



The Impacts of Growing Enrolment

Over the past few years, the CBE has experienced significant enrolment growth and continues to welcome more students every day.

At the start of the 2024-25 school year, CBE welcomed more than 142,000 students. This is an increase of 17,000 students over three years – enough to fill 30 elementary schools. Another 3,700 students are projected for 2025-26 for a total of 146K+. This trend is expected to continue, with enrolment projected to grow to 160,000+ students by 2030.

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.
 - 31% (44,000+) are English as Additional Language (EAL) learners.
 - 18% (26,000+) 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.
- 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. CBE has requested 11 new schools in Year One of the most recent Capital Plan.
- Over 30 schools are in [overflow](#). This means more students are not able to attend their community school and are bused to more distant communities.
- [Modular classrooms](#) provide short-term relief. In fall 2024, CBE requested 64 additional modulars. If all are approved, this would provide learning spaces for 1,600 students. This is in addition to the 47 new and 17 relocations approved previously. These classrooms will be in place for the 2025-26 school year. An additional 8 new modular classrooms were recently approved by government (April 2025).
- Lack of capacity reduces available spaces for educational programming and community use.

More Riders, More Routes, More Buses



- As schools overflow, more students are requiring transportation to attend schools that have space.
- Service providers continue to be challenged to attract and retain drivers to cover all routes.
- In the 2025-26 school year, [legislative changes](#) to travel distances will impact many families as bell times will need to be adjusted to accommodate additional routes and riders.