



Oct. 31, 2024

Dear families of RVS Cochrane schools,

As part of our commitment to ongoing communication, the Board of Trustees of Rocky View Schools (RVS) is updating you on our ongoing plans to accommodate the rapid growth in enrolment across Cochrane to ensure the best possible learning environment for all students.

Cochrane continues to experience exceptional growth, increasing by more than 34 per cent in five years, making it one of the fastest-growing communities in Alberta. The Board acknowledges the urgent need for additional student spaces for our students. We have been advocating with focused determination to the provincial government for funding to address this need, earning some support this year to reduce immediate pressures.

- The provincial Budget 2024 included funding for a new Kindergarten to Grade 8 school in Rivercrest, anticipated to open in fall 2028. While positive, this new school does not resolve the immediate space needs in Cochrane.
- The Board continues to request and advocate for government funding for new and relocated modular classrooms. Over the summer, the government approved 12 new modular classrooms and funding to relocate 12 existing modulars across RVS. Of these Cochrane will receive:
 - Six new modulars at Fireside School.
 - Two modulars at Cochrane Christian Academy.
- The previously approved expansion and modernization of Bow Valley High School is well underway. Anticipated to be complete in fall of 2026, the project will add 485 student spaces.
- We continue to work with the Town of Cochrane to ensure suitable school sites are ready in a timely manner so we can advocate to the provincial government to approve even more much-needed schools for the community.

A thorough review of utilizations across Cochrane schools has been conducted by an RVS staff working group and considering their recommendation and the recent additional modular classrooms, the Board is maintaining the current boundaries and grade configurations for schools in Cochrane at this time. We will soon need to designate the new Southbow Landing community to a school in Cochrane which we anticipate will happen by spring or fall of 2025.

Looking ahead, we recognize the importance of balancing student spaces in Cochrane as new schools open and capacity is added in the form of temporary modular classrooms. A larger student accommodation review will likely be necessary in early 2027 as we determine the areas that will attend the new school in the Rivercrest community and to ensure we meet the needs of this growing community effectively.

An additional high school for Cochrane remains a priority for RVS in our capital plan. RVS has secured the necessary land for the next high school north of Heritage Hills and off Horse Creek Road but cannot advance the project until the Town of Cochrane completes the required servicing of the site.

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We feel it is important to keep the community informed about our students' space needs and assure you that the Board continues to plan and advocate for additional schools and modular classrooms in Cochrane. More information about Cochrane student spaces is available on [RVSEngage](#). We will also be sharing this information and encouraging conversation at school council meetings and other opportunities to connect with families throughout the year. We value your ongoing feedback and dialogue and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Fiona Gilbert
Board Chair
Rocky View Schools

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Board of Trustees