

frequently asked questions

November/December
2014

New Schools and Major Modernizations

The following are frequently asked questions received through yourvoice@cbe.ab.ca. We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you about these projects. Please continue to submit your feedback and questions, and check back frequently for updates. For clarity, similar questions have been grouped under **General**. More specific questions are answered by project. **You will find additional answers to questions on previous FAQ's.**

GENERAL

1. When will the Government of Alberta Phase III schools announced in October be ready for students?
 - Funding for starter school with full school planning; **opening date to be determined:**
 - Aspen Woods (elementary)
 - Cranston (middle)
 - Saddle Ridge (elementary)
 - West Springs/Cougar Ridge (middle)
 - Funding for planning and design of new school; **planned opening September 2017**
 - Martindale (elementary)
 - Silverado (elementary)
 - Springbank Hill/Discovery Ridge (elementary/middle)
 - Funding for design development; **planned opening September 2018**
 - Southeast high school (Seton)
 - Funding for planning and design of major modernizations; **planned completion September 2017**
 - James Fowler High School
 - Lord Beaverbrook High School
2. Is it possible to sign up for an email list to receive announcements/news about the new schools?
 - To receive notification whenever new messages are posted on the CBE website, you may subscribe to CBE Rich Site Summary ([RSS](#)) Feed.
3. Where will the new schools be built?

- Please view individual school project pages to see the tentative address and view a map of the school site for each school.
4. Why was this site chosen for the new school?
- The Municipal Government Act requires 10% of new development area to be designated for amenities: parks; public space; community association sites; and school sites.
 - At the initial stage of community development, the developer offers land parcels for schools. CBE and Calgary Catholic School Board, together with City planning, select from the offered sites in general locations for future schools.
5. Why is CBE leasing schools to Charters if they are short of schools?
- Lease arrangements with Charter schools are mandated by Alberta Education; the CBE cannot terminate a Charter school lease unless approved by the Minister of Education. Charter schools are public schools supported by Alberta Education, and as such, Alberta Education would be reluctant to approve termination of a Charter school lease, unless an alternate school property is provided for the Charter school program.
 - School buildings currently leased to Charter schools are located within older, established communities, where other existing CBE schools continue to serve the needs of students in these areas. The location of these schools does not align with the areas of greatest need for student spaces, which are the new and developing communities. The CBE continues to focus on building new schools to meet demand in these communities.
6. When will registration begin for the new schools?
- Kindergarten registration for all schools and programs begins in January of the year in which students are to attend school.

7. My children currently attend a bus receiver school. How will I know about registration at the new school in our community? As a parent of children not yet in school, how do I find out about registering my child?
- Registration information will be communicated through
 - CBE website
 - current schools
 - community newsletters
 - media and social media
 - bold signs
 - community engagements
 - Trustees
 - CBE RSS feed
 - Registration in CBE is not first come first served, so parents are not required to line up to register.
8. Why is a Catholic (Private) school opening before a public school?
- Calgary Catholic School District is a public school district.
 - The Provincial Government receives requests for new schools annually from all school boards in Alberta. Funding allocations are at the discretion of the government.
 - Please view the [CBE 2015-2018 Three Year School Capital Plan](#) for all requests for new schools and major modernizations, and the Modular Classroom Report for requests for modular classrooms (portables).
9. How do you decide where the school bus and parent drop off locations will be?
- The City of Calgary recommends the location of bus zones and parent drop off zones at new school sites.
 - Developers are asked to develop roads on two connecting sides of the school suitable to facilitate bus and parent pick up and drop off, but this is not always possible.

10. How do I get a copy of the Transportation Impact Study for my community?
- A summary page will be provided for individual projects if available. Please consult the new school's project page for this information, coming soon.
11. Can we get speed bumps to control / discourage traffic in the area?
- All traffic questions should be directed to the City of Calgary.
12. Is it possible to add more trees around the perimeter to block the view of the parking lot from nearby residents?
- All school designs must include a City approved landscape design plan.
 - The City of Calgary has a process for construction around City owned trees. Every effort is made to preserve existing trees. Any trees that need to be moved will be relocated or replaced - replacement occurs only when the age and condition of trees, or the cost of working around them, warrants replacement.
 - There is a two year construction window so some trees will be removed and relocated away from the property to preserve them, then replaced at the completion of construction.
13. Why is nothing happening at the site yet? Are you still on time? What's the schedule?
- Projects cannot go to market (bid on by the construction industry) without City of Calgary and Provincial approval.
 - Schools scheduled to open in September 2016 are in the final approval stages of the Development Permit. Some have entered the construction market.
 - The market tender process for construction will be done in stages, beginning in December 2014 and ending in Spring 2015.
 - Construction will begin in 2015.
 - Details will be posted on individual project pages as they become available.

Auburn Bay

1. What year will the Gr. 5 – 9 phase be complete?
 - Currently there is no middle school approved for Auburn Bay.
 - Please see the [CBE 2015-2018 Three Year School Capital Plan](#) for details on school construction requests for CBE.
2. Is it possible to switch the bus drop off and parent drop off zones at Auburn Bay School
 - This suggestion is now being investigated.

Copperfield

1. Can you provide the schedule of when the new Copperfield regular program school (K-4) will be constructed and open for students?
 - Copperfield school is scheduled to open in September 2016. See **General** for further details.

McKenzie Towne Middle School

1. Why couldn't the parking lot be built along the back of school? This would leave the view along the Boulevard to be enjoyable to both drivers and pedestrians and keep with the character of the community.
 - School parking lots are generally located at the front of the building to allow greater space for playfields.
 - Please see **General** 12. for more landscaping information.

Panorama Hills

1. Please don't build the new Panorama Hills School. The traffic in the neighbourhood is already a problem.
 - School sites are allocated by developers before the build out of the community (see **General** above).
 - The CBE follows City of Calgary guidelines to mitigate traffic issues around school sites.

Seton High School

1. Are you able to move the construction of this school up and work with the City as they construct the Seton Rec Centre for cost savings? Both facilities should be targeted for fall of 2016 due to the extraordinary demand.
 - The design, development permit, construction tendering and actual construction of the school cannot be completed in a 2 year time frame.
 - Provincial funding has been received for the design of the building only. Funding for construction is pending at this time.

Springbank Hill/ Discovery Ridge School

1. It seems like the property is small to hold such a big school.
 - K-9 school site plan dimensions are generally the same as a middle schools
 - There are occasionally fluctuations in allotments from developers
 - The total acreage of this site is below the standard size, therefore a custom design will be developed.

