



# The Impacts of Growing Enrolment

2023-24



**140,000+**

students and more  
registering daily.

Since Sept. 2022 we  
have welcomed

**9,000** additional  
students.

This increase would  
fill **15**  
elementary schools



New Canadians  
represent the majority  
of new students.

EAL

**40,000+**

students (29%) are  
English as Additional  
Language Learners  
(EAL)

CBE is growing at a  
faster annual pace  
than Alberta\*

CBE: **5.4%**  
Alberta: **4.0%**  
Canada: **2.9%**

\*Statistics Canada Sept. 2023  
report based on July 2022-2023.

CBE is experiencing significant enrolment growth and continues to welcome more students every day. This trend is expected to continue, with enrolment projected to grow to almost 160,000 students by 2028, a 14 per cent increase from the 2023-24 school year.

## Impacts of Rapid Growth



### Student Complexity Continues to Increase

- Resources are being allocated to an increasing number of students with special learning needs, and those needs are becoming more complex.
  - 29 per cent (40,000+) are English as Additional Language (EAL) learners.
  - 18 per cent (25,000+) have special learning needs.
- Additional assessments are necessary for newcomer students.
- Continued support from partners is necessary (e.g. AHS, Social Services, Trellis, etc.).

### Additional Resources are Required

- More teachers and other school-based staff to support students.
- More central supports like occupational therapists, psychologists, speech language pathologists to support complex learners.
- More staff to process newcomer registrations at the Welcome Centre.
- More administrative supports to help manage growth (student accommodation planning, HR, IT, Finance, and more).
- More technology to support student learning and system infrastructure.
- More supplies and expenditures and those costs continue to rise.



### Schools are Running out of Space & Programs are Capped

- There is an immediate need for [additional learning spaces](#) to support current and projected enrolment.
- 33 schools (13 per cent) are in [overflow](#). This means more students are not able to attend their community school and are bused to more distant communities.
- CBE requested 68 new [Modular classrooms](#) to provide immediate relief, but only 12 were approved. Other modulares will be moved between schools to address demand.
- Lack of capacity reduces available spaces for educational programming and community use.



### More Riders, More Routes, More Buses

- More students are requiring transportation to attend schools that have space.
- Service providers continue to be challenged to attract and retain sufficient drivers to cover all routes.
- In the 2025-26 school year, legislative changes will impact families:
  - About 8,000+ additional students will qualify for transportation, meaning a potential 36 per cent increase in ridership.
  - Service providers will need to acquire an additional 40-60 buses and drivers to support the increase in ridership.
  - Bell times at more than 80 schools (or 20 per cent) will be impacted to accommodate the changes.

