and thrive.

Thank you to all for the caring, professionalism, and compassion demonstrated by staff across the district who work tirelessly to ensure our schools remain places of learning, belonging, and safety. Their efforts make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families.

We humbly acknowledge that the holiday season can be a difficult time for some. For families and individuals who are dealing from loss, illness, or other significant challenges, we hold each of you in our thoughts and hearts. Our hope is that the holiday season will allow you time to be surrounded by the love of family and friends.

As we look ahead, let us do so with hope. Hope grounded in the continued care and dedication of our staff, the strength of our partnerships, and the shared commitment to nurturing a sense of belonging, care, and opportunity for all learners.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the Senior Leadership Team, I wish you a meaningful holiday season, time for reflection, and special moments with family and friends. May the coming year bring health, peace, and renewed hope. Warmest wishes for the holidays and the year ahead.

Donna Kriger, Superintendent of Schools

OUR MISSION Empowering students to become confident, curious, and caring individuals who thrive in their learning, relationships, and community
OUR VISION Preparing students to become educated citizens who contribute positively to a dynamic, sustainable, and diverse world
OUR VALUES Belonging, Respect, Reconciliation, Empathy, Equity, Perseverance

SD83

DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN
2023-2028

PUBLIC VERSION
September 26, 2024

School District No. 83 Board of Education has established this strategic plan in consultation with its rightsholders, stakeholders, staff, and students.



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Our Vision:

Preparing students to become educated citizens who contribute to a dynamic, sustainable, and diverse world.

protect the earth!

SECOND ANNUAL K-12 Environmental Expo

WHO

- SD83 students K-12
- Educators K-12
- Community mentors
- Civic governments
- Community groups

WHAT

- Environmental inquiry project
- Share authentic learning in a variety of ways
- Authentic learning in a variety of ways
- Main Event April 30 - 2026 SASS

WHY

- To build a sense of hope, agency, and optimism
- Help protect our planet for all species
- Address curricular goals, integrate subjects, and address sustainability in the District Strategic Plan

WHEN

- Dec - Jan: 2026: Start planning, exploring sustainability and conservation
- Jan - Mar: 2026: project development and team with a mentor
- April 20 - 24: Earth week - many classes and schools implement projects
- April 30: Display and share at Expo - SASS Atrium and Foyer

HOW

Contact Kim kfulton@sd83.bc.ca or Wayne spenw4@gmail.com

SD83 **Rotary** **ROSTA** **HCTF** **Education** **tba**

The Board of Education of Kootenay Rockies Secondary School District No. 83
341 Shuswap Street, SW, Box 129 Salmon Arm BC, V1E 4B2 | PHONE 250-832-2157 | FAX 250-832-0428

Small Adjustments, Big Wins: Join the Climate Action!

The Board of Education recognizes that the planet is in a state of climate emergency and acknowledges the legitimacy of the United Nations Climate Action (2015) and B.C.'s Climate Action Charter, as outlined in Board Policy 224 Environmental Sustainability.

The Environmental Advisory Working Group invites you to participate in a collective effort to reduce our environmental impact and save on energy costs. By making small adjustments to our daily routines, we can significantly decrease fossil fuel use and help ensure a sustainable future.

Here are some ways that YOU can help:

Lower Classroom Temperatures by 1-2°C

Layer up with sweaters, scarves, and other warm attire.

- Reduces our carbon footprint significantly
- Reduces energy expenses on heating

Wear Warmer Clothing

Layer up with sweaters, scarves, and other warm attire.

- Wearing a sweater instead of a t-shirt makes you feel 5°C warmer
- If every classroom lowered its temperature by 1°C, we would save 48 tons of carbon emissions this year and avoid 350,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases
- To put that in perspective: 48 tons of carbon = driving a car almost 200,000 km!

Turn Off Lights and Devices When Not in Use

It's a habit to switch off lights and unplug devices when leaving a room.

- Reduces electricity consumption
- Extends the lifespan of bulbs and electronics

Environmental and Financial Benefits

By节能减排, we can help contribute to:

- A healthier planet for future generations
- Reduces energy consumption
- Lower utility bills

Teachers:

- Request a 1-2°C temperature reduction in your classroom.
- Turn off lights and devices when not in use.
- Climate Change Connections - 4 to 3 Local Lessons for A Cool Climate - Secondary

Students:

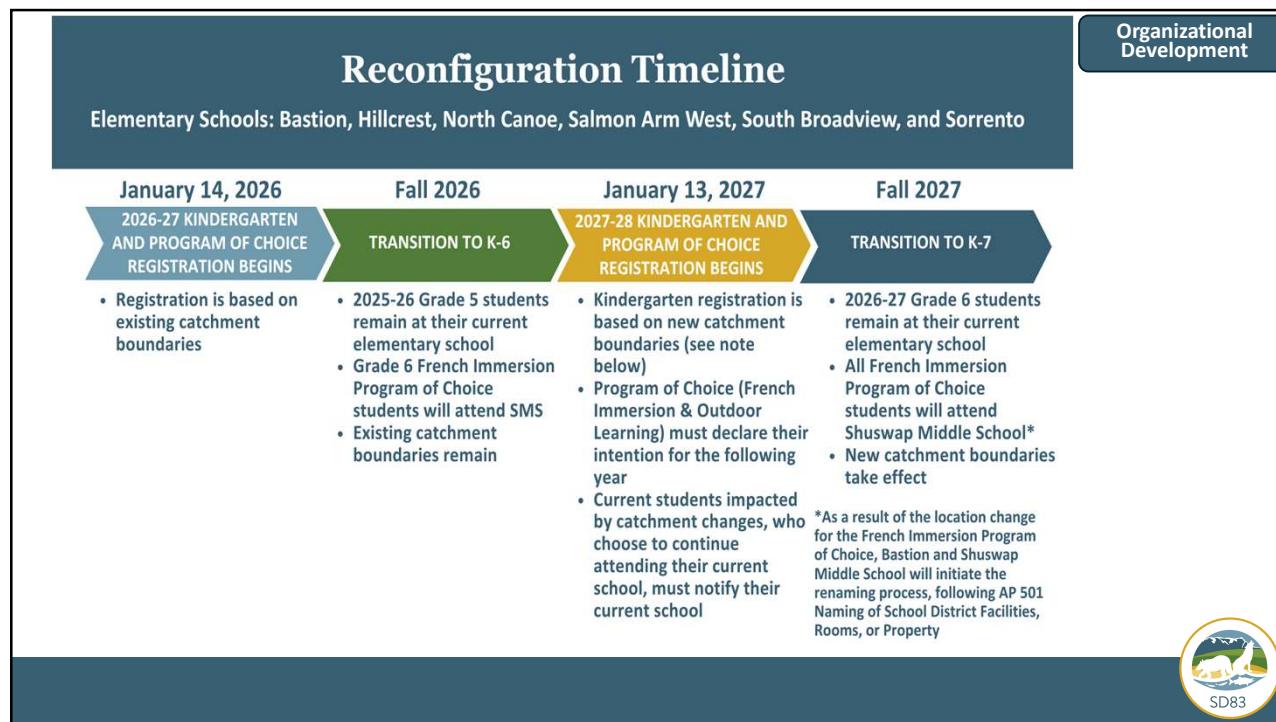
- dress warmly for school.
- Turn off lights and devices when not in use.

Together, we can make a big impact for the planet and our community.

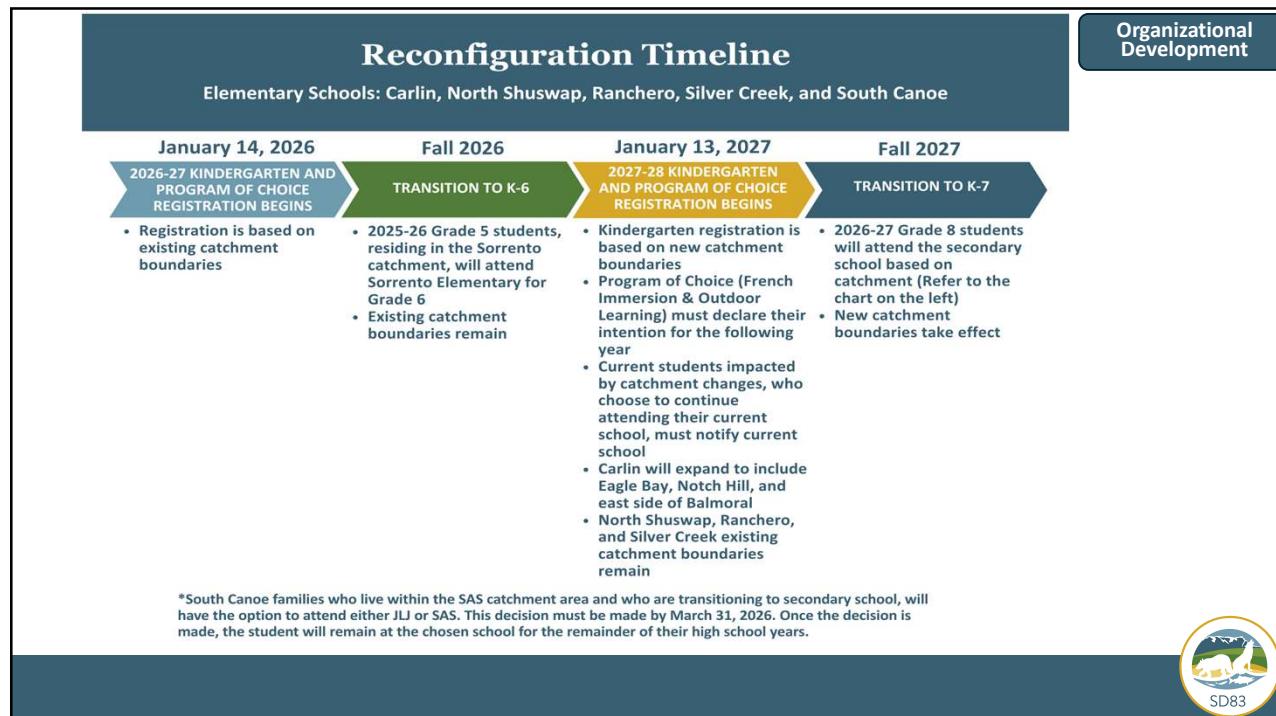
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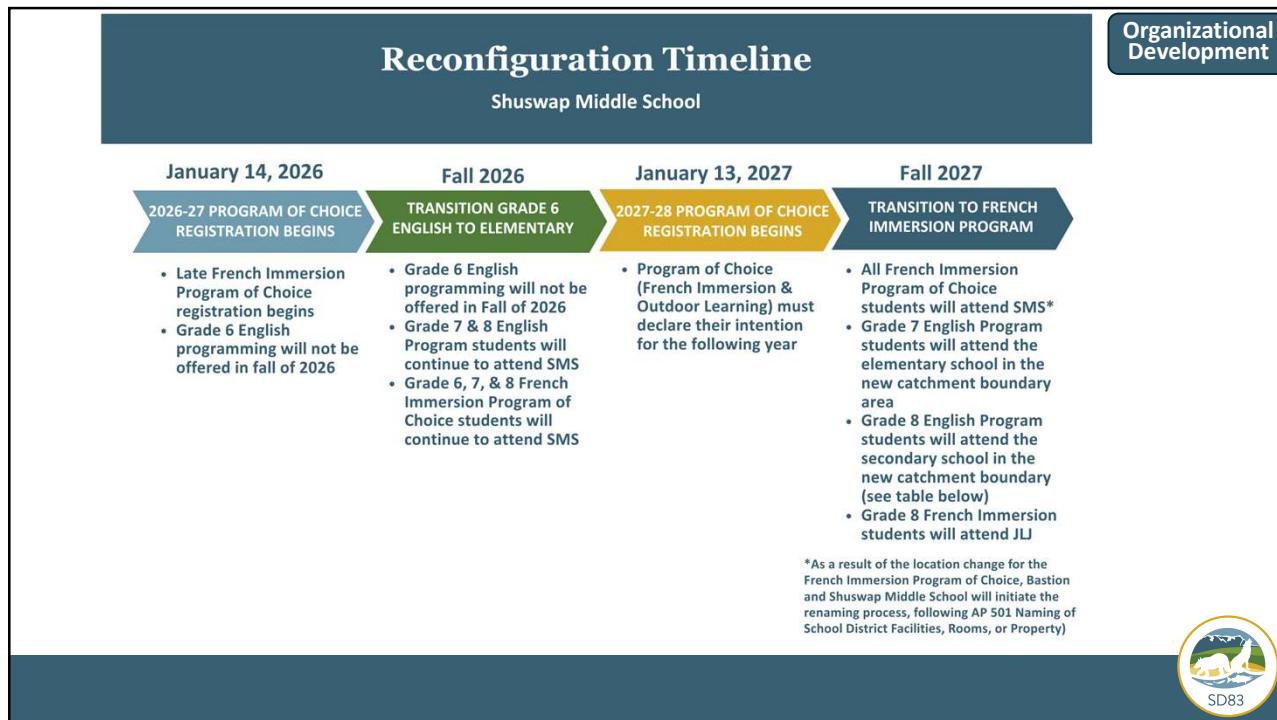
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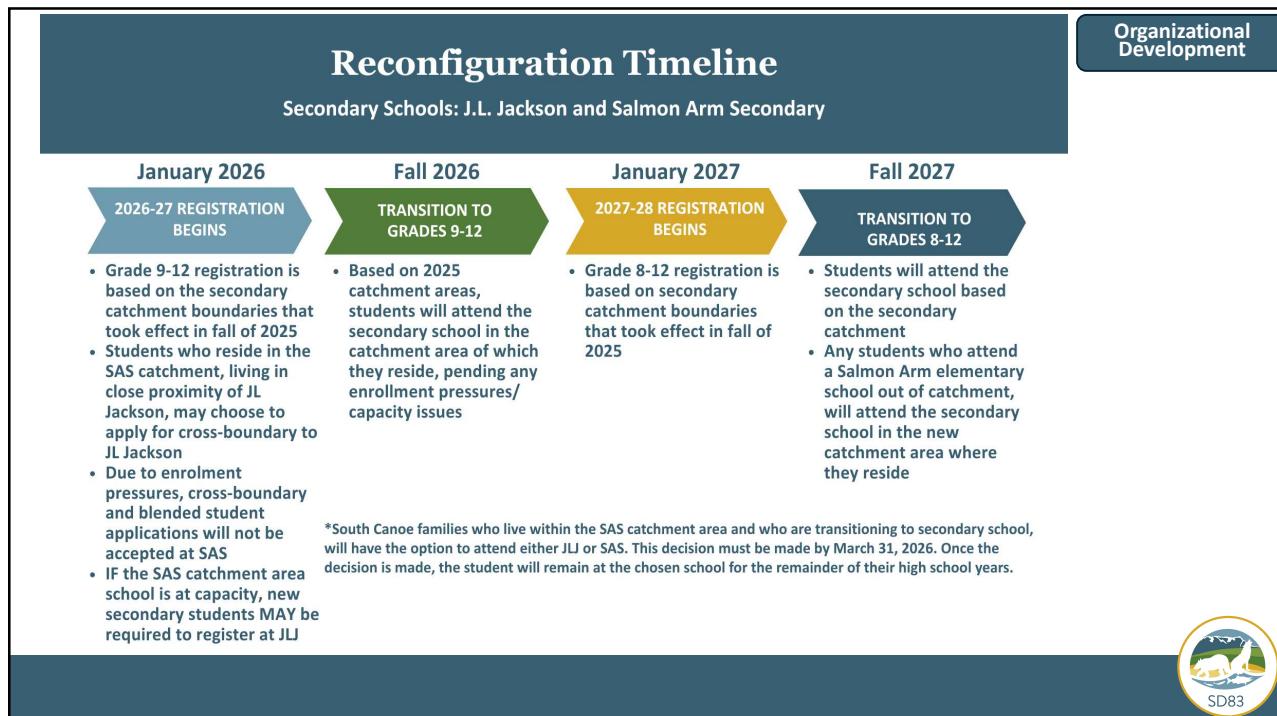
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K-3 And Grade 4-8 Family Math Games Night
Shuswap Middle School

Benefits for Kids: Games are a fun way to review and strengthen basic math skills at home. Children who are secure in their math skills will grow in self-esteem and have greater success in school.

Benefits for Parents: Games are a motivating, simple and economical homework support that reinforce concepts taught in school. Your presenter will provide you with strategies, tips and tricks to help your child with math fluency.

Games Reinforce:

- ◆ Counting
- ◆ Problem Solving
- ◆ Basic Facts: +, -, x, ÷
- ◆ Place Value

WHEN: Monday, January 12th, 2026 5:30-6:45 PM

WHERE: Shuswap Middle School

TO REGISTER: Please Scan the QR code

RSVP By: January 8th, 2026

BOX Cars & One-Eyed Jacks

Community Partnership Development

Intellectual Development

A huge shoutout to Director Jen Findlay, Principal Val Edgell, and Vice Principal Raegan Petch

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Parent & Caregiver Kindergarten Information Session

January 13, 2026
7:00pm - 8:00pm

Community Partnership Development

Jen Findlay
Director of Instruction - Early Years & Elementary

Allison de Boer
District Vice Principal - Early Learning & Child Care

- Visit www.sd83.bc.ca
- Under Programs/Services Tab choose "Early Learners"
- Kindergarten Virtual Information Session 2026

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Community Partnership Development









Community Partnership Development

Kindergarten Registration Fair at Sorrento Elementary School (January 14, 2026)

- Opportunity to meet the Principal and a Kindergarten Teacher
- Community Partners included:
 - Okanagan Regional Library
 - North & South Shuswap Community Resources
 - Public Health
 - Shuswap Children's Association
 - Child Care Resource and Referral

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Community Partnership Development





Community Partnership Development

- In support of the 4 Bands who partner with SD83 to support all Indigenous students across the district.
- SD83 Representatives will be present.
- Excellent opportunity to learn about post secondary opportunities, career planning, etc.

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Professional Learning Opportunities

Organizational Development

Professional Learning Opportunities:

- Early Literacy Assessment PLC (1st session held on January 14th - a K to 3 teacher from each elementary school was invited to participate)
- Mathematics Tasks for the Thinking Classroom K to 5 (final learning series session held on January 14th)
- MathUP virtual sessions held on January 14th & 15th for participating teachers



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Early & Late French Immersion

Intellectual Development

French For Your Child

Registration opens for regular kindergarten, Early French Immersion, and French Immersion Programs for 2026-27 on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 9 a.m. This early date allows for more equitable access and better planning. All registrations on this date are treated as equal within the lottery system.

There will be an information session for regular kindergarten, ELS, 2026, from 5-6 p.m. at Bastion Elementary School. This session will provide parents with more details about the programs, and to complete if this is a program you would be interested in for your child.

There are two options for registering a child:

- 1. Log in to the Bastion Elementary School to complete the registration paperwork. Families will need to be using the child's Birth Certificate and BC Services Card.
- 2. Families can phone the school (604-832-3141) to request a link for online registration.

Immersion programs (both Early and Late) are recommended for students from any catchment area in SDES.

Parents need NOT speak French.

Students are encouraged to stay in the program through Grade 12 in order to attain a high level of bilingualism and to receive a bilingual Dogwood Graduate Certificate.

Students in the French Immersion program will participate in regular school activities.

PROGRAM GOALS

- To help bilingual skills enabling students to participate easily in French conversation.
- To provide an insight into the French culture.
- To achieve skills in all subject areas equivalent to those in the English program.
- Ability to communicate secondary education with French as the language of instruction.
- Ability to gain employment using French as the work language.

Out-of-scholastic transportation to French immersion programs is the responsibility of the parents.

Common Questions

What are the benefits of learning a second language?

- Learning a second language strengthens your child's memory and learning skills.
- It increases their cognitive abilities by helping them to become more creative.
- It increases their knowledge and their ability to communicate in that language.
- It helps learning a third and fourth language easier.
- It gives people opportunities for travel, education or career advancements.

What about stress? Does there have to be any downside effects on academic performance in my student alone despite learning in a new language?

- Academic achievement in French immersion students are often similar to English learners.

What will happen to my child's first language?

- Research has shown that immersion students are exposed and inspired to French immersion programs. The Bastion and Glenside students continue the tradition of being bilingual and bicultural. They are able to communicate in both English and French.
- Early immersion students tend to be better English speakers than late immersion students. This is because they have a year or two of English Language Arts instruction in English before they begin French immersion.
- On average, in Grade 1 or 2 of this subject it is not introduced until grade 4, students in immersion programs are able to communicate in French.
- 100% of our students perform equal to the English students and/or better in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.
- Immersion students communicate and read in English and French.

How does Late Immersion compare with Early French Immersion?

- Both Early and Late Immersion students receive the same education. It is a rigorous program, offered in English immersion, which provides students with the skills to learn every part of the English language.
- Both Early and Late Immersion students can complete the same program. The main reason because students culture during the immersion years.

More information is available at www.sdes.bc.ca



Interested in Early French Immersion?

Information Session
Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 5 p.m. at Bastion

Registration Begins
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
for September 2026



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Ready, Set, Learn



- Families and community partners gathered at Carlin Elementary/Middle for a warm and engaging Ready, Set, Learn (RSL) session that blended early learning activities with connection, creativity, and fun.
- The event welcomed young children along with supportive community partners, including a Public Health Nurse and a representative from Child Care Resource & Referral.
- Families interested in learning more about Ready, Set, Learn or finding upcoming sessions can visit:

Ready, Set, Learn Program Information:

<https://www.sd83.bc.ca/ready-set-learn>

Recent District News on Ready, Set, Learn:

<https://www.sd83.bc.ca/news/Ready-Set-Learn-2026>



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Student Art Fair



The Art Fair will run the week of February 6-13. Student artwork will be displayed in Picadilly mall throughout the week, and student workshops will be held at the mall on February 11.

Huge thanks to Laura Tomlinson, Allison de Boer, and Mishel Quaal for organizing this event!!



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New to Our District

- A.L. Fortune joins the district in welcoming Sean Kelly from SD57.
- Sean is known for the strong relationships he forms with students, parents, and community.
- Sean, his wife and young daughter will join us at the beginning of Semester II.



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New to Our District

- JL Jackson joins us in welcoming Matthew Laslo from Golden Hills School Division.
- Matthew comes highly recommended for his ability to lead and connect with students and community.
- Matthew's wife and two young sons will join us on February 17, 2026.



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