



# Three-Year School Capital Plan 2023-26



## How does the CBE plan for new schools and modernized spaces?

Each year, school boards submit a plan to Alberta Education that identifies the top priorities for new schools and major modernizations. Our priorities are identified by considering census data, educational need, community demographics, school enrolment, transportation times and the overall economic and growth outlook for Calgary. Alberta Education receives about 400 capital requests annually from school boards across the province, but only a small number are funded.

## Focus on major modernizations

In the 2023-26 Capital Plan, there is a greater focus on modernization requests rather than new schools. More than half of our schools are over 50 years old and require upgrades to ensure that students are learning in modern environments that offer opportunities in Career and Technology Studies (CTS) and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses. Opening new schools is exciting and necessary, but modernizations breathe new life into our existing schools.



## What is a modernization?

Major modernization projects provide for the renovation of whole or part of a school for both present and future educational programs. For example, a modernization might include renovating CTS learning spaces, upgrading mechanical, electrical or security systems, converting a library to a learning commons or creating barrier-free access.



## Three-year capital plan priorities

There are many factors to consider before we ask the government to construct a new school, or modernize an older one.

## Major Modernization Ranking Criteria

The CBE assigns “points” to schools to prioritize which ones most need to be modernized. To rank the schools, we look at programming requirements, five-year projected enrolment, quality of the site location to serve students, ability to upgrade the facility and the facility maintenance based on the provincial renewal capital asset planning process.

[Modernization Ranking Criteria](#)

## Community Ranking for New Schools

The CBE also assigns “points” to communities to prioritize where new schools need to be built. We assign the points based on criteria including pre-school census numbers, elementary (K-4) enrolment, projected population growth and travel time and distance to the school.

[New School Ranking Criteria](#)



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## Year one

On March 4, 2022, the province announced that it would build the CBE's top priority, a middle school in the community of Evanston. That means our current Year One priorities are now:

### New school requests

There are no additional new school requests in Year One of the 2023-26 Capital Plan.

### Modernization requests

John G. Diefenbaker  
Annie Gale School  
A.E. Cross School  
Sir John A. Macdonald School

### City Quadrant

NW  
NE  
SW  
NW

## Year two

### New school requests

Saddle Ridge Middle  
Cornerstone High School

### City Quadrant

NE  
NE

### Modernization requests

Annie Foote School  
Altadore School  
Cedarbrae School

### City Quadrant

NE  
SW  
SW

## Year three

### New school requests

Saddle Ridge Middle  
Cornerstone High School

### City Quadrant

NE  
NE

### Modernization requests

Ranchlands School  
Janet Johnstone School  
Queen Elizabeth School

### City Quadrant

NW  
SW  
NW

## Utilization rates in schools

Schools receive the maximum amount of government funding for building operations and maintenance **only if** a school has a utilization rate of greater than 85 per cent.

## Additional costs to the CBE

While Alberta Education finances new schools and modernizations, there are additional costs the CBE must absorb when opening new schools such as hiring leaders in advance of the opening, and purchasing new technology and learning resources. The average funding required is approximately:

### Additional costs for new schools

- \$1.5 - \$2 million for elementary schools
- \$2 - \$3 million for middle and K-9 schools; and
- \$6.5 - \$7.5 million for high schools

### Additional costs for major modernizations

- \$250-\$500k for elementary schools
- \$500-\$750k for middle and K-9 schools; and
- \$750k-\$1.25 m for high schools

## More information

### [Three-Year School Capital Plan 2023-2026](#)

The most current Three-Year School Capital Plan was approved by trustees on March 29, 2022. This document contains detailed information and analysis about the CBE's forecasted school capital needs. See also our [Criteria for School Capital Planning Priorities](#) for details on how we rank projects.

### [Construction Status Updates](#)

This document contains an update regarding the current status of new and replacement schools under development or construction.

### [Building and Modernizing Schools](#)

This web page brings together all of the most current information related to building and modernizing our schools, including information on school naming, bell times, site designs and much more.

## Contact us

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