



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RVS EDUCATION CENTRE
2651 CHINOOK WINDS DR. SW

AIRDRIE, AB

ZOOM LINK: <https://rockyview.zoom.us/my/rvsboard>

MARCH 23, 2023

10:00 a.m. Regular Board Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. In Camera Meeting
4. Return to Public Portion of the Agenda
 - Trustee Judi Hunter**
 - Rocky View Schools would like to acknowledge the land and recognize all the Indigenous Peoples whose footprints have marked these lands from time immemorial. Together, we can learn and honour the ways of knowing of Indigenous Peoples for all future generations.*
5. Motions Arising from In Camera
6. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Regular Board Meeting – March 2, 2023
7. Delegations
 - a) S. Gillies
 - b) A. Patmore
 - c) J. Kersey
 - d) G. Sharma
8. Superintendent's Report
9. Chair's Report/Correspondence
10. Committee Reports
 - a) Policy (w/motion)
 - b) Planning
11. Trustee Reports
12. New Business
13. Return to In Camera Meeting
14. Motions Arising from In Camera
15. Adjournment

This unofficial agenda is subject to change and is not *official* until approved at the Board meeting.

Presentation to Rocky View School Board March 23, 2023

Presenter: Stephanie Gillies, BSW/RSW | 403-831-7041

Brief Overview of Presentation Points:

- 472 Canadian Individuals/Families are against splitting Fireside School (886 Global Signatures)
- Fireside School will not reach over capacity until 2024, underutilization of the school is damaging
- Mitford School currently sits at 102% capacity, Fireside at 94%
- Families who have chosen standardized education should stay in their community
- Elected and specialized education should be centralized
- Increasing isolation by uprooting families from natural supports
- Middle School Students at Mitford share that the young children are loud and distracting
- Increased economic pressure on families due to being forced to bus
- Increased economic pressure on families due to driving farther for school drop off/pick up
- Separating siblings
- Riversong Area to Powell Street School is 5km; Mitford to Powell Street School is 3km; Elizabeth Barrett to Powell Street is 2km
- Loosing mentoring from older children
- Separation will affect children's mental health – continuing the segregation and isolation they have already experienced since Covid-19 pandemic.
- Decrease sense of belonging for children
- Keeping children together and not fragmented across the community.

It is **imperative** that you choose an option where children remain together as a community. The **mental health of children should be first and foremost in your decision.**

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Stephanie Gillies
403-831-7041

Enclosed: Petition Comments from those in the Community & List of Canadian Petition Signers

Petition Link: <https://www.change.org/p/keep-fireside-school-together/>

Petition Comments:

"I have three children one not yet school aged facilitating 3 drop offs and 3 picks ups is ridiculous" – Caitlin Neilson

"We live in this community and this was a huge part of why we stay here. The proximity of the school. This will personally effect our family and split up our kids" – Jill Fleming

"These poor young children have suffered enough changes with Covid and lockdowns. Give the them some normalcy and let them keep the friends they have bonded with through out these crazy times! I could go on and on!!!" – Andrea Lemieux

"Fireside school was designed for surge capacity and should stay that way. Immediate commissioning of modular units for the school will meet demand in the near term until (hopefully) additional schools can be built in South Cochrane to meet the demands of significant growth in South Cochrane communities. Under-utilizing Fireside for the next few years (bringing down to 69% capacity with JUST Fireside community students and removing students from East HWY 22 communities) is absurd and damaging, especially since it does nothing to address Mitford being OVER capacity. Allow families who have elected standard education to stay in their community and specialized education (FI or CCA) to be centralized. Keep families and cohorts of established friendships together. I encourage Option 5, which allows the CCA students to stay together and build their community within their own space that they can make their own, with the support of modular units to accommodate their size. This will free up the space that Mitford requires, at 102% capacity, vs. Fireside at 94%." – Allyson Patmore

"I am a Grandma of 2 kids that Attend Fireside Elementry School in Cochrane.By relocating Kids from Fireside to a Downtown Location is Insane. In the Winter the Kids will be standing Outside in -30 weather waiting for 20-25 minute bus ride home." - Sandy Wenman

"The sense of maintaining small town community should be paramount for Cochrane. Like many in our neighbourhood, that sense of community was our reason for choosing to relocate our family here when my children were starting school. My husband and I grew up in a small town with the benefits of being with the same friends throughout our school years. Those same people are still our closest friends and have added so much to our lives. It was critical that we gave our kids that same experience, which is why we chose to live in Riviera with access to Fireside's k-8 structure. Beyond this personal reasoning, I attended the public meeting yesterday and the numbers clearly show that Fireside is NOT the option to choose. Not only will we disrupt families and friendships, there is little long term benefit to utilization. We are simply shifting the overcapacity problem to another school. While I empathize with the families from other schools, there are other options that will provide much greater overall benefit to our" -Joanna Buckingham

"There are many reasons that I am against separating Fireside. Such as: School zoning when we purchased our home. Powell School is a busing school. There is no proper parking within proximity for drop off and pick-ups, as not everyone can afford busing fees. My daughter would be separated from her best friend and friend group. She would be devastated. Haven't our kids been through enough?" - Christine Paiement

"My grandkids attend and I'm their care giver while parents are at work one in willows one in fireside, I'm in fireside. Would like to keep life easy." -Candis Butters

"We have lived in Riversong for a little more than 10 years. Our boys have attended more than 3 elementary schools in that time. They started at Glenbow, then Mitford's portables and then they finally got a chance to settle in at Fireside. Children are not pawns to move around a chessboard for bureaucratic reasons. Let them stay in their communities to attend school. Let them develop friendships and a sense of belonging." -Colin Campbell

"My kids should get to stay at the school that is in their district, not across town. These kids have experienced enough segregation. Don't now rip them away from their friends." -Katrina Toews

"Need my kids to stay at fireside" -Avanipal Jauhal

"Keeping kids together during their younger school years is critical to their social development." -Victoria Morneau



Proposed Usage of Powell Street School:
*Feedback from Riversong Communities
opposed to the separation of Fireside School*

**RVS Board of Trustees
Public Meeting
March 23, 2023**

Presented by Allyson Patmore

Reasons to Exclude Option 1

Separating Fireside students does not address the overcapacity issues facing Mitford/CCA

- Fireside school was built for expansion/surge capacity and is not currently overcapacity
- Splitting the school will bring Fireside UNDER capacity (69%)
- Impractical to have Cochrane's newest RVS school (b. 2017), at the lowest capacity in Cochrane, whilst Cochrane schools overcapacity

LOCATION

Cochrane, Alberta

CATEGORY

Education

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

In June 2015, BR2 Architecture was retained by Alberta Infrastructure to design and administer the delivery of the proposed new K-8 School (Fireside) in Cochrane, Alberta.

The permanent core capacity of this school is 650 students. At maximum build out the school capacity is 900, accommodated with a total of 10 modular classrooms. At opening, the school's capacity will be 800 students; modular classrooms will be added onto the school as needed to accommodate future growth in the student population.

The school's core area includes wrap around services, accessible washrooms, a recycling room and an increased mechanical room. This increase to the core

Source: BR2 Architecture, https://www.br2architecture.com/portfolio_page/firesideschool/

Current Enrolment as of Sept. 30, 2022

• ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS •

Rocky View Schools	Grade	Sept. 30, 2022	PK	K	Gr1	Gr2	Gr3	Gr4	Gr5	Gr6	Gr7	Gr8	Gr9	Gr10	Gr11	Gr12	Cap	Util
<i>School on Powell Street</i>																	330	0%
Elizabeth Barrett	K-4	480		36	69	58	56	57									542	83%
Elizabeth Barrett - FI	K-4		27	40	45	40	52											
Glenbow	K-4	515		50	80	73	83	62									548	86%
Glenbow - FI	K-4		33	42	33	28	31											
Manachaban	5-8	560							56	62	82	91					560	100%
Manachaban - FI	5-8								70	70	72	57						
Mitford	5-8	319							86	67	84	82					650	102%
Cochrane Christian	K-8	367		46	46	52	44	55	41	30	26	27						
Fireside	K-8	812		70	110	109	105	94	93	84	75	72					825	94%
RancheView	K-8	645	18	63	67	78	78	77	59	92	58	55					857	74%
Bow Valley High	9-12	901											260	233	221	187	920	102%
Cochrane High	9-12	1,013											194	210	203	197	994	105%
Cochrane High - FI	9-12													90	41	49		
Subtotal		5,612	18	325	454	448	434	428	405	405	397	384	544	484	473	413	6,209	91%

Most immediate concern to relieve capacity pressure for the overcapacity Mitford/CCA

Reasons to Exclude Option 1

Separating Fireside is the most disruptive of options presented

- Families who have elected to have specialized education (FI or CCA) have already opted to have their children attend outside of their community
- In contrast to the Riversong residents attending Fireside, who in many cases purchased their home for access to Fireside school
- Significant adverse impacts to families and friendships



Keep Fireside School Together

884 have signed. Let's get to 1,000!



At 1,000 signatures, this petition is more likely to be featured in recommendations!

Elanna Robinson signed 7 hours ago

Justin Haskett signed 3 days ago

Stephanie Gillies started this petition

Please continue to engage on rvsengage.com, that is the best place to provide detailed feedback. This is meant to be a support against this decision!

The parents in Fireside School Community believe that moving students from the Riversong, Willows, Providence, and Diviers communities to the new

Take the next step!

Reasons to Exclude Option 1

Separating Fireside is the most disruptive of options presented (cont.)

- Downstream school culture issues created by re-integrating students from Powell Street to/back to Fireside
 - “home turf” for Fireside students with significant potential for “us vs. them” culture
- Bussing impacts: no reduction in buses to Fireside (grades 6-8 still bussed to Fireside from Riversong neighbourhoods) + more buses, more cost to transport students with double the bus time to Powell Street



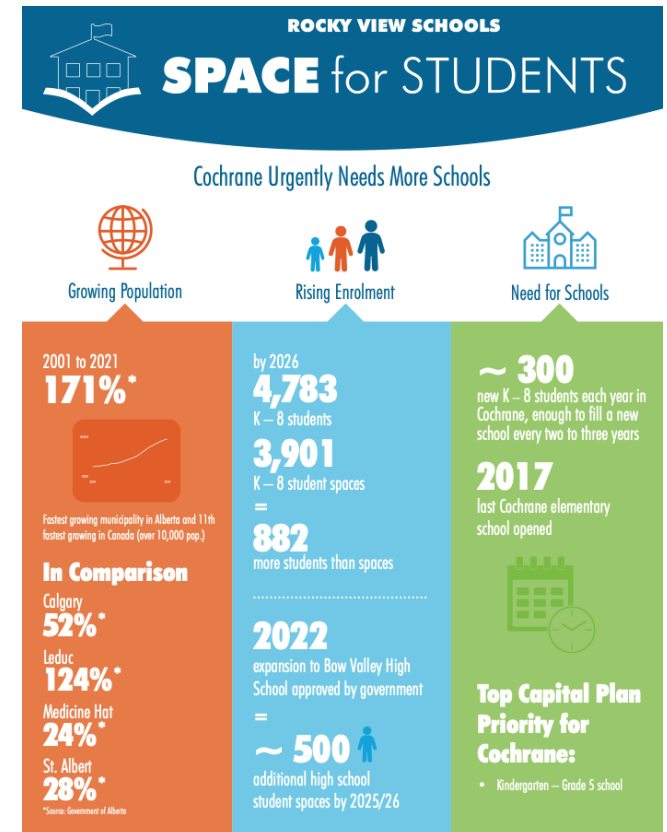
Reasons to Approve Option 5

- Relieve overcapacity pressure on Mitford/CCA
- Keep students together; no disruption to cohort/families/student connections
- Provide CCA with a dedicated space to make their own (currently sharing space with Mitford)



You've got our attention. We can help.

- The only longer term solution for RVS/Cochrane is funding for additional schools
- If the decision is made to keep Fireside together, and not relocate to Powell Street, you have my assurance I will continue to make every effort to mobilize our community and create a grassroots advocacy movement with RVS to have the Rivercrest school site expedited/approved



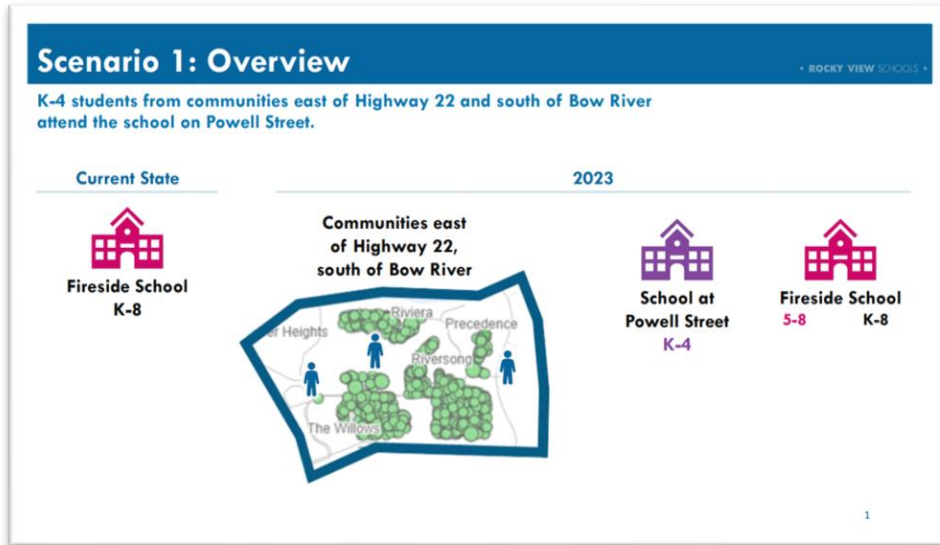


Cochrane Christian Academy: Stronger Together

Presentation to RVS Board of Trustees

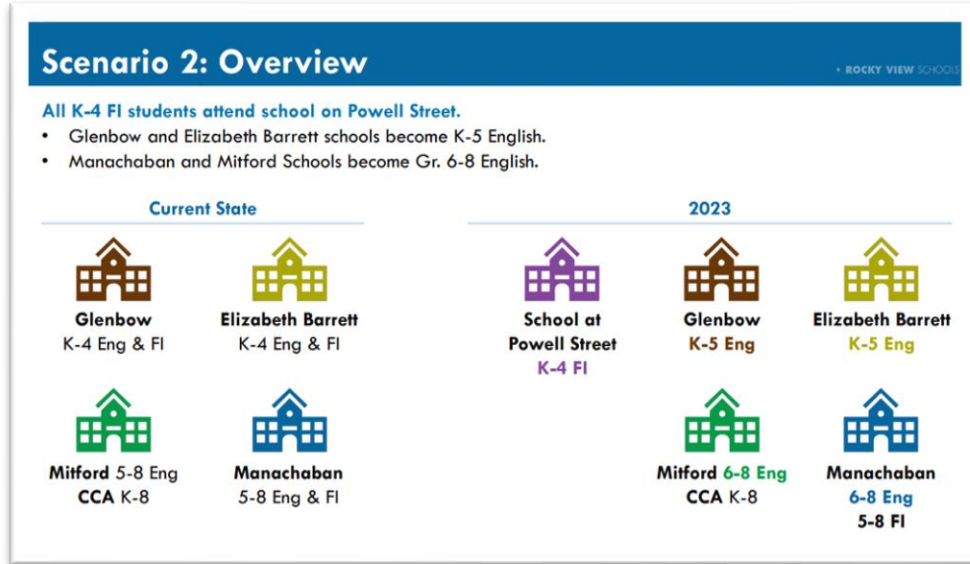
March 23, 2023

Scenario 1: Splitting Fireside



- ✓ Helps capacity in fastest growing school
- ✗ Only addresses capacity at Fireside School, not Cochrane wide
- ✗ For families in Riversong, Rivercrest and the Willows with children in multiple grades, this splits siblings apart
- ✗ An established school community is split; destabilizing for students and supports
- ✗ Fireside students east of HWY 22 may lose after-school care
- ✗ Splitting families impacts driving & different busses. Geographically impractical.
- ✗ Affects half-day kindergarten students: longer drive for parents at half-day pickup

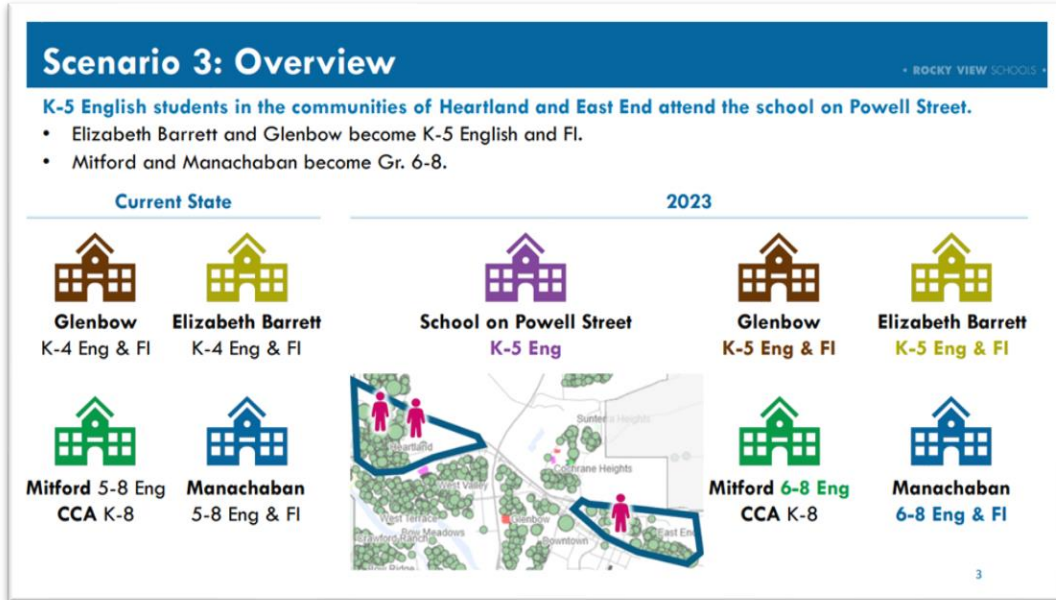
Scenario 2: Harmonizing K-4 French



- ✓ Powell Street School used for its intended age range and at good capacity
 - ✓ Frees up space in four schools (EB, Glenbow, Mitford and Manachaban)
 - ✓ Cohesive programming for K-4 French Immersion
 - ✓ Maintains and enhances current F.I. community
-
- ~~✗~~ Powell Street would require portable(s)
 - ~~✗~~ Does not impact the Fireside School with the worst capacity forecast



Scenario 3: Uniting Heartland and East End



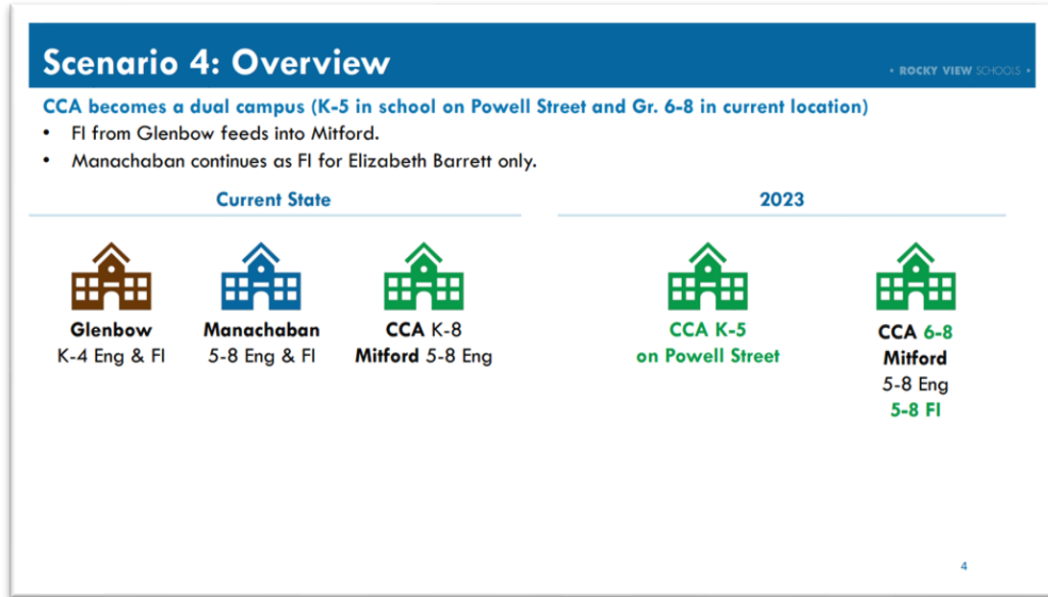
- ✓ Brings EB, Glenbow and Manachaban under or at 100% capacity for 3 years minimum; relieves pressure at Mitford
- ✓ 65 of 300 intended Powell Street students already in East End: a walkable school!
- ✓ Ease of bussing for Heartland students – direct access without crossing railroad, especially during construction hassles on HWY 1A/22
- ✓ Keeps Heartland community students together
- ✗ Heartland students have already endured school changes and this would be difficult for them

The Best Longer-Term Scenario?

We see **Scenario 2 or 3** as the **best options**:

- Age-appropriate utilization of space
- Consistent programming
- Maintains communities
- Least amount of negative impact community-wide

Scenario 4: Splitting CCA



- ✓ Relieves capacity at Mitford & Manachaban schools
- ✗ CCA faith-based programming is strained
- Assemblies, school-wide events, etc.
- ✗ CCA culture is deeply impacted
- ✗ Highly performing, established school community and family is split; destabilizing for students
- ✗ Concern of parent's access to administration, potential burnout of administration split between campuses.
- ✗ Splits siblings apart
- ✗ Splitting families impacts transportation

OUR STORY

Scenario 4: What CCA Loses



- An established community, close-knit family, and a school-wide culture of holistic learning & personal growth
- Interactivity between middle school and elementary school (an integral part of our leadership training)
 - Reading buddies
 - Older mentoring younger
 - School culture

Scenario 4: What CCA Loses

Reading Buddies: Growing Literacy & Leadership



Scenario 4: What CCA Loses

Mentorship: Developing Leaders Who Care



Scenario 4: What CCA Loses

School Culture: More Than The Sum of Our Parts



Identity + Belonging + Relationship + Purpose =

COMMUNITY IMPACT

CCA's Community Fosters Success

Alberta Education Assurance Measures Results

Spring 2021 Required Alberta Education Assurance Measures - Overall Summary

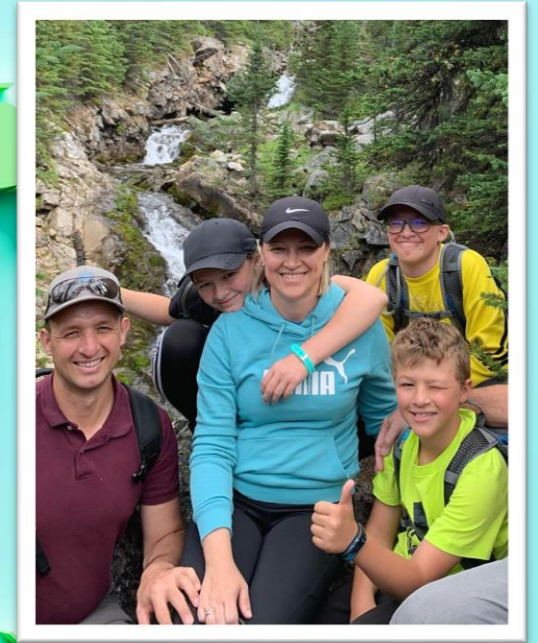
Assurance Domain	Measure	Cochrane Christian Academy			Alberta			Measure Evaluation		
		Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Current Result	Prev Year Result	Prev 3 Year Average	Achievement	Improvement	Overall
Student Growth and Achievement	Student Learning Engagement	87.2	n/a	n/a	85.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Citizenship	92.5	92.2	92.4	83.2	83.3	83.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
	3-year High School Completion	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.4	80.3	79.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5-year High School Completion	n/a	n/a	n/a	86.2	85.3	84.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
	PAT: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	73.3	n/a	n/a	73.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
	PAT: Excellence	n/a	n/a	20.5	n/a	n/a	20.3	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Acceptable	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Diploma: Excellence	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Teaching & Leading	Education Quality	95.7	93.2	91.9	89.6	90.3	90.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Learning Supports	Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments (WCRSLE)	96.2	n/a	n/a	87.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Access to Supports and Services	91.9	n/a	n/a	82.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Governance	Parental Involvement	83.6	91.2	86.0	79.5	81.8	81.4	n/a	n/a	n/a

Parents are Choosing Cochrane for CCA!



The Aronovich Family
Moved from **Toronto** in 2020

The Pingo Family
Moved from **South Africa** in 2018



The Souza Family
Moved from **Brazil** in 2015



Scenario 4: What CCA Loses

If the Trustees are leaning toward Scenario 4,
we would rather make **Scenario 5** work

(with portables and creative options/sports solutions)

to keep our community together and our
immersive faith-based programming intact



CCA K-8






at Powell Street

Scenario 5: CCA Moves to Powell Street

Scenario 5: Overview ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

All of CCA K-8 attends the school on Powell Street.

- FI from Glenbow feeds into Mitford.
- Manachaban continues as FI for Elizabeth Barrett.

Current State			2023	
 Glenbow K-4 Eng & FI	 Manachaban 5-8 Eng & FI	 CCA K-8 Mitford 5-8 Eng	 CCA K-8	 Mitford 5-8 Eng 5-8 FI

5

- ✓ Relieves capacity at Mitford school
- ✓ Keeps CCA Community together
- ✗ Building far over capacity from day 1
- ✗ Building not as conducive to middle-school programming; options would be difficult and would require creative solutions (bussing to Mitford?)
- ✗ Mitford school underutilized



Workable with



Portables
Creative options
Sports solutions

Keep CCA Together!



STRONGER TOGETHER



Good morning, everyone.

My name is Garima Sharma, I am a resident of Willows, Cochrane.

First of all, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my concerns at this meeting.

I would also like to thank RVS team for their hard work to try to fix the schooling situations in Cochrane and putting continuous efforts towards the betterment of the schools in Cochrane.

I am here today presenting on behalf of communities on the east of highway 22, south of bow river, Willows, Riversong, precedence, Riviera. One of the many reasons we chose willows to be our home because of the fireside school being so close by and the daycare right next to the school. There are many other families like us in our community who bought their houses because of the location of the school. Most of the families in our communities have multiple kids and all of them (k-8) goes to the Fireside school. By moving K-4 to Powell street school, you will not only be separating friends, but you will also be separating Siblings. Older siblings usually pick up their younger siblings from their classrooms and they wait for their parents, or they get into the busses together. Lots of us work jobs and sometimes there are emergencies where we rely on each other for support system of our friends at fireside.

Geographic Location

East of highway 22 communities are geographically further from Powell Street school whereas communities close to Mitford 3 kms & Manachaban 1.5 kms schools are very close to Powell street school. If you look at the Mitford school numbers its already at 102% capacity & Manchaban is at 100% capacity, on the other hand fireside school is at 94% capacity. I know that your team is working hard and RVS trustees already approved a motion to request 32 modular classroom units for next year from the Alberta government to help address space concerns. This will solve the problem with the fireside school's future growth for next few years.

Manachaban		
Year	Gr. 5-8	Utilization
2022	560	100%
2023	575	103%
2024	575	103%
2025	600	107%
2026	640	114%
2027	650	116%
Current Capacity = 560		

Projections – Status Quo

• ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS •

Mitford/CCA			Fireside		
Year	Gr. 5-8 (Mitford) K-8 (CCA)	Utilization	Year	K-8	Utilization
2022	660	102%	2022	773	94%
2023	675	104%	2023	850	94%
2024	715	110%	2024	930	103%
2025	715	110%	2025	1,000	111%
2026	790	122%	2026	1,060	118%
2027	815	125%	2027	1,120	124%
Current Capacity = 650			Current Capacity = 825 Build Out Capacity = 900, assume request for modular units approved for 2023		

Kindergarten at FTE

19

Busing & Traffic

If you decide to move kids from the fireside school, there will be more busing in the area, traffic will be added to the narrow roads where construction vehicles are always around and parked on the street. Additional cost of busing will be added to RVS's but and to our pockets too, In my case my driving time will be increased, and I am not sure how I will manage to be to drop off my toddler at daycare (near fireside school) and drop off my son at Powell street at the same time (8:00AM). My son has multiple life-threatening allergies, and we prefer to drop him ourselves rather than sending him In a bus.

Attention Needed towards Water Pipes at Powell Street School

I have acquired this information online that the school building and associated land located on 129 Powell St. was first built in 1956. In 1993, ownership of the school was transferred to the Calgary Catholic School District, for the next 29 years. There is no proof online of any upgrades (related to water pipes) done by catholic school in those 29 years. In the last meeting on March 3rd RVS team member mentioned that they have upgraded lots of things in the building but there was no mention of any upgrades in the waterpipes, taps or water fountains. If the building was built in 1956 that means the pipes are older and exceeds the safe levels of Lead in the water. Water should be tested to make sure the lead level is well under the safe limit, and I would like to request that results should be shared with all the families who will be sending their kids to the Powell street school.

Children, especially younger children, are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts of lead because their bodies absorb the toxin more than adults. Lead consumption, be it in paint, environmentally or in drinking water, can impact a child's cognitive development, IQ levels and overall health.

Here are the links for your reference about the high number of Lead in the water in Ontario schools & daycares due to the old water pipes.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6107982/ontario-schools-daycares-lead-levels/>

<https://ijb.utoronto.ca/projects/lead-in-drinking-water/>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/investigations/2021/06/11/lead-water-ontario-schools-daycare-database.html>



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARCH 23, 2023

AGENDA

1. 2024-2027 Capital Plan
2. Locally Developed Course Approval

ACTION

Directive

Directive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Luterbach", with a small star-like mark above the letter 'i'.

Greg Luterbach
Superintendent of Schools



DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Directive for Action Item: Three Year Capital Plan

Date of Meeting: March 23, 2023

Background:

Each school division in Alberta is required to submit their list of capital requests, in order of priority, by April 1st of each calendar year.

Current Status:

See below for the Capital Priorities proposed by RVS administration. The proposed 2024-2027 Capital Plan document provides background information used to determine priorities. Please see attached.

Alberta Government Approved Projects March 2023 & Capital Priority List

Priority	Capital Project	Build Out Capacity	Community	Approved in 2023 Capital Plan	2024 Request
1	Airdrie K – 8	900	Airdrie	Design	New Construction
2	Airdrie High School	1,500	Airdrie	Planning	New Construction
3	Cochrane K – 8	900	Cochrane	Pre-planning	New Construction
4	Chestermere K – 9	900	Chestermere	Pre-planning	New Construction
Priority	Capital Project	Build Out Capacity	Community	Type of Project	Site Readiness Expected
2024 BUDGET YEAR					
5	Airdrie K – 8	900	Airdrie	New Construction	Ready
6	Springbank K – 8	900	Harmony	New Construction	Ready
7	Cochrane High School	1,500	Cochrane	New Construction	2024
2025 BUDGET YEAR					
8	Airdrie K – 8	900	Airdrie	New Construction	2024
9	Cochrane K – 8	900	Cochrane	New Construction	2024
10	Crossfield K – 8	600	Crossfield	New Construction	Ready
11	Chestermere High School	1,500	Chestermere	New Construction	2023
2026 BUDGET YEAR					
12	Chestermere K – 8	900	Chestermere	New Construction	TBD
13	Langdon K – 8	600	Langdon	New Construction	TBD
14	Airdrie K – 8	900	Airdrie	New Construction	TBD
15	Cochrane K – 8	900	Cochrane	New Construction	TBD



DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Alternatives:

Alternative I:

The Board of Trustees approve the 2024-2027 Capital Plan Priorities as presented, directing administration to submit the Capital Plan Priorities to Alberta Education.

Alternative II:

The Board of Trustees approve the 2024-2027 Capital Plan Priorities as amended, directing administration to submit the revised Capital Plan Priorities to Alberta Education.

Recommendation:

The Board of Trustees approve the 2024-2027 Capital Plan Priorities as presented, directing administration to submit the Capital Plan Priorities to Alberta Education.



2024 – 2027 **CAPITAL PLAN**

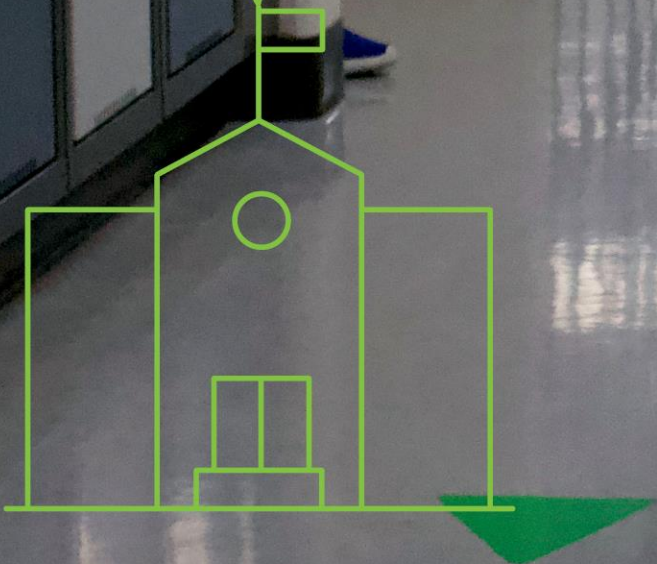
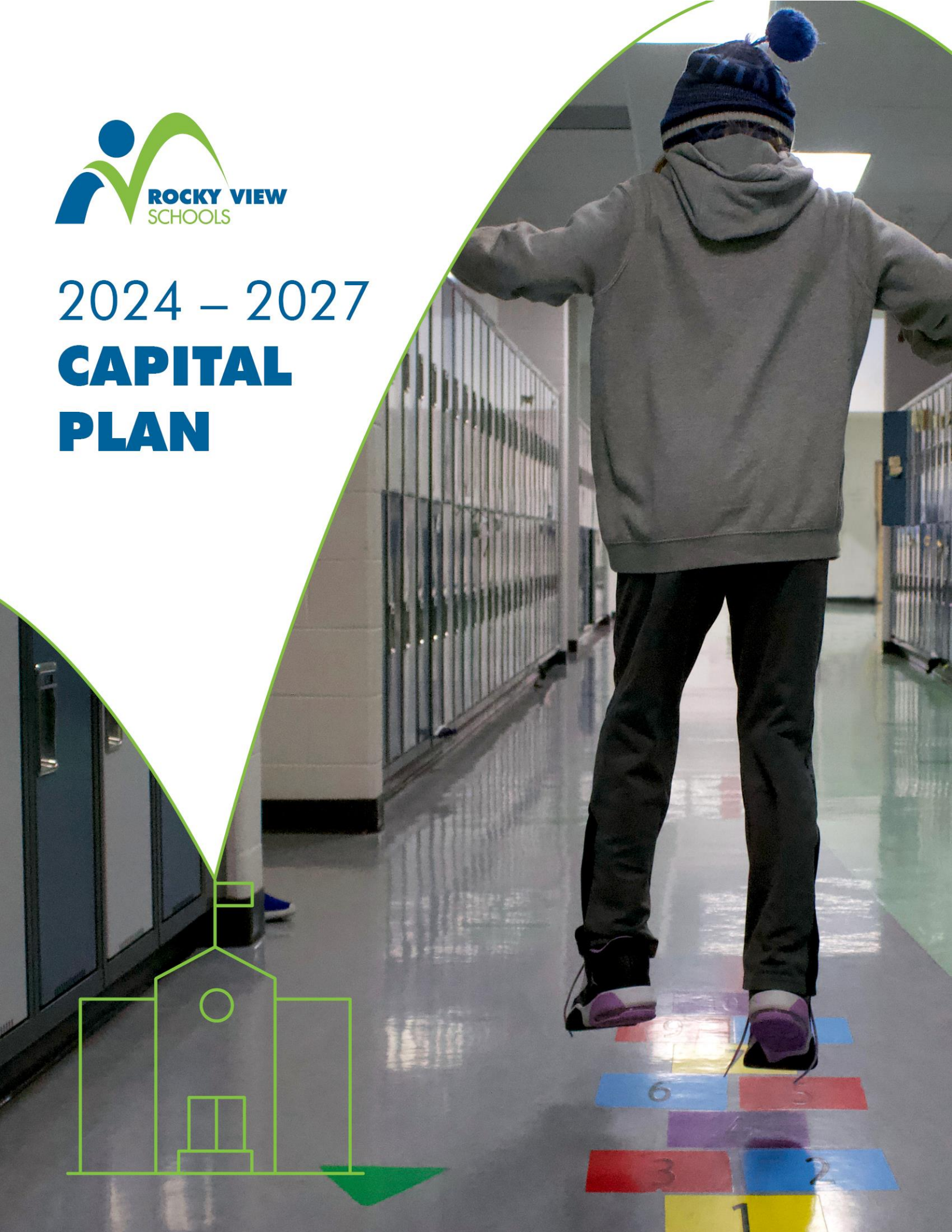




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2024 – 2027

Capital Plan Overview

Summary

RVS provides a positive quality learning experience to over 27,600 public students in Kindergarten to Grade 12, and an appropriate number of spaces for students is required to support their learning and well-being. **RVS is in urgent need of government approval and funding for new schools, additions and modular classrooms to accommodate our fast-growing communities.** Investing in space for students improves students' opportunity and ability to learn and achieve their absolute best.

Among Alberta communities with populations over 10,000 people, Cochrane and Airdrie are the two fastest growing, with Chestermere in ninth, according to recently released census data. Prioritizing the need for schools in these communities is challenging as they are all experiencing rapid growth at the same time.

With hundreds of children expected in these communities, the need for space is immediate.

Without additional school facilities, RVS' overall utilization rate is expected to increase from the current 92 per cent to a critical rate of 101 per cent by 2026. Appropriate funding for new schools is required to ensure RVS' school capacity can keep up with student population growth in its communities and the division does not continue to experience accommodation challenges.

RVS At-a-Glance

Vision

Rocky View Schools is a world-class learning organization where all students achieve their absolute best.

Purpose

Rocky View Schools connects with all students to ensure that everyone learns, belongs, and succeeds.



2022/23 By The Numbers



15	K – 6/7/8/9
12	Elementary Schools
8	Middle Schools
8	High Schools
3	Colony Schools
3	RVS Community Learning Centres
1	Online High School
1	Online Gr. 1 – 8 School
1	K – 12

RVS:

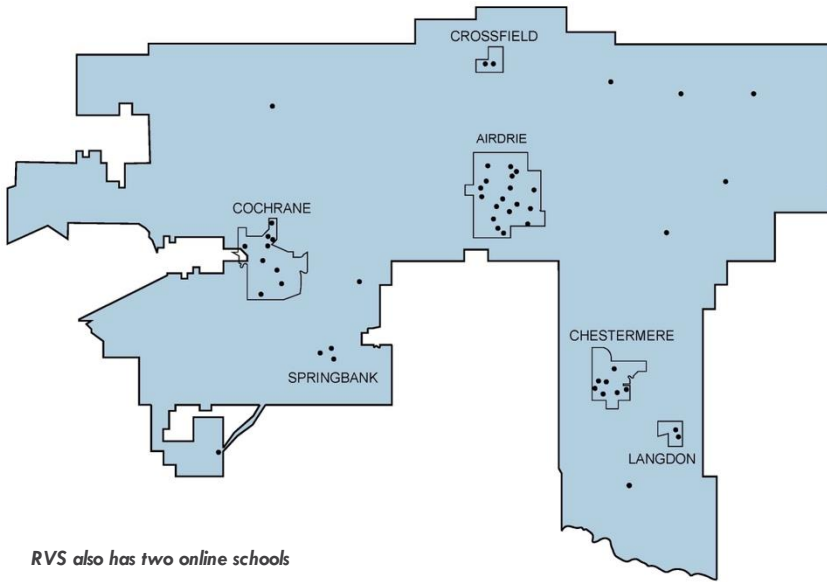
- represents a resident population of over 171,000 people.
- educates over 27,600 students.
- transports over 10,000 students daily, including students attending Catholic schools located in the same geographic area.
- includes over 1,750 square miles (456,372 hectares) of land.
- is the fifth largest school jurisdiction in Alberta.

Students Come from Diverse Areas Including:

- remote locations in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains;
- Tsuu T'ina First Nation and Stoney Nakoda First Nation;
- farms and ranches in areas where there is low population density;
- acreage communities;
- Hutterite colonies;
- satellite/suburb communities experiencing intense population growth; twelve urban centres (hamlets, towns or cities); and,
- areas annexed by Calgary where the school jurisdiction boundaries remain unchanged.

RVS is creative in maximizing the existing space to offer the best learning environment possible; even so, more space is required.

Our Schools



RVS also has two online schools

As of September 2022, the regular school buildings in RVS boundaries include:

- **23** core schools built since 1990 and generally located in the major growth centres of Cochrane, Airdrie, Chestermere and Langdon. Two of these were replacement schools.
- **11** core schools built in the 1970s and 1980s. These are generally in original condition with varying degrees of upgrades, such as additions and minor modernizations.
- **re-acquisition of school on Powell Street in Cochrane.** \$2.8 million in reserve funding is being used for a modernization to accommodate an additional 300 students beginning September 2023.

- **385** portable or modular classrooms dating from 1979 to present.
- **4** Private, Public Partnership (P3) schools opened since 2012.
- **6** New school buildings opened since 2016.

Upcoming Approved Facilities:

- Langdon Junior/Senior High School: This facility is being built as a P3 school and is expected to be completed by September 2024. The opening capacity of the school will be 900 student spaces.
- Bow Valley High School Addition: Announced March 4, 2022, which will add about 500 student spaces.



Historical Enrolment and Growth

RVS, Alberta's fifth largest school division, increases each year by about 750-1,000 students four to five per cent growth annually. Generally, RVS' percentage of growth is double the

growth of the larger school authorities in Calgary. This is partly due to families with school-age children moving into RVS communities and partly due to natural growth.

Did You Know?

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Kindergarten	2,008	1,918	1,527	1,907	1,832
Grade 1	2,033	2,082	1,893	1,972	2,130
Grade 2	2,072	2,062	1,954	2,062	2,013
Grade 3	1,933	2,123	2,017	2,085	2,100
Summary	6,038	6,267	5,864	6,119	6,243
Grade 4	2,038	2,019	2,035	2,147	2,119
Grade 5	2,115	2,108	1,962	2,135	2,180
Grade 6	1,979	2,178	2,093	2,109	2,199
Summary	6,132	6,305	6,090	6,391	6,498
Grade 7	1,863	2,005	2,117	2,163	2,136
Grade 8	1,750	1,894	1,986	2,174	2,151
Grade 9	1,770	1,815	1,953	2,145	2,276
Summary	5,383	5,714	6,056	6,482	6,563
Grade 10	1,666	1,723	1,764	1,991	2,107
Grade 11	1,569	1,626	1,675	1,824	1,926
Grade 12	1,474	1,541	1,638	1,908	1,692
Summary	4,709	4,890	5,077	5,723	5,725
Sub Total	24,270	25,094	24,614	25,567	26,861
Colonies				42	46
Community Learning Centres (CLCs) and Alternative Programs	52 392	42 503	46 629	406 607	336 369
Total	24,714	25,637	25,289	26,622	27,612
<i>Year-to-Year Growth</i>	4.0%	3.7%	-1.36%	5.27%	3.72%
	944	923	-348*	1,333	990

*Negatively impacted by COVID-19 pandemic

Most student growth is in the municipalities of Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere. Springbank and Crossfield are starting to show growth. The smaller centers, such as Beiseker and Indus, have remained relatively stable. The following table shows the growth in the different areas of RVS over the past five years.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Airdrie	10,516	11,075	11,101	11,566	12,405
<i>Difference</i>	614	559	26	465	839
Cochrane	4,683	5,029	5,003	5,311	5,612
<i>Difference</i>	258	346	-26	308	301
Chestermere	3,907	3,865	3,700	3,760	3,822
<i>Difference</i>	44	-42	-165	60	62
Springbank	1,793	1,742	1,733	1,770	1,808
<i>Difference</i>	-49	-51	-9	37	38
Crossfield	639	669	661	668	704
<i>Difference</i>	-12	30	-8	7	36
Langdon	973	957	876	916	912
<i>Difference</i>	8	-16	-81	40	-4
Rural West – Westbrook, Bearspaw, Banded Peak	673	690	597	612	621
<i>Difference</i>	-394	17	-93	15	9
Rural East – Beiseker, Kathryn, Indus	1086	1067	943	964	977
<i>Difference</i>	391	-19	-124	21	13
Colonies	52	42	46	42	46
<i>Difference</i>	8	-10	4	-4	4
Community Learning Centres and Alternative Programs	392	501	629	406	336
<i>Difference</i>	76	109	128	-223	-70
Online School	n/a	n/a	n/a	607	369
<i>Difference</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-238
Total	24,714	25,637	25,289	26,662	27,612



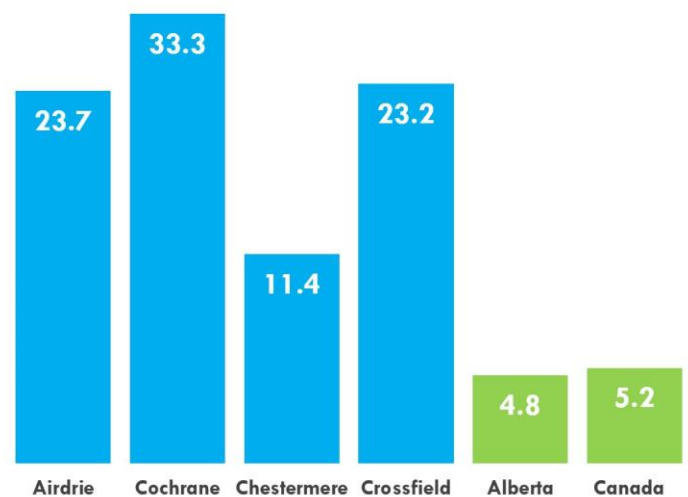
Population and Growth

Smaller municipalities just outside Calgary and Edmonton have experienced the largest percentage of growth in recent years. Airdrie, Cochrane, Chestermere and Crossfield have all experienced population growth well into double-digit percentages.

- Airdrie’s population grew from 61,842 to 76,500 from 2016 to 2022, an increase of 23.7 per cent.
- Cochrane’s population grew from 25,853 to 34,467 from 2016 to 2022, an increase of 33.3 per cent.
- Chestermere’s population grew from 19,887 to 22,163 from 2016 to 2022, an increase of 11.4 per cent.
- Crossfield’s population grew from 2,983 to 3,674 from 2016 to 2022, an increase of 23.2 per cent.

Since 2016 the urban centres of Cochrane, Airdrie and Chestermere are within the top ten fastest growing municipalities in Alberta (with populations over 10,000).

Per Cent Population Change of RVS Urban Centres and Higher Level Geographies (2016-2022)



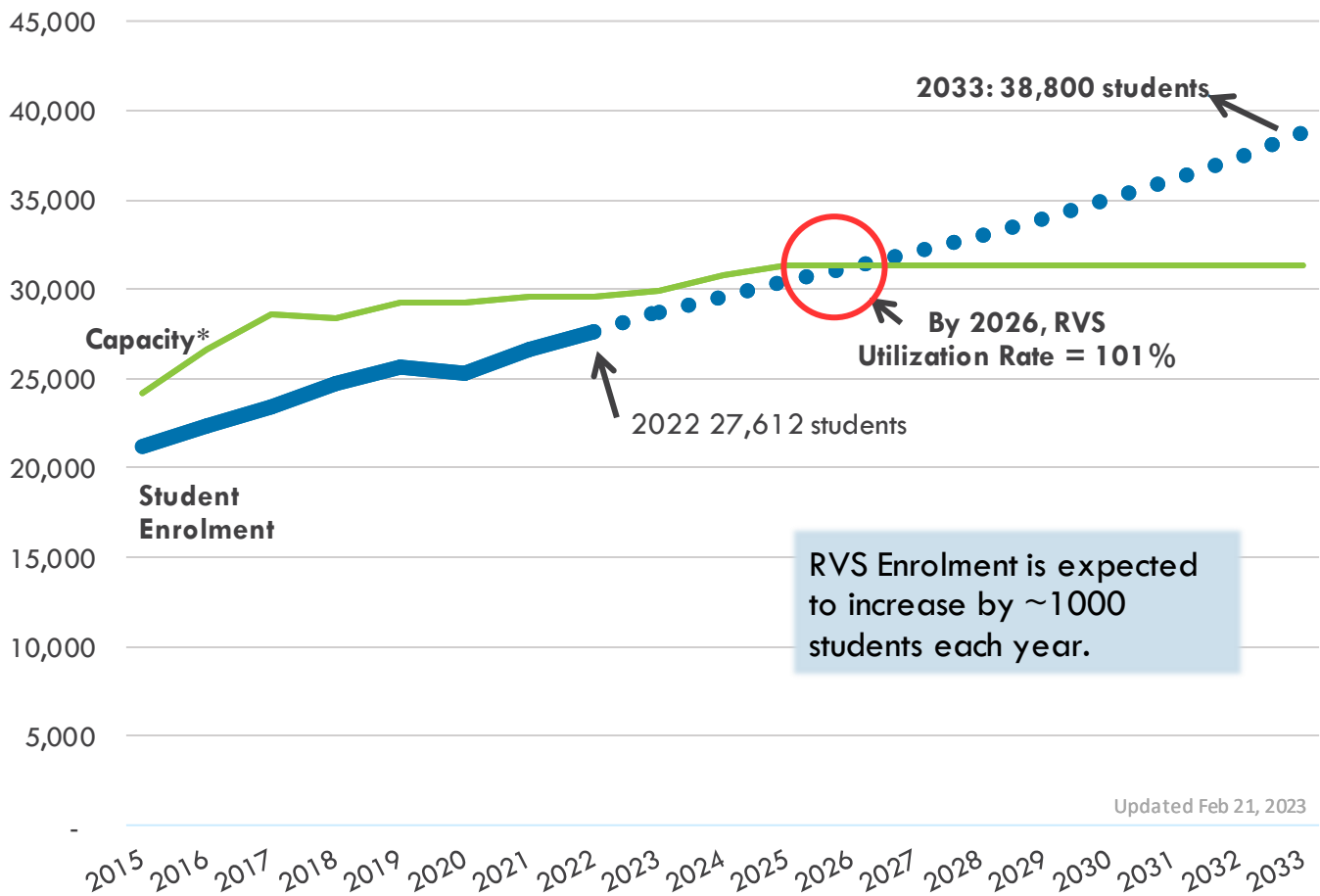
Capacity and Utilization

With a growth of 750-1,000 students annually, RVS is constantly and urgently in need of additional school capacity. The division will add 900 student spaces with the opening of the Langdon Junior/Senior High School in 2024, and Cochrane's Bow Valley High School will benefit from more spaces in the coming years because of an addition and modernization, currently underway at the school. Airdrie's Northcott Prairie School opened in 2020. These permanent spaces are valuable in ensuring an appropriate number of spaces are available to students to support their learning and well-being.

Looking forward, RVS continues to need additional school facilities. With no additional capacity, **RVS' utilization rate will continue to increase from the current 91 per cent to an even greater critical situation of a utilization rate of 101 per cent by 2026.** This projected utilization rate includes the added capacity of Langdon Junior/High School and the Bow Valley High School addition.



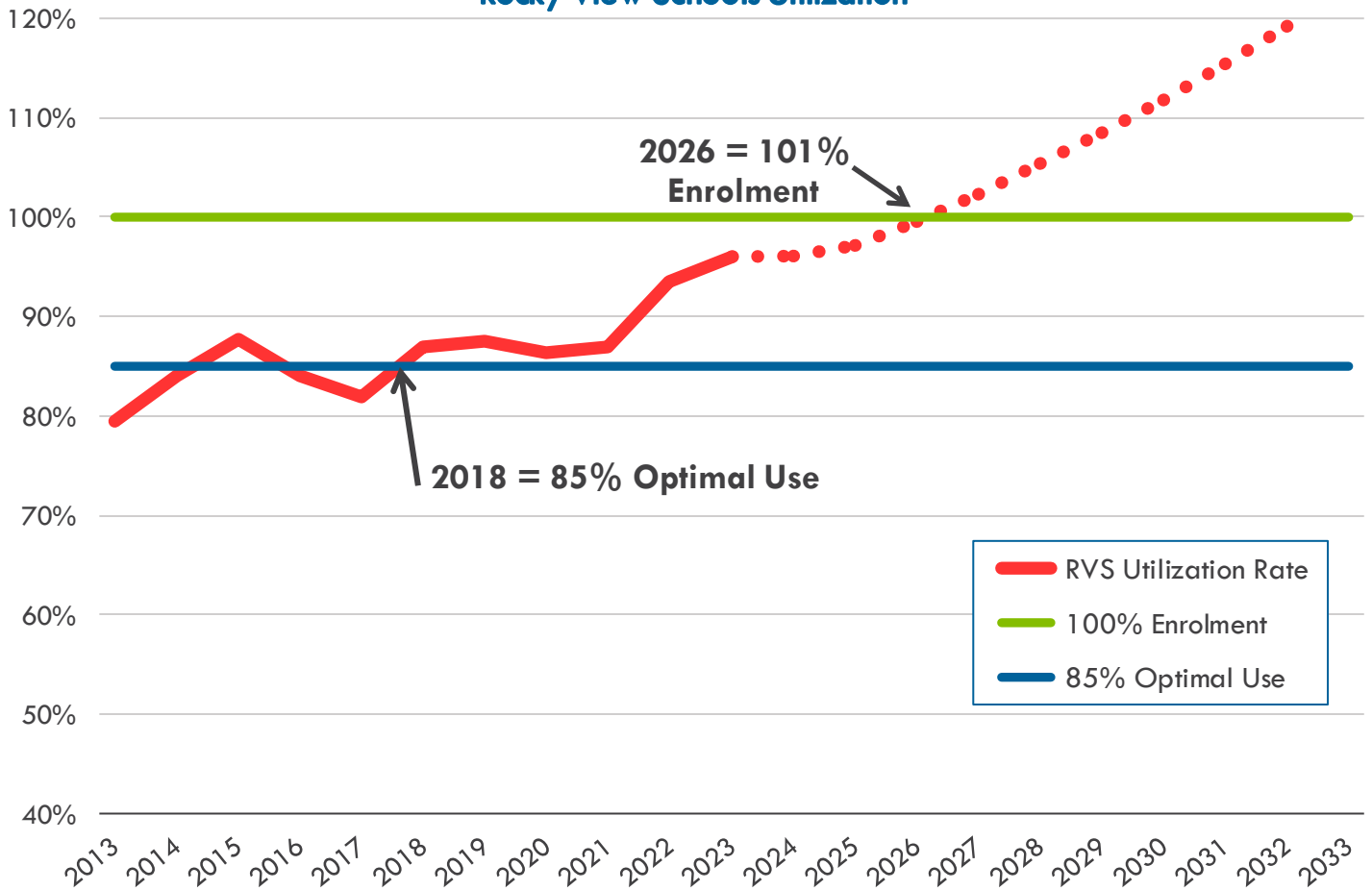
RVS Enrolment and Capacity



Updated Feb 21, 2023

*Capacity includes the opening of Langdon School (2024) and Bow Valley Addition (2025).

Rocky View Schools Utilization



*Capacity includes the opening of Langdon School (2024) and Bow Valley Addition (2025).

RVS has been above an optimal rate of 85 per cent utilization since 2018. Enrolment in the school division has been rising steadily and is expected to reach 101 per cent utilization by 2026.

The utilization rate also includes the capacity of all the modular units in the division, including those that have not been included in the original design of the school and are ‘overloading’ the core school as a result. While modular classrooms provide temporary space, they are not a long-term solution. They do not provide additional gymnasiums, learning commons, science labs or specialty shop spaces that are needed in addition to traditional classrooms.

Did you know?
One-third of RVS' capacity is modular.



Modular Classroom Placement at Fireside School in Cochrane

Modular Classrooms

Procurement of Modular Classrooms

The term modular classroom is used to describe a moveable classroom unit built at a central location and transported to and installed at schools across Alberta. Modular classrooms have long been used as added space for schools and are a cost-effective way to allow for the expansion and contraction of a school building as the student population fluctuates.

Provincial funding, through Alberta Education's Annual Modular Classroom Program, is provided for the addition of new or the relocation of existing modular classrooms to ease enrolment pressures in communities where school jurisdictions are experiencing high student enrolment growth. Funding may also be provided for the replacement of existing modular classrooms due to demonstrated health and safety issues.

Modular classrooms can be either directly attached to the core school, requiring a "connecting link," or left freestanding (i.e., not attached to the main school structure). A connecting link is the connecting corridor used when attaching modular classrooms to the permanent building.

Alberta Education requires school divisions across the province to review their accommodation needs annually to determine the demand for additional modular classrooms. **RVS submitted a request on Nov. 1, 2022, for 32 new modular units.**

Modular classrooms are an important part of strategic facility planning in RVS, as **one-third of RVS capacity is modular** classrooms. As seen in the table on the following page, 391 of RVS' classrooms are modular: the equivalent of about 9,775 students learning in a modular classroom.

Did You Know?

Location of RVS' Modular Classrooms

School	Number of Modulares	School	Number of Modulares
A.E. Bowers	8	Kathryn	2
Banded Peak	4	Langdon	8
Beiseker	2	Manachaban	10
Bert Church	8	Meadowbrook	6
Bow Valley	10	Mitford	14
Chestermere High	4	Muriel Clayton	10
Chestermere Lake	11	Northcott Prairie	6
Cochrane High	10	Nose Creek	14
Cooper's Crossing	12	Prairie Waters	8
Crossfield	8	Powell Street	6
C.W. Perry	16	Rainbow Creek	14
École Edwards	8	Ralph McCall	14
East Lake	16	RancheView	15
Elbow Valley	12	R.J. Hawkey	10
Elizabeth Barrett	12	Sarah Thompson	12
Fireside	7	Springbank High	10
George McDougall	7	Springbank Middle	4
Glenbow	14	Westbrook	10
Heloise Lorimer	6	W.G. Murdoch	4
Hérons Crossing	10 (+ 1 washroom unit stored onsite)	Windsong Heights	11
Indus	8 (+1 washroom unit stored onsite)	W.H. Croxford	6
Total Number of Modulares: 391			

42 out of 44 RVS school buildings have modular classrooms (Online Schools, Colonies and Learning Centres excluded).

24 modular classrooms are standalone and completely detached from the school core, creating separation for those students from the main school, requiring them to walk outside in all seasons and weather to use washroom facilities and change classes.



Joint Use and Partnerships

RVS schools are community hubs. Relationships exist with the local municipalities to support shared use of physical spaces and playfields. Opportunities to co-locate schools and recreation facilities are encouraged for the benefit of our students.

Bert Church LIVE Theatre

A joint venture with the City of Airdrie with a long-term thirty-year agreement, this partnership and shared space is mutually beneficial. The City primarily utilizes the space after school hours for performances, community classes, day camps and community rentals. Bert Church High School students use this state-of-the-art theatre during school hours, for evening performances throughout the school year and for an enhanced drama program. Every year the school puts on a musical and play. These productions allow the students to experience set, costume and prop design, scenic painting, lighting design, stage makeup, acting, technical theatre and front-of-house duties.

Westbrook School

Located in the Foothills along scenic Highway 22, Westbrook School serves the surrounding rural student population. The building has been built to accommodate 227 students with a substantially larger gym that can host tournaments. The initial capital for this larger-sized gym was due in part to a donation from Rocky View County. An expanded gymnasium allows this community hub to further accommodate community use. The students benefit from a larger gymnasium that can accommodate spectators and host tournaments and special events.

Langdon High School

For twenty years, RVS has been collaborating with community groups and Rocky View County to ensure the new Langdon high school is the ultimate joint use facility. The intent has always been for the school to be the vital community hub for Langdon and the surrounding rural area. The site has been planned to include both the high school and a recreation centre, along with ball diamonds. The school itself has been designed to allow for not only access to the high school facilities – including the gym, fitness studio and servery – but also to allow a physical connection with the future recreation centre.

Springbank Community High School

As part of a strong partnership with the Springbank Park for All Seasons Agricultural Society, RVS is a vital partner supporting their operations. This partnership supports the Society in providing recreational, cultural and social opportunities for our students and their community. Springbank Community High School was built as an integral component of this community hub, and a joint use facility agreement was established that has been in place since the high school opened in 1975. Over time, additional facilities have been added that continue to enhance joint use. These include a curling rink, an additional indoor rink, a refrigerated outdoor rink, an indoor baseball diamond, a fieldhouse for football and soccer, and beach volleyball.

Joint Use with Municipalities

Rocky View Schools has joint use agreements with our municipalities. The City of Airdrie supports a partnership committee between the City, Calgary Catholic School Division, Rocky View Schools and Conseil Scolaire FrancoSud. This collaborative committee supports a co-ordinated approach to the allocation, use, planning and development, and maintenance of municipal reserve, open space and school sites.



Priorities

The following pages outline RVS' Capital Priorities for the Government of Alberta's budget years 2024, 2025 and 2026. Detailed information for the 2024 budget year is provided after the overall three-year capital priority list.

Alberta Government Approved Projects March 2023 & Capital Priority List

Priority	Capital Project	Build Out Capacity	Community	Approved in 2023 Capital Plan	2024 Request
1	Airdrie K – 8	900	Airdrie	Design	New Construction
2	Airdrie High School	1,500	Airdrie	Planning	New Construction
3	Cochrane K – 8	900	Cochrane	Pre-planning	New Construction
4	Chestermere K – 9	900	Chestermere	Pre-planning	New Construction
Priority	Capital Project	Build Out Capacity	Community	Type of Project	Site Readiness Expected
2024 BUDGET YEAR					
5	Airdrie K – 8	900	Airdrie	New Construction	Ready
6	Springbank K – 8	900	Harmony	New Construction	Ready
7	Cochrane High School	1,500	Cochrane	New Construction	2024
2025 BUDGET YEAR					
8	Airdrie K – 8	900	Airdrie	New Construction	2024
9	Cochrane K – 8	900	Cochrane	New Construction	2024
10	Crossfield K – 8	600	Crossfield	New Construction	Ready
11	Chestermere High School	1,500	Chestermere	New Construction	2023
2026 BUDGET YEAR					
12	Chestermere K – 8	900	Chestermere	New Construction	TBD
13	Langdon K – 8	600	Langdon	New Construction	TBD
14	Airdrie K – 8	900	Airdrie	New Construction	TBD
15	Cochrane K – 8	900	Cochrane	New Construction	TBD

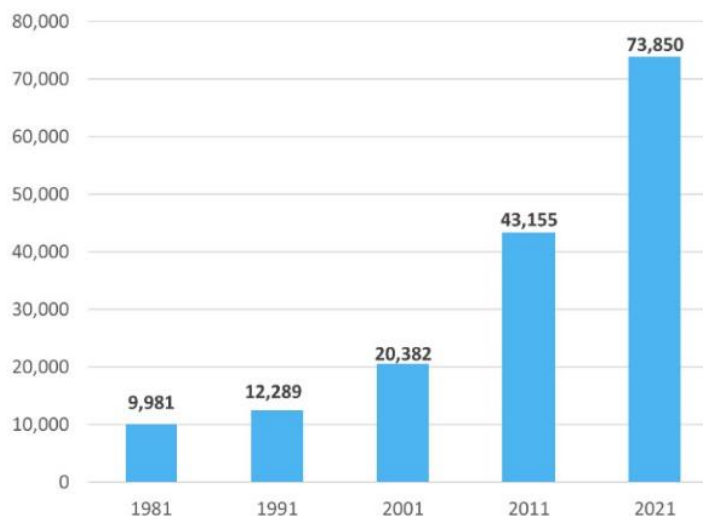
Priority 1: Airdrie K – 8 School

Information

Airdrie is Alberta’s second and Canada’s 25th fastest growing municipality (populations over 10,000). According to the City of Airdrie’s website, the population of Airdrie in 2022 was 76,500, increasing 20.3 per cent in the last five years. (Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population.)

School buildings in Airdrie reflect this rapid growth. RVS has 17 school buildings in Airdrie; of these, 16 have modular units attached or freestanding, and of these, eight schools have 10 or more modular classrooms. Additionally, between 2014 and 2020, five new RVS schools and one addition opened to RVS students in Airdrie.

Northcott Prairie School, being the most recent school built in RVS, opened its doors to students in 2020. With no new facilities having opened in Airdrie in the past three years and at least three years required to design and construct a new school, Airdrie will not have a new school open for a span of at least six years. In that time span, RVS will have increased by 1,900 Kindergarten – Grade 8 (K – 8) students.



Airdrie Population Growth over 40 Years

Source: City of Airdrie Census
(2021 Estimate at time of forecast preparation)

Student Enrolment and Projections

The table below is the 2022 RVS student population in Airdrie. **The number of students at Grade 1 intake is 250 students greater than the number of students leaving at Grade 12.** In addition to this natural increase at entry, RVS’ Airdrie student enrolments increases annually by approximately 3.5 per cent by grade.

2022 Airdrie Student Population

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Enrolment	900	1,010	920	983	986	985	973	986	1,001	1,047	966	850	760

From 2016 to 2022, the student population in Airdrie increased by about 600 students annually. The table below shows enrolments and projections for K – 8 students. Though it appears there is sufficient capacity in schools with 1,391 spaces currently available, this space is throughout all 14 elementary/middle schools and will reduce quickly as student enrolments increase. **In 2026 – the earliest RVS could open a new school – there will already be a shortage of 178 student spaces.**

Airdrie

Year	Enrolments K – 8	Capacity	Capacity – Enrolment	Approx. Utilization
2022	8,421	9,812	1,391	86%
2023	9,005	9,812	807	92%
2024	9,300	9,812	512	95%
2025	9,625	9,812	187	98%
2026	9,990	9,812	-178	102%
2027	10,315	9,812	-503	105%
2028	10,670	9,812	-858	109%
2029	11,125	9,812	-1,313	113%
2030	11,495	9,812	-1,683	117%

Note: Current capacity includes all current modular units on school grounds.

Challenge

As indicated by the previous chart, Airdrie’s K – 8 student population will soon be over capacity at the existing schools. It is important to note many Airdrie schools are already beyond-buildout capacity, as modular classrooms have been added to schools not designed to accommodate this extra space, putting stress on the core school and impacting our students.

Accommodation Options

The solutions for high utilization situations are to either move students to a school with lesser utilization, add more modular classrooms to existing schools or add more permanent space (additions or new school construction).

1. Accommodate students differently: RVS reviews accommodation needs and facility spaces annually. In Airdrie, accommodation changes will be made over the next few years to maximize existing capacity; however, this does not replace the need for additional permanent capacity.
2. Modular classrooms: RVS has requested 32 new modular units for schools throughout the division for 2023. Provincial funding from Alberta Education’s Modular Classroom Program has yet to be confirmed for these units.
3. Add permanent space: a new school is needed to accommodate K – 8 students in Airdrie. Five years from now, there will no available capacity in which to accommodate these students. New school construction funding is required immediately to meet Airdrie’s expected student population growth.

Preferred Solution

Option three: Construction of a new K – 8 school with a core capacity of 600 student spaces, with a possible modular classroom addition of 300 capacity, for a total buildout capacity of 900 student spaces.

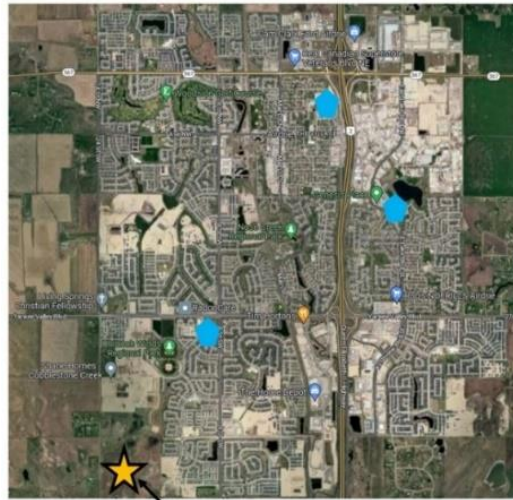
Priority 2: Airdrie High School

Information

RVS has three high schools in Airdrie, accommodating students from the city and surrounding rural areas. RVS partnered with the City of Airdrie to secure and develop the land required for a fourth new high school. Site readiness will be in the summer of 2023. Joint use efficiencies are being discussed with the municipality as the school will be adjacent to a future recreation centre.

Student Enrolment and Projections

September 2023 enrolment is projected to exceed current capacity within the existing three schools. By 2022, two of the three high schools in Airdrie had a total of thirteen freestanding modular units in the fields next to the schools: George McDougall and Bert Church. W.H. Croxford, the newest of the high schools and a P3, is expected to have a 140 per cent utilization rate by 2025.



Airdrie				
Year	Enrolments Gr. 9-12	Current Capacity	Capacity – Enrolment	Approx. Utilization
2022	3,623	3,666	43	99%
2023	3,990	3,666	-324	109%
2024	4,315	3,666	-649	118%
2025	4,539	3,666	-873	124%
2026	4,730	3,666	-1,064	129%
2027	4,875	3,666	-1,209	133%
2028	5,000	3,666	-1,334	136%
2029	5,150	3,666	-1,484	141%
2030	5,330	3,666	-1,664	145%

Note: Current capacity includes all current modular units on school grounds.



Challenge

Adding modular classrooms is the only short-term solution to accommodate this enrolment growth. Unfortunately, this will be a challenge at each of the high schools – each for a different reason.

George McDougall: George McDougall High School was built to accommodate 950 students, yet by 2025, RVS expects the school to have a student population of 1,300 students. There are already three freestanding modular units on the George McDougall site. This additional space works fine for students as regular classroom space; however, having more than 950 students in the school puts added pressure on the core building, particularly overuse of the CTS space, gym, learning commons and hallways, as these spaces were not designed to accommodate greater than the 950-student capacity. At least four additional freestanding modular units will need to be added each year to George McDougall until a new high school is open.

Bert Church: Bert Church High School is designed to accommodate 1,100 students and currently has an enrolment of 1,300 students. Eight freestanding modular units were added to this school in 2021. Like George McDougall, this is putting pressure on CTS, gym, learning commons, hallways and bathroom spaces. The Bert Church site does not allow for any additional modular units. Fortunately, enrolment at Bert Church is expected to remain stable for the next five years.

W.H. Croxford: Enrolment at W.H. Croxford High School is projected to increase by 150 students each year – this means an additional six modular units are needed annually until a new high school opens. According to the P3 contract, only two additional units can be added to this school; yet, RVS has determined there is a need for well beyond the two units.

While modular classrooms provide temporary space, they are not the solution, particularly when the modular classrooms put the schools into a beyond-buildout capacity situation. They do not provide additional gymnasiums, learning commons, science labs or specialty shop spaces that are needed. Furthermore, the addition of modular classrooms on schools that are not designed for the added student populations puts further pressure on the existing core school, specifically congesting the smaller corridors and resulting in higher class sizes in specialty spaces.

Accommodation Option/Preferred Solution

Funding the design and construction of a new, fourth Airdrie high school immediately.

At build-out, the permanent space will accommodate 1,500 student spaces in the core school with the ability to add 300 student spaces in modular units, resulting in a buildout capacity of 1,800 students.

Priority 3: Cochrane K – 8 School

Information

It is no surprise RVS' Cochrane enrolments continue to climb; according to Statistics Canada, the municipality is the fastest growing in Alberta (over 10,000 population), and the 11th fastest growing in Canada at 24.1 per cent growth since 2016 (Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population).

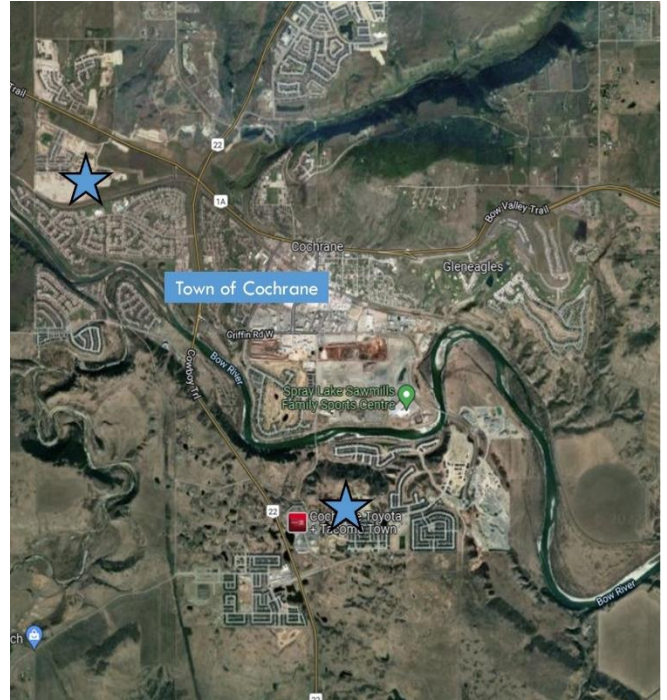
RVS is experiencing student population growth of approximately 300 students annually in the area, requiring a new school every two to three years in Cochrane just to keep up with this growth. The last school RVS opened in Cochrane was in the Fireside community, six years ago in 2017.

Cochrane, being a popular town for young families, has a very rapidly increasing student and preschool population. This growth is shown by the increasing one-year-old population over the years. The graph (below right) shows the number of one-year-old children in Cochrane from 2012 to 2022.

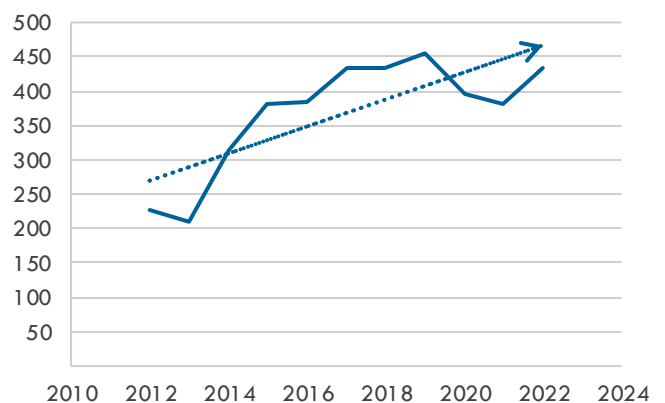
In **2012** there were **226** children who were age one living in Cochrane, compared to **2022** when there were **435** children. That's almost double the number of one-year-olds in a ten-year period.

In addition to increasing births in Cochrane, there are also families moving to Cochrane from elsewhere, adding to the natural increase of the cohort; for example, that same cohort of **226** one-year-old children in 2012 almost doubled (**420**) in population through families moving to Cochrane by the time that cohort turned five years old.

Similarly, RVS experiences enrolment growth of 3.5 per cent from one grade to the next. For instance, for every 500 students in Grade 3, RVS can expect an additional 18 students the next year in Grade 4. While this may not seem like many additional students, when multiplied by twelve grades, this is an annual increase of 234 students, in addition to the increase at the Kindergarten and Grade 1 intake.



One-Year-Olds in Cochrane



Student Enrolment and Projections

Taking into consideration the above-noted factors of natural increase at intake and in-migration, **RVS is projecting a continued increase of approximately 300+ K – 8 students annually for the next five years.** The need for another K – 8 school in Cochrane continues as population growth in the town is putting increased pressure on the existing schools.

Cochrane				
Year	Enrolments K-8	Capacity	Capacity – Enrolment	Approx. Utilization
2022	3,680	3,970	290	93%
2023	3,990	* 4,270	280	93%
2024	4,225	4,270	45	99%
2025	4,485	4,270	-215	105%
2026	4,775	4,270	-505	112%
2027	5,045	4,270	-775	118%
2028	5,340	4,270	-1070	125%
2029	5,645	4,270	-1375	132%
2030	5,990	4,270	-1720	140%

Note: Current capacity includes all current modular units on school grounds. Current capacity does not include Westbrook K – 8 or Banded Peak K – 8.

**2023 capacity includes 300 additional students with the re-opening of the school on Powell Street.*

Challenge

As seen in the table above, Cochrane K – 8 schools will be well over capacity by September 2025. The existing schools are already well above the optimal 85 per cent utilization rate. This is considered optimal as the school is full enough to be using the space wisely but there is still some flexibility with scheduling of common areas. Student population in Cochrane is expected to continue increasing and the challenge is ensuring adequate capacity for the expected student population.

Northcott Prairie School Learning Commons, Airdrie



Accommodation Options

The solutions for high utilization situations are to either move students to a school with lesser utilization, add modular classrooms to existing schools or to add more permanent space (additions or new school construction).

1. Accommodate students differently: **Cochrane has one school that is below 85 per cent utilization – RancheView School.** RancheView School is in the developing community of Sunset Ridge and as such, will have increasing enrolments for the foreseeable future. RVS reduced the catchment area for this school just a few years ago in anticipation of the further development of Sunset Ridge. Accommodating other Cochrane communities in this school would be short-sighted, as the school will be reaching 85 per cent capacity within the next three years.
2. Add modular classrooms to existing schools: **RVS has requested 32 new modular units for schools throughout the division for 2023.** Provincial funding from Alberta Education’s Modular Classroom Program has yet to be confirmed for these units.
3. Add more permanent space: A new school building is needed to accommodate K – 8 students in Cochrane. Five years from now, there will be an additional 1,500 K – 8 students in Cochrane that RVS will be educating. **Additional space is needed immediately to accommodate and educate these students.**

The school on Powell Street (formerly Holy Spirit School, operated by the Calgary Catholic School District) in Cochrane has returned to RVS’ ownership. RVS has committed to modernizing the school and is currently evaluating various accommodation options for this space; stakeholder engagement is underway. The school will be ready to welcome students in September 2023. The capacity of the building is 300 student spaces.

Preferred Solution

Option three: Construct a new K – 8 school immediately.

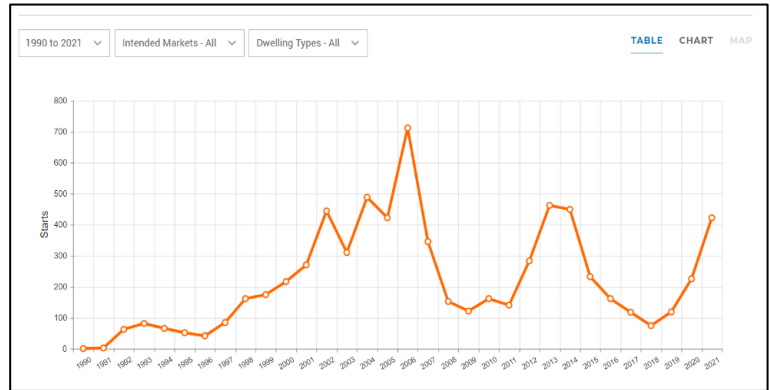
Priority 4: Chestermere K – 9 School

Information

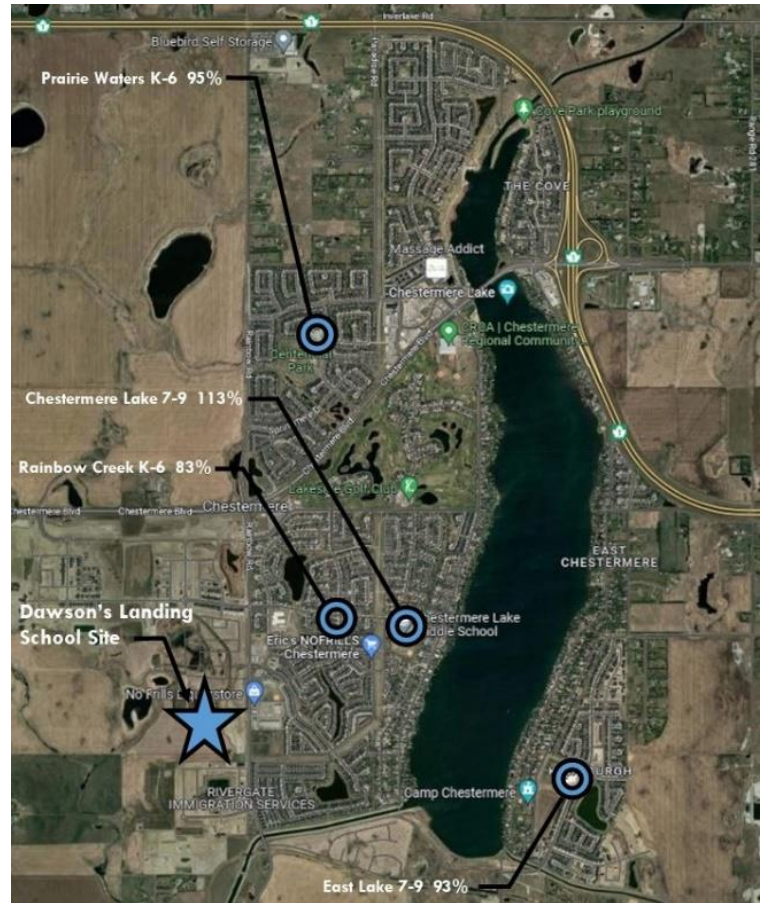
Student population in Chestermere was increasing at an unprecedented rate five to ten years ago with enrolments increasing by 200 to 300 students annually. Enrolment growth slowed beginning in 2018, as housing construction in Chestermere stalled. This pause in new builds occurred due to needed stormwater management and utility infrastructure.

As of 2022, the utility infrastructure has been completed and Chestermere is booming. This chart shows the number of new housing starts since 1990. The number of housing starts was 400+ units in 2021; the housing starts are expected to continue rising to numbers well above the previous year's rates, bringing many new residents to the community and students to RVS.

Chestermere – Housing Starts 1991-2021



Source: Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation



The areas of growth in Chestermere are primarily on the west side of the city. The nearby RVS schools are full, so students residing in the growth areas are bused to East Lake School, which is expected to be 97 per cent utilized in September. There were 150 students attending RVS schools in September 2022 from the developing communities of Dawson's Landing, Chelsea and Waterford. RVS is expecting these numbers to increase by an additional 100 students in 2023.

Student Enrolment and Projections

2022 Chestermere Student Population

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Enrolment	222	261	254	282	286	315	321	293	286	301	365	347	269

This table shows current and projected enrolments with capacities for K-9 students.

Chestermere				
Year	Enrolments K – 9	Capacity	Capacity – Enrolment	Approx. Utilization
2022	2,821	2,879	58	98%
2023	2,967	2,879	-88	103%
2024	3,161	2,879	-282	110%
2025	3,390	2,879	-511	118%
2026	3,633	2,879	-754	126%
2027	3,922	2,879	-1043	136%
2028	4,306	2,879	-1427	150%
2029	4,759	2,879	-1880	165%
2030	5,329	2,879	-2450	185%

Note: Current capacity includes all current modular units on school grounds. Current capacity does not include Indus K-9 or Langdon K-9 or Sarah Thompson K-5 schools.

Accommodation Challenges

RVS faces three accommodation challenges in Chestermere.

1. As described above, **RVS is expecting a surge of new students.**
2. RVS overall student spaces in Chestermere declined with the closure of the Prince of Peace facility due to the lease expiring and the owner selling the facility to a private school. This resulted in **a loss of approximately 500 student spaces** and increased enrolment pressures at Chestermere schools.
3. There are three elementary schools and one middle school in Chestermere. **Three of the schools have additional modular classrooms that cause the facilities to be at beyond-buildout capacity**, which puts strain on the core school facilities including CTF spaces, gyms and corridors. The fourth school is East Lake School, a P3, which is expected to have a September 2023 utilization rate of 97 per cent.

Solution

A new K – 9 school in Chestermere is needed immediately.

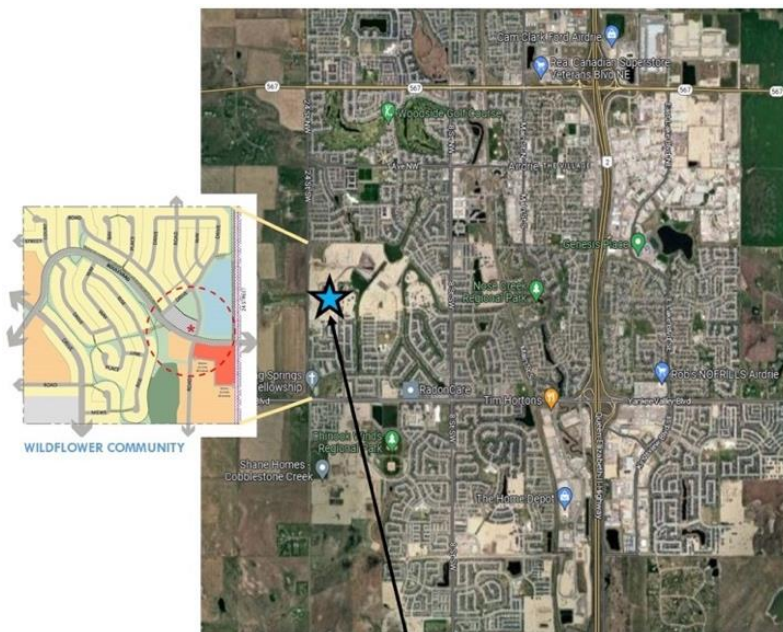
Priority 5: Airdrie K – 8 School

Information

As the second fastest growing municipality in Alberta, it is no surprise **the student population is increasing at a rate that requires a new school be built every year to two years.** The last school RVS opened in Airdrie was in 2020, yet the student population continues to increase by about four per cent annually. This is why RVS has prioritized the need for two K – 8 schools to be constructed and opened in Airdrie immediately.

The map below illustrates the communities in Airdrie either considered developing communities or expected to start development in the next year or so – the communities highlighted below have or will soon have increasing student populations.

There are two sites on which RVS can build for Priority 5; one is the community of Bayside on the west side of Airdrie and the other is in the community of Lanark in the southeast part of Airdrie.



Bayside

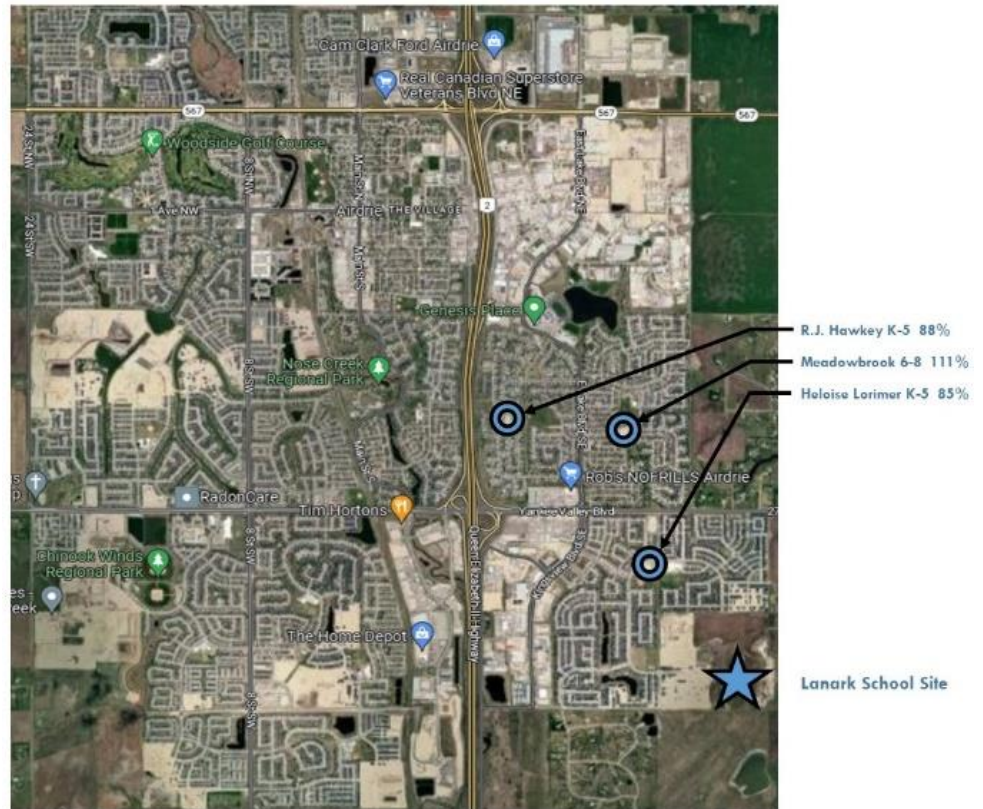
Nose Creek School, in the community of Bayside, is a core school with two freestanding modular units. Like many schools in RVS, Nose Creek has a capacity well beyond its build-out capacity. With Windsong Heights to the south at 95 per cent utilization and Ralph McCall to the north at 87 per cent, students in this area newly enrolling in RVS are only going to add to these utilization rates. Additional neighbourhoods are already approved with houses actively being built to the west, north and south of Bayside. RVS has made the difficult decision to redirect students to schools further away from surrounding neighbourhoods such as Cobblestone Creek (southwest) and Wildflower (northwest) to balance the enrolment rates at the existing schools.



Lanark

Situated in Lanark in southeast Airdrie, this school site addresses the need for a K – 8 school on the east side of Airdrie. With more land being acquired and housing construction continuing, the Lanark neighbourhood will soon include additional residents.

There are three schools that accommodate elementary/middle school students who reside east of Highway 2 in Airdrie: Heloise Lorimer School (K – 5), R.J. Hawkey Elementary School (K – 5) and Meadowbrook School (6 – 8). The student population growth in the area is mainly at the Kindergarten and Grade 1 intake and primarily impacts Heloise Lorimer. Heloise Lorimer accommodates students from the community of King’s Heights and the developing community of Lanark and is currently at 85 per cent utilization with projected growth of 25+ students annually. Meadowbrook has a current utilization rate of 111 per cent, averaging a slightly smaller growth of 10 students per grade for the next five years. R.J. Hawkey, at 88 per cent, is projected to see a slight and gradual decline in overall enrolment as the communities the school serves are not new developments.



Preferred Solution

Construct a new K – 8 school to meet the medium- and long-term needs of Airdrie students.

Priority 6: Springbank K – 8 School

Information

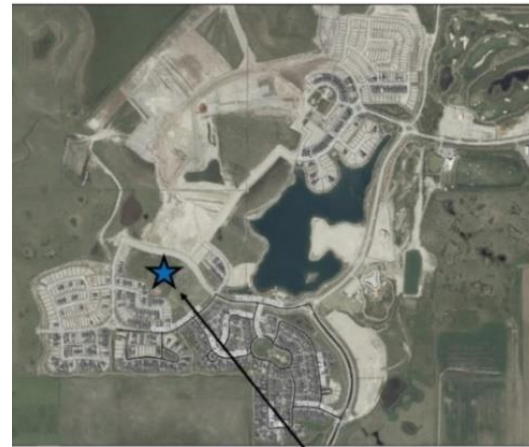
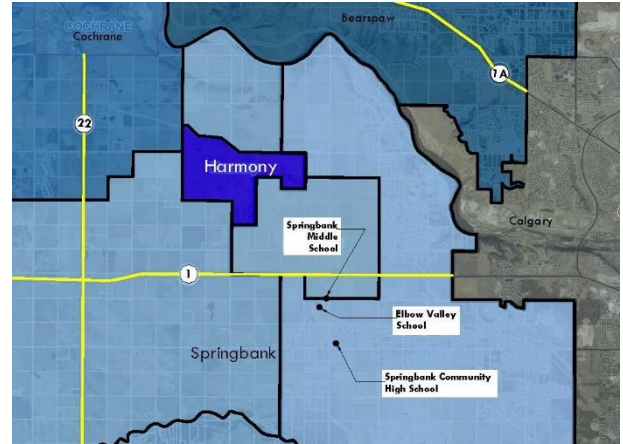
Springbank and area are located west of the City of Calgary within Rocky View County.

RVS has three schools that accommodate students in the Springbank area – Elbow Valley Elementary, Springbank Middle and Springbank Community High. A new school in the community of Harmony will alleviate enrolment pressures that will be experienced at the elementary and middle school level.

Harmony is a new 1,750-acre community development on the north side of Highway 1 within Rocky View County. The projected population of Harmony is expected to be over 10,000 people. This new school will address enrolment pressures on the existing Elbow Valley and Springbank Middle schools. RVS' school site, located in the centre of Harmony, is ready for construction of a school. (See below, right.)

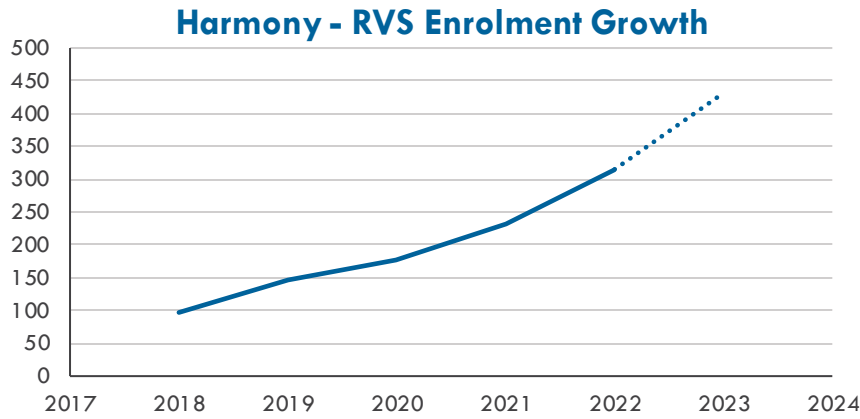
Harmony - Student Enrolment and Projections

There are currently 315 K-12 students in RVS schools from the Harmony community. Current students who reside in Harmony attend school at Elbow Valley, Springbank Middle and Springbank Community High.



2022 Springbank Student Population

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Enrolment	75	119	104	98	121	149	142	131	154	176	188	184	167



Springbank and Harmony						
Year	Springbank Area	Harmony Area	Total K – 8	Capacity	Capacity - Enrolments	Approx. Utilization
2022	836	257	1,093	1,281	188	85%
2023	853	330	1,183	1,281	98	92%
2024	870	405	1,275	1,281	6	99%
2025	887	500	1,387	1,281	-106	108%
2026	905	585	1,490	1,281	-209	116%
2027	923	700	1,623	1,281	-342	127%
2028	941	810	1,751	1,281	-470	137%
2029	960	940	1,900	1,281	-619	148%
2030	980	1,055	2,035	1,281	-754	159%

With projected growth from Harmony at approximately 75 students per year, the urgent need for a new school is evident.

Challenge

With such a large development and the schools nearby reaching full capacity a new school is needed within Harmony.

Accommodation Options

Springbank and Harmony's solutions for growth are to either add more modular classrooms to the existing three schools or add more permanent space (additions or new school construction). Due to the geography and location, relocating students north to Cochrane is not viable, nor does RVS have the space in Cochrane to accommodate these students.

1. **Modular classrooms:** **RVS has requested thirty-two new modular units for schools across the division for 2023.** Provincial funding from Alberta Education's Modular Classroom Program has yet to be confirmed for these units.
2. **Add permanent space:** Another new K – 8 school is needed to accommodate students in Harmony and surrounding areas. **If Elbow Valley and Springbank Middle stay as-is, there won't be any additional space for students by 2026.**

Preferred Solution

Construct a new K – 8 school to meet the medium- and long-term needs of Harmony and Springbank students.

Priority 7: Cochrane High School

Information

Cochrane currently has two high schools - Cochrane High, which is part of the tri-school site on the north side of the Bow River and Bow Valley High School on the south side.



Student Enrolment and Projections

Both high schools reached maximum capacity in the 2021/22 school year.

Cochrane				
Year	Enrolments 9 – 12	Current Capacity	Capacity – Enrolment	Approx. Utilization
2022	1,914	1,914	0	100%
2023	2,060	1,914	-146	108%
2024	2,190	1,914	-276	114%
2025	2,350	*2,409	59	98%
2026	2,470	2,409	-61	103%
2027	2,710	2,409	-301	113%
2028	2,950	2,409	-541	123%
2029	3,240	2,409	-831	135%
2030	3,550	2,409	-1,141	147%

Note: Current capacity includes all current modular units on school grounds.

*2025 includes additional capacity for the Bow Valley High School expansion (495 more students, creating a 1,425-capacity school)

Challenge

Even with the approved addition at Bow Valley High School, growth is outpacing capacity in Cochrane. The addition allows space for about 500 more students, but projected enrolments will exceed overall high school capacity in the next three years. Cochrane High has space on site for a maximum of two more modular units and the Bow Valley High School expansion maximizes the school site to its fullest potential.

Solutions

Funding provided for the design of a new high school immediately with construction funding being provided once the site is completely ready. This is expected by August 2024. A high school takes a minimum of four years to build from approval to opening day. The permanent space would accommodate 1,500 student spaces in the core school with the ability to add 300 student spaces in modular units, resulting in a total buildout capacity of 1,800 students.

Preferred Solution:

Start the design of the Cochrane High School as soon as possible, with construction funding coming within the next two years. Construct a new high school to meet the medium- and long-term needs of Cochrane high school students.



DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Item: Authorization of Locally Developed Courses

Date of Meeting: March 23, 2023

Background:

Locally developed courses (LDCs) are developed, acquired and authorized by school authorities to provide students with unique opportunities to explore a range of interests in subject areas that complement provincial programs of study.

LDCs allow school authorities to be innovative and responsive at the local level. LDCs accommodate the special interests and abilities of students and address local, community and/or parental interests. LDCs may be used to:

- accommodate student needs and interests
- encourage and support innovative learning and teaching practices
- address unique community priorities; e.g., language, culture, labour market needs
- engage students who may be at risk of leaving school early

Courses for Renewal

Rocky View Schools is seeking approval to renew the following expiring Locally Developed Courses for the authorization periods indicated below. High school administrators have confirmed they would like to offer these courses for students in their schools.

Course Title	Credits	Developing Board	Authorization Period
Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 15, 25, 35	5	The Calgary School District	09/01/2023 - 08/31/2027
Creative Writing & Publishing 15, 25, 35	3 & 5	The Calgary School District	09/01/2023 - 08/31/2027
Dance 15, 25, 35	3 & 5	The Edmonton School Board	09/01/2023 - 08/31/2027
ESL Introduction to Science 15	5	The Calgary School District	09/01/2023 - 08/31/2027
ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15, 25	5	The Calgary School District	09/01/2023 - 08/31/2027
Performing Arts 15, 25, 35	3 & 5	The Grande Yellowhead School Division	09/01/2023 - 08/31/2027
Yoga 15, 25, 35	3 & 5	The Calgary School District	09/01/2023 - 08/31/2027



DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Courses for Acquisition

Rocky View Schools is seeking approval to acquire two Locally Developed Courses - Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility 15, 25, 35 and Literature and Composition 25, 35 for students in their schools for the authorization periods indicated below.

Course Title	Credits	Developing Board	Authorization Period
Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility 15, 25, 35	3 & 5	The Golden Hills School Division	09/01/2023 - 08/31/2025
Literature and Composition 25, 35	3 & 5	The Parkland School Division	09/01/2023 - 08/31/2025

Alternatives:

Alternative I

The Board of Trustees approves the above courses for use in Rocky View Schools for the periods indicated above.

Alternative II

The Board of Trustees directs Administration to pursue an alternate course of action.

Recommendation

The Board of Trustees approves the above courses for use in Rocky View Schools for the periods indicated above.



DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE POLICY COMMITTEE

Discussion Item: Policy 18 Alternative Programs

Date of Meeting: March 23, 2023

Background:

Alternative programs are guided by Policy 18 (see attached) as well as the associated administrative procedures (AP220 – Programs of Choice and AP221 – Innovation Initiatives for the Delivery of Education).

In November 2022, the Board Planning Committee had a generative discussion around Alternative Programs. The conversation provided some guidance to the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee reviewed the policy and made suggested edits reflecting the discussion and what the committee found when reviewing other school division's policies.

Current Status:

Summary of major changes proposed to Policy 18:

- Last revised Sept 2020 but only for references updates, previously revised in 2016
- Proposed to be renamed as Divisional Programs of Choice
- Provide a working definition that builds on a concept in the *Education Act*
 - Divisional programs of choice include, but are not limited to, a particular language, religion, culture, the arts, athletics, and specialized subject matters. They provide for multiple points of engagement of learners, while also ensuring strong learning opportunities for student success while addressing the curriculum.
 - Divisional programs of choice are those offerings which any student from across the division can apply to attend. Attendance is not limited by defined attendance areas (open boundaries). Select schools are designated to offer these divisional programs of choice with no student designated to the divisional program of choice. Divisional programs of choice are not a special education program.
- This policy does not limit the possibility for schools to create innovative offerings for the students within their attendance area
- Updated listing of criteria that need to be considered when the board is considering supporting a divisional program of choice
- Added guidelines related to transportation, potential fees, and potential enrolment limits

Once the policy is reviewed and approved by the Board, administration will update AP220/AP221 to reflect the discussions and revised policy.



DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE POLICY COMMITTEE

Alternatives:

Alternative I

The Board rescinds Policy 18 Alternative Programs and approves Board Policy 18 Divisional Programs of Choice as presented.

Alternative II

The Board refer the matter back to the Board Planning Committee for further review.

Alternative III

The Board refer the matter back to the Policy Committee for further review.

Recommendation:

The Board rescinds Policy 18 Alternative Programs and approves Board Policy 18 Divisional Programs of Choice as presented.

BACKGROUND

As a public school jurisdiction, Rocky View Schools provides universal accessibility for all students in inclusive settings. In meeting the needs of individual students, the Board of Trustees believes in programs of choice within its public system and boundaries in accordance with the School Act. Programs of choice include, but are not limited to, a particular language, religion, culture, the arts, athletics, and specialized subject matter. They provide for multiple points of engagement of learners, while also ensuring strong learning opportunities for student success.

GUIDELINES

1. The Board of Trustees will support programs of choice, provided they are:
 - Consistent with the vision and direction of Rocky View Schools and follow all policies and regulations of the jurisdiction unless specifically exempted by the Board of Trustees.
 - Accessible to as many students as possible while maintaining alternative school/program characteristics.
 - Pedagogically sound and follow the Program of Studies for the Province of Alberta.
 - Financially sound and operate in a cost-neutral manner.
 - Considerate of existing school enrolment and sector utilization.
 - Responsible for student transportation costs net of grants.
 - Employing and evaluating staff according to the policy of Rocky View Schools.
 - Reviewed on an on-going basis by the Superintendent to assess viability.
2. The Board directs the Superintendent, whenever possible, to invoke the community engagement process prior to consideration of new programs of choice in the system, and include feedback in the recommendation to the Board.
3. The Board retains the right to approve alternate program contracts.

Legal Reference:

- Section 11, 16, 18, 19, 32, 33, 51, 52, 53, 60, 67, 222 Education Act

BACKGROUND

As a public school jurisdiction, Rocky View Schools provides universal accessibility for all students in inclusive settings. In meeting the needs of individual students, the Board of Trustees believes in divisional programs of choice within its public system and boundaries in accordance with the *Education Act*.

An “Alternative Program” is outlined in Section 19 of the *Education Act* and is a program that emphasizes a particular language, culture, religion, or subject matter, or uses a particular teaching philosophy. It is not a special education program or a Francophone education program or a program of religious education offered by a separate school board. Where the *Education Act* uses the term Alternative Program, it is felt that divisional program of choice is a more understandable term for families.

Divisional programs of choice include, but are not limited to, a particular language, religion, culture, the arts, athletics, and specialized subject matters. They provide for multiple points of engagement of learners, while also ensuring strong learning opportunities for student success while addressing the curriculum.

Divisional programs of choice are those offerings which any student from across the division can apply to attend. Attendance is not limited by defined attendance areas (open boundaries). Select schools are designated to offer these divisional programs of choice with no student designated to the divisional program of choice. Divisional programs of choice are not a special education program.

GUIDELINES

1. The Board of Trustees consider support divisional programs of choice, provided they are:
 - Consistent with the vision and direction of Rocky View Schools and follow all policies and procedures of the jurisdiction unless specifically exempted by the Board of Trustees.
 - Accessible to as many students as possible.
 - Pedagogically sound and follow the Program of Studies for the Province of Alberta.
 - Financially sound.
 - Warranted by sufficient number of interested students.
 - Not interfering with any student’s access to a regular program of instruction;
 - Mindful of existing school space, enrolments, and utilizations; and
 - Employing and evaluating staff according to the same policies as other staff of Rocky View Schools.
2. The Board may or may not provide transportation to a divisional program of choice.

3. The Board may charge a fee for non-instructional costs to parents who enroll their children/students in a divisional program of choice.
4. Divisional programs of choice may have limits on the enrolment.
5. Divisional programs of choice will be reviewed regularly by the Superintendent to ensure viability. Decisions to eliminate or close a divisional program of choice are made by the Board.
6. The Superintendent, when necessary to determine viability, to invoke a community engagement process prior to consideration of new divisional programs of choice in the system and include feedback in the recommendation to the Board.
7. Divisional programs of choice are only approved by the Board.
8. Parties interested in proposing a divisional program of choice shall follow the process described in an administrative procedure created and maintained by the Superintendent.

Legal Reference:

- Section 11, 16, 18, 19, 32, 33, 51, 52, 53, 60, 67, 222 Education Act



COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE BOARD PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report Date: March 23rd, 2023

Committee Members Present:

All Trustees (Judi Hunter Absent)

Greg Luterbach, Superintendent

Larry Paul, Associate Superintendent of Business & Operations

Tara De Weerd, Director of Communications

Ashley Maroukian, Recording Secretary

Meeting Date: March 2nd, 2023

Key Meeting Points:

- Board Committee reports by ASBA Committee, Labour Relations, and TEBA
- Discussion of Letter to Parents re: Space for Students Advocacy
- Presentation on proposed 2023-2026 Capital Plan
- Presentation of Policy 18 Alternative Programs
- Presentation of P4G1 Trustee Tracking Sheet
- Discussion of ASBA Bylaw Changes

Future Considerations:

- N/A

Committee Recommendations/Decisions:

- N/A