



Reviewing the Criteria for School Capital Planning Priorities Background

Each year the Calgary Board of Education develops a prioritized list of new schools and major modernization projects as part of a Three-Year School Capital Plan. Over the next few months, the CBE will engage in a public consultation to review the ranking criteria for these projects.

Alberta Education requires all school boards to create an annual three-year school capital plan which ranks our new school and modernization requests. Funding for all school capital projects is determined and approved by the Government of Alberta based on each school board's capital plan. The province has also asked school boards to rank their modular classroom requests.

The CBE is facing an ongoing student accommodation challenge. We are experiencing rapid population growth in areas of the city where there currently are no schools. When this is combined with our commitment to offering choice and learning options that meet the needs of all of our students, it creates a significant challenge. The ranking of capital priorities is an important issue for many communities.

Twelve new schools are targeted for completion in 2016. However, the CBE will welcome more than 3,000 additional students each year between now and then. That's the equivalent of more than five schools of new students a year. More new schools will be needed.

The CBE currently ranks priority projects using system data and statistics from the City of Calgary and other sources using established criteria including:

- Community demographics
- Preschool census
- Student enrolment
- Transportation
- Whether the community has an existing school that can accommodate all students in the community

These ranking criteria have been in place for over a decade with minor revisions being made periodically.

Senior high schools and other schools designed to meet unique student learning needs are not ranked using these criteria but are recommended on the priority list based on their assessed need. No criteria exist at this time for ranking modular requests.