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October 7, 2026

Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides
Minister of Education and Childcare
228 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Nicolaides,

**Re: Charter School Applications:
Catalyst Academy
Livingston International STEAM
Re:solve Learning Foundation**

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) has received notice of three public charter school applications for Calgary, each proposed to open in the 2027-2028 school year, namely:

- Catalyst Academy
- Livingston International STEAM Charter School
- Re:solve Learning Foundation

The CBE Board of Trustees is concerned with the potential duplication of existing programming provided by CBE and the implications for funding as a result of these redundancies.

Section 3.2(2) of Charter Schools Regulation states that the Minister of Education will “*consider any information received from any board of a public or separate school division, Francophone regional authority or charter school that receives notice under section 24 of the Act, including information about any alternative programs that currently exist in the geographic area*”.

Catalyst Academy (K-9, learner-driven, mastery-based)

The notification of application by the Catalyst Academy proposed that the school would open in the 2027/28 school year and would be intending to offer:

A learner-driven education for Kindergarten to Grade 9 with focus on a learner-driven, mastery-based model in which students take sustained responsibility for their learning and meaningful governance roles within the school community, supported through Socratic guidance and a progression based on demonstrated mastery.

CBE already offers programming built on the practices described in the notice. Specifically;

learning | **as unique** | as every student

Our Montessori program emphasizes self-directed learning, student choice and intrinsic motivation, multi-age classrooms, and mastery of outcome-based learning.

Our Science Program (K–9) centres on inquiry, experiential learning and integrated project work.

Our Traditional Learning Centre (TLC) program uses a gradual release of responsibility framework moving from teacher-led instruction to guided practice and independent work following a “I do it, We do it together, You do it alone” teaching methods that supports students to move towards mastery.

These programs provide parental choice within the broad public education available within neighborhood schools, however, all CBE schools implement Alberta’s curriculum through strong teaching and assessment that centre students as active learners, build their responsibility and leadership, and use Socratic questioning to guide them toward mastery.

Livingston International STEAM Charter School (7-12, vocational / STEAM)

The notification of application by the Livingston International STEAM Charter School would be located in Calgary, proposed that the school would open in the 2027/28 school year, and would be intending to offer:

A vocational/STEM approach for Grades 7-12 with a focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics).

CBE students already have provincially authorized Career and Technology Foundations (Grades 5–9) and Career and Technology Studies (Grades 10–12) across all senior highs. In 2023–24, CBE offered 175 CTF options across 68 junior and middle school sites, with more than 34,800 enrolments. These opportunities partnerships have continued to grow over with even higher number of students accessing CTF and CTS options.

As an additional example of programming currently available to Calgary-based students within Grades 7-12, the Digital Futures Pathway, developed with SAIT, covers information and communications technologies and runs in person, online and blended. Alberta Education and Childcare approved dedicated funding. Further, the Calgary Trades & Technologies Collegiate, a three-year CBE-SAIT partnership, gives students hands-on experience in skilled building trades and related technologies. CBE students have expensive arts-based options within Art Centred Learning Programs (Grades 5-9), and Visual and Performing Arts programs across Grades 10-12. Calgary area students have a wide range of STEAM programming alternatives to support parent choice and to match student need within the Calgary Board of Education.



Re:solve Academy (Grade 5-12, high-performance student athletes)

The notification of application by the Re:solve Learning Foundation's re:solve Academy would be located in Calgary, beginning in the 2027/28 school year and would be intending to offer:

An adaptive delivery model for Grades 5-12 for high-performance student athletes. The proposed charter school would offer an adaptive teaching model in which certificated teachers continuously use diagnostic evidence to personalize instruction, groupings, pacing, and supports to meet each student's evolving learning needs while maintaining academic expectations.

Programming for high-performance student athletes already exists in Calgary:

CBE's High Performance Athlete Development Pathway at Bowness High School takes a multi-sport approach based on long-term athlete development principles, in partnership with Canadian Sport Institute Alberta, and offers up to 15 credits in its Grade 10 course. Students train at facilities such as the Olympic Oval and WinSport's Ice House.

The National Sport School at WinSport, founded in 1994 by CBE and the Calgary Olympic Development Association, now operates under Palliser School Division. It teaches Grades 8–12 and provided dedicated programming to high performance athletes.

CBe-learn provides flexible, online, self-paced courses for athletes who train or travel.

The proposed adaptive model, in which teachers use diagnostic evidence to personalize instruction, grouping and pacing, is also core to provincial expectations. The Ministerial Order on Student Learning calls for early student assessment and intervention, and CBE applies this through Individual Program Plans and its Learning Excellence goal.

The Calgary Board of Education (CBE) already provides comprehensive programs in these areas, making the introduction of such schools redundant. The Alberta Education Ministerial Order on Learning outlines that critical thinking, global perspectives, and academic agency are core priorities for all schools in the province. These elements are embedded in the Alberta Program of Studies, which is followed by every school, ensuring that students across the province engage in goal setting, reflective discourse, and dialogic teaching. These practices are already in place in Calgary Board of Education (CBE) schools and other public institutions, making the proposed charter school's focus redundant. In fact, CBE's commitment to fostering academic rigor, student agency, and reflective learning is evident in their everyday teaching practices. Collaborative learning and inquiry-based methods that support critical thinking and problem-solving are already part of the CBE's pedagogy.



In conclusion, the proposed public charter schools do not bring anything new to the table that is not already being offered by public schools across the province. The creation of another institution with overlapping goals will only result in unnecessary duplication and added costs. We strongly urge the Ministry to reconsider this proposal and focus on enhancing and expanding the programs already in place to ensure that all students have access to the best possible education.

Should you have further questions regarding details of CBE programming, we are happy to provide additional information. We look forward to receiving information regarding your decision regarding the preliminary applications as stated in the notice, on or before December 14, 2026.

Sincerely,



Laura Hack, Chair
Board of Trustees

cc: Tania Brudler, Executive Director, System Support and
Student Records Sector
Joanne Pitman, Chief Superintendent
Jennifer Turner, Superintendent, School Improvement
Michael Nelson, Superintendent, School Improvement

