

May 27, 2026

At the beginning of the May 26 Public Board meeting, Chair Laura Hack read the following statement on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

On May 13, the Alberta Legislative Assembly passed new legislation that impacts school divisions. Specifically, Bill 25, An Act to Remove Politics and Ideology from Classrooms and Amend the Education Act, 2026 and Bill 28, Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026. For school divisions, this new legislation will significantly affect board governance, day-to-day operations, system planning, and the stewardship of public assets.

As the largest school division in the province—educating one in six Alberta students—these changes have implications for the Calgary Board of Education and the communities we serve.

These changes are anticipated to come into force on September 1, 2026. At this time, we are still awaiting important details including regulations and/or Ministerial Orders.

We have concerns about Bill 25 and Bill 28 related to:

- Government-defined strategic priorities that may limit our ability to respond to community needs;
- Provisions related to the allocation of sites for public schools in new and developing areas of the city;
- Ministerial authority to compel transfer of ownership of school sites or schools;
- Ministerial authority over the naming and renaming of schools;
- The requirement for Ministerial approval of superintendent contracts; and
- Ministerial expectations for school board trustee conduct

At the core of these concerns is a common theme: the erosion of local decision-making and local voice on important matters that directly impact our communities. Local decision-making ensures choices reflect the needs of CBE students, staff, families, and the Calgary context. It is a key reason why our system is strong and responsive.

The September implementation timeline for regulations affecting school divisions is also challenging. Public education is strongest when families understand how decisions are made and how these decisions affect their children and schools. Once regulations are released, additional time for implementation beyond September would permit us to seek clarity, allow for engagement where needed, and support effective implementation.

Alberta's Education Act defines the responsibilities of school boards, and we take those responsibilities seriously. As elected trustees, we are deeply committed to the communities we serve and to strong public education grounded in evidence-based, locally informed decision-making.

We are effective governors who align our work with provincial legislation and the Alberta Education and Childcare business plan, while demonstrating accountability, transparency, and the responsible stewardship of public funds.

Today, the Board of Trustees will debate and vote on the 2024–27 Education Plan and the 2026–27 budget. The Education Plan is our system's strategic plan and it is expected to align with the Board's priorities of achievement, equity, and well-being. The budget allocates provincial funding to ensure we can achieve these outcomes. We will continue to make informed decisions that prioritize strong learning outcomes for all CBE students and drive organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

As always, student success is at the heart of our decisions. CBE's strength as a system is built on decisions made locally, reflecting the needs of our students, staff, families and the broader Calgary community.