



Urgent Need for New Learning Spaces



As Calgary continues to grow, the pressure on schools increases – particularly in the new and expanding communities in the north, northeast and southeast.

Over the past two years, we have welcomed more than 13,000 additional students into our system – enough to fill about 22 elementary schools.

Our official enrolment for the 2023-24 school year as of Sept. 30 was 138,244 students and we expect to welcome an additional 4,000 students throughout the school year. By 2028, we project an enrolment of almost 160,000 students.



Many CBE Schools are Full

Currently, one in four schools is operating at 100 per cent utilization or higher.

Even though 30 new schools have opened since the 2016-17 school year, the CBE is experiencing record growth. The system utilization rate is already at 92 per cent and is expected to top 100 per cent in the next two years.

Construction will begin on just one new school this spring, and the CBE has received approval for one additional school, both in the community of Evanston.

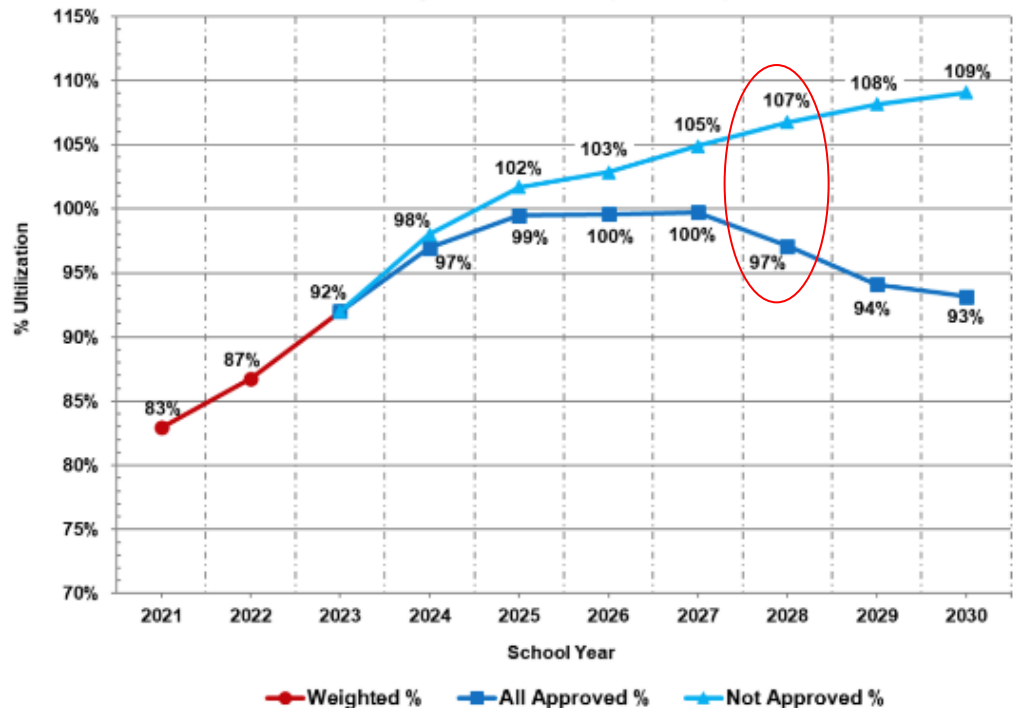


Over the next three years, the CBE is asking for 21 new schools and five major modernizations. Without new schools, the CBE's system utilization rate is projected to be 107 per cent by 2028-29. Modernizations are also needed as more than half of our 251 schools are 50+ years old.

Even if all new schools requested in the [2025-28 Capital Plan](#) are approved in March 2025, all modular requests are approved and some leased space is brought back to the CBE, the system utilization rate is still projected to be 97 per cent in four years.



Calgary Board of Education
Actual/Projected Utilization (2021-2030)



#WeAreCBE

@yycbedu

@Calgary.CBE

2025-28 Capital Plan Requests

Year One Requests – 11,400 Student Spaces

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Cornerstone High | 8. Cityscape/Redstone Middle |
| 2. Cornerstone Elementary | |
| 3. Mahogany Middle | 9. Cornerstone Middle |
| 4. Redstone Elementary | 10. Walden Elementary |
| 5. Sage Hill/Kincora Middle | 11. Livingston Elementary |
| 6. Sage Hill Elementary | 12. Nolan Hill Elementary |
| 7. Sherwood/Nolan Hill Middle | 13. Aspen Woods Middle |

M Crescent Heights High School – Modernization

Year Two Requests – 1,500 Student Spaces

14. Saddle Ridge Middle
15. Mahogany Elementary

M Colonel Walker/Piitoayis School – Modernization

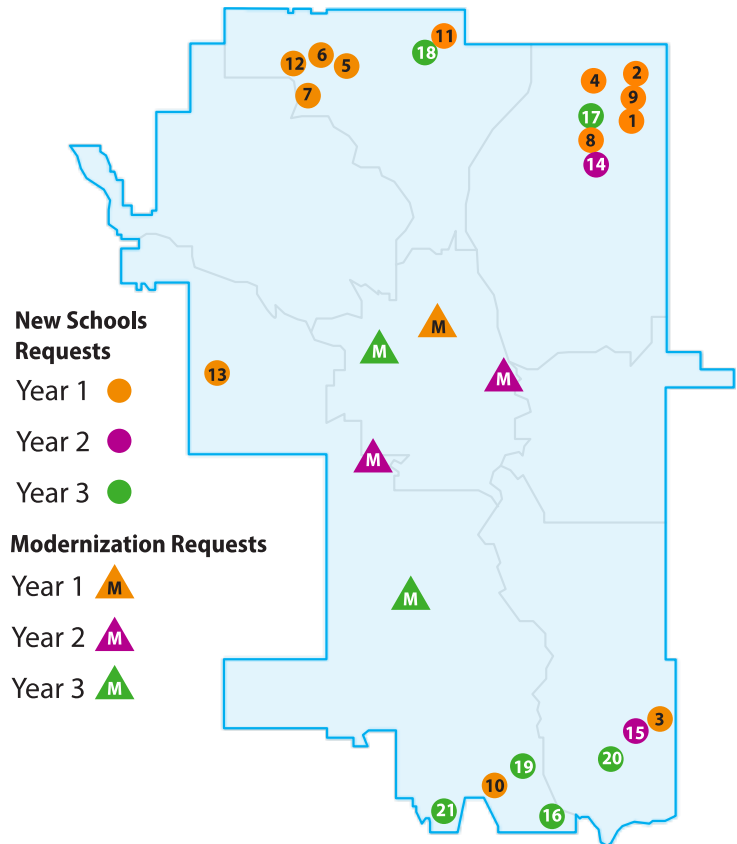
M Central Memorial High School – Modernization

Year Three Requests – 3,300 Student Spaces

16. Legacy Elementary
17. Cityscape Elementary
18. Carrington Elementary
19. Walden/Wolf Willow K-9
20. Seton Elementary
21. West Macleod High

M Dr. E.P. Scarlett High – Modernization

M Queen Elizabeth Junior, Senior High – Modernization



Additional Modular Classrooms are Needed

Modular classrooms can provide a short-term solution for schools that are over capacity. Last fall, the Board of Trustees requested 68 new modular classrooms to increase capacity at 15 schools. In March 2024, the CBE received approval for only 12 classrooms. This will create a one-time increase of 360 new learning spaces next year, but given expected construction timelines, it is not likely these classrooms will be ready for the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. Meanwhile, we continue to register about 400 new students every month.

Schools are Overflowing

When a school reaches capacity, new registrations are capped and students who live in the community must be overflowed or redirected to another school in a different community with available space. We began the 2024-25 school year with 25 schools overflowing to 32 different schools. By spring break, this number had risen to 33 schools overflowing to 41 different schools. A number of these schools are overflowing to multiple receiver schools as they too reach capacity. With more schools in overflow, more students require transportation, and bus rides are becoming longer.

Every Available Space is Being Used

When a student population increases at a school, administration looks to make the best use of other spaces such as learning commons, stages and music rooms for classroom space. This means less flexibility in programming is available in schools.

[Learn more](#) | visit our [Building and Modernizing page](#).

Contact us

403-817-7933

[BoardofTrustees@cbe.ab.ca](#)

CBE is running out of space for students. We will be full in the near future and urgently need new schools built in communities across our growing city.

- Board of Trustees