



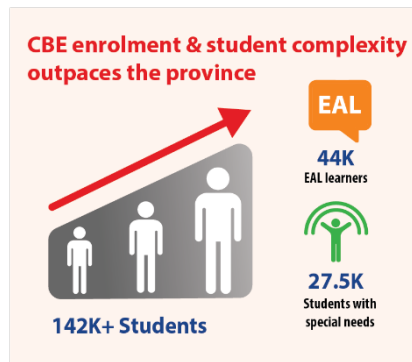
# Class Size & Complexity

## Highlights from the Alberta Classroom Insights Survey

Alberta Education and Childcare asked all school boards to submit class size and complexity data through the Alberta Classroom Insights Survey as of Nov. 20, 2025. The data below represents CBE's submission. The format of the survey required the CBE to submit student and classroom data that could be applied consistently at a provincial level across multiple jurisdictions, allowing for analysis of the data at that scale.

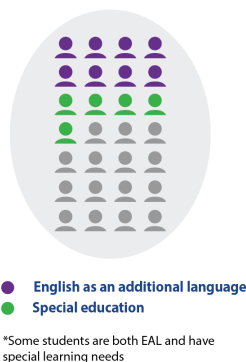
**Notes** | Caution should be used in drawing conclusions, as the figures do not describe the "why" behind class size and composition numbers. Class sizes have not been tracked in a number of years by the Ministry.

### Overview of complexity at the CBE



- Over the past 4 years, the number of students with special education needs has grown to 27,500.
- This means about 1 in 5 students (19%) have special education needs.
- Of these, roughly 3,800 students (14%) have significant special needs and are supported in 288 specialized classes and 6 unique settings.
- About 31% of students (44,000) are learning English as an Additional Language (EAL), 17.6 percentage points higher than the rest of the province.

#### How complexity looks in a typical CBE classroom



#### What CBE schools consider when making decisions about class size and composition

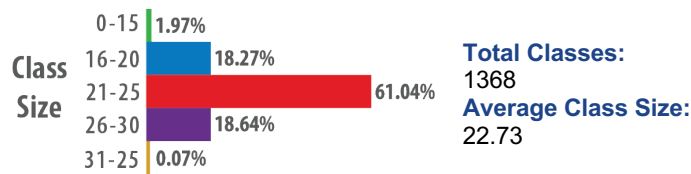
- Number of students in each grade
- Balance of complexity and student learning needs
- Availability, experience and skill sets of teachers, support staff, class resources and learning spaces
- Funding and physical spaces available
- Safety (e.g. a band class could include 50+ students, but a construction class would not)
- In higher grades, student interest, choice, learning paths and requirements for high school completion

### CBE Context - Alberta Education Classroom Insights Survey

- For middle, junior and senior high schools, homeroom classes, option classes and subject classes were reported separately. As a result, each student is counted multiple times (3-7 times) within the data.
- Elementary students who typically stay as a homeroom class regardless of which teacher is working with them (e.g. elementary Music or PE) were reported only once as a homeroom class.
- Kindergarten to Grade 9 classes with students in multiple grades, including special education classes, were reported under highest grade only.
- High school classes may include multiple courses in a single subject class. Grade levels reflect the highest grade level across the courses.
- The CBE reported one teacher per class, with the exception of some large kindergarten classes (over 30) where two teachers were noted.
- Education assistants were reported by school, not classroom, except for special education classes.
- Data related to students waitlisted for assessment and students with additional complexity that are not reflected in codes were reported by school and not in individual classes. For CBE, there were 4,329 students waitlisted for assessments and 9,031 with additional complexity factors.

## CBE Class Size and Complexity Data by Division

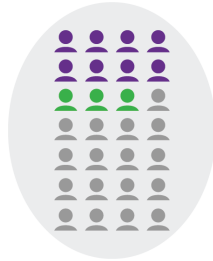
### DIVISION 1 GRADE 1-3



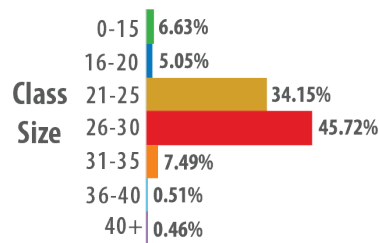
**Total Classes:**  
1368  
**Average Class Size:**  
22.73

#### Classroom Complexity (Avg. # of Students)

- **EAL:** 8.34
- **Special Education:** 3.07
  - Severe: 1.13
  - Mild/Moderate: 1.93



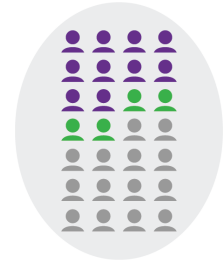
### DIVISION 2 GRADE 4-6



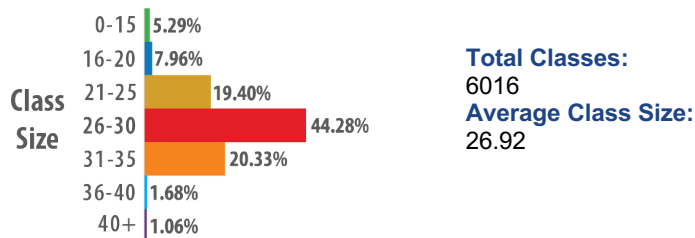
**Total Classes:**  
1962  
**Average Class Size:**  
24.98

#### Classroom Complexity (Avg. # of Students)

- **EAL:** 9.78
- **Special Education:** 4.49
  - Severe: 1.36
  - Mild/Moderate: 3.14



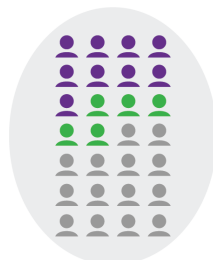
### DIVISION 3 GRADE 7-9



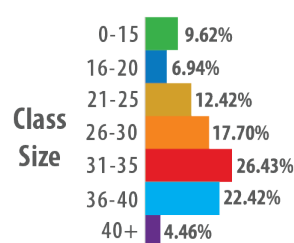
**Total Classes:**  
6016  
**Average Class Size:**  
26.92

#### Classroom Complexity (Avg. # of Students)

- **EAL:** 8.89
- **Special Education:** 5.29
  - Severe: 1.31
  - Mild/Moderate: 3.99



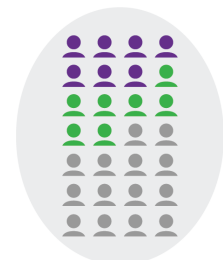
### DIVISION 4 GRADE 10-12



**Total Classes:**  
4638  
**Average Class Size:**  
29.87

#### Classroom Complexity (Avg. # of Students)

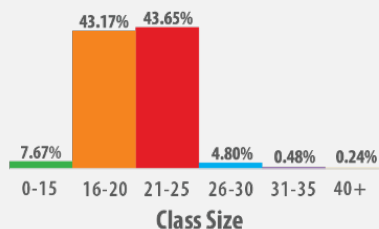
- **EAL:** 6.74
- **Special Education:** 6.54
  - Severe: 1.79
  - Mild/Moderate: 4.75



## Early Childhood Services and Special Education

### Early Childhood Services (ECS)

EAL students are enrolled in classes and are assessed with benchmarks but not formally coded for funding until Grade 1. Students in ECS do not typically receive early diagnoses. Special Education codes for these students are usually related to significant medical diagnoses.



### Special Education Classes

Special Education classes are included in the divisional data above and would represent many of the small class sizes.

All students in these classes would have a Special Education code. Students in a LEAD class would have an EAL code.

- Average size: 12.4
- Total of classes: 288
- Range: 6-18 (excluding GATE classes)

Setting	Number of Students
Elementary	1084
Junior	1389
Senior	1335
<b>Total</b>	<b>3808</b>