

# **Share Our Story!**

**SPACE** – Rocky View Schools (RVS) continues to urgently need government approval and funding for new schools, additions and modular classrooms to accommodate our fast-growing communities. Until the new schools announced in Budget 2024 open to students, the capacity challenges in RVS schools continue. Parents/guardians have an important voice about the space students need to do their best in school.

**SUPPORT** – The Board believes every student should be fully funded. The gap between enrolment numbers and instructional funding provided by government leads to crowded classes and fewer options and programs for students. Supplemental grant funding provides some relief but does not completely fill the funding shortage and does not provide stable, predictable dollars for the division – and for RVS' students.

We need your help to share our story. Together, we can help ensure our voices are heard.

## What steps can you take?

RVS has created this Share Our Story guide to give you some ideas and tools to help you advocate for space and funding for students. If you have questions on advocacy, please contact your local trustee.

## Learn More About RVS' Advocacy Efforts

Visit RVS' <u>website</u> where there is information about the Board of Trustees Advocacy Priorities and efforts.

## **Tell your Friends, Family and Others**

Talk to those around you about the need for more funding and student spaces in your community. Talking about how your children are impacted by overutilized schools with decision-makers and influencers can be very effective.

# Contact Municipal and Provincial Governments

Write a letter, send a personal email to politicians, pick up the phone and call about your concerns about the need for funding and space for students in RVS schools.

Consider reaching out to your local councillor and mayor asking them to prioritize getting schools sites ready. Without school sites, RVS cannot even ask the provincial government for new schools.

## **Share RVS Social Media Posts**

Follow our RVS Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram feeds and reshare our Space for Students posts to help us reach as many people as possible.

## **Share Your Story**

Send your personal story about how your child(ren) are impacted by crowded schools and not enough funding to your Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Minister of Education, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Premier.

# **Tips for advocating for RVS**

RVS recommends when advocating to individuals to always keep the message positive and personal. Whether speaking, emailing, or using social media platforms, we encourage active and respectful dialogue. Use the data provided along with personal stories and impacts you see with your own child(ren) to provide a personalized, impactful message to key decision-makers. Ensure they know you are invested in this issue and that it is an important community-wide issue. We also do not recommend online petitions as an effective and positive means of advocating.

# **Stakeholder Contacts**

## **Government of Alberta**

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Anaela Pitt MLA for Airdrie-East 209 Bowers Street N.E. Airdrie, AB T4B OR6 <u>Airdrie.East@assembly.ab.ca</u> 780-644-7121

Honourable Nathan Cooper MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills 325 Legislature Building 10800 - 97 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6 OldsDidsbury.ThreeHills@assembly.ab.ca 780-427-2464

#### **City of Airdrie**

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## **Town of Cochrane**

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## **City of Chestermere**

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