

Date:
Oct. 15, 2020

National Sport School (NSS) was created as a special focus/interest program offered through the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) and Canada Olympic Development Association (CODA) in 1994. It was designed to meet the needs of high performance and developing athletes. This unique setting and delivery focus accommodates the sporting and learning needs of athletes in Grades 9-12.

For the first 17 years of its existence, NSS operated out of two different high schools (William Aberhart High School then Ernest Manning High School). When the replacement Ernest Manning High School was built, there was insufficient space to accommodate the NSS program. In 2011, the program moved to WinSport at Canada Olympic Park, a lease that was intended to be temporary. The Alberta Government pledged money for a capital project based on negotiations for the old Ernest Manning High School site, which was being demolished to make way for the new CTrain line. The money pledged from the government was contingent upon the CBE covering the remaining costs of building the school at WinSport. The total construction cost was estimated to be \$9 million; the province committed \$3 million, meaning the CBE required an additional \$6 million. The CBE portion of the funding was never identified.

Students affected

Students attending the NSS come from across the city of Calgary, with some from other jurisdictions outside the CBE. A few students attending NSS are international students from other countries. As of Sep. 30, 2020, enrolment in the NSS was 185 students.

Of the students currently registered, 35 or approximately one fifth are students from outside the CBE. The largest number of students within CBE boundaries attending NSS come from the community of Tuscany (15 students). The school is projected to have a student population of 143 by 2025 (see table 1).

Table 1: The 5 year projected enrolment for NSS

Year	Enrolment
2020 (Actual)	185
2021	164
2022	137
2023	140
2024	143
2025	143

Proximity of the receiving school and student transportation

Bowness High School is located approximately 3 km from WinSport. Transportation to school and between Bowness High School and WinSport would be via city transit or self-transport and a responsibility of the students and their families.



Use and availability of space at receiving schools

Should the NSS program be closed, all current students who indicated an interest in attending Bowness High School will be welcomed and integrated into that school.

The current capacity at the school is 1647 students. As of Sep. 30, 2020, there were 1,149 students enrolled. This number includes 889 students in the regular program, 18 students in special education programs and 242 out-of-attendance area students.

At a utilization rate of 70 per cent, Bowness has the space and capacity to accommodate all NSS students in September 2021 and beyond. The school is projected to have a student population of 1276 by 2025 (see table 2)

Table 2: The five year projected enrolment for Bowness High School

Year	Enrolment
2020 (Actual)	1149
2021	1226
2022	1255
2023	1302
2024	1308
2025	1276

Additionally, master planning and design modernization work is underway for the school to increase the number of classrooms in the next few years to maximize its capacity.

Finally, if current students decide to return to their designated schools, there will be minimal impact on the receiving schools.

Impact on Long-Term Capital Plans

Bowness High School was the subject of a major modernization that was completed in 2016. Moreover, in light of the elevated high school student enrolment projections identified within the Ten Year Student Accommodation and Facilities Strategy, requirement for this high school to accommodate students is projected indefinitely.

Educational and program impacts

The transition plan would see students attend mainstream classes. Timetabling and scheduling for each semester will be personalized to support students. Programming would include both a blended and flexible approach, with accessibility to online learning. Athletic-related absences will be supported while students are away.

Student transitions will be coordinated, purposeful and outcomes-oriented. A learning leader will be allocated to support student transitions. This transition plan will include the following:

- NSS Parent and Student Information meetings coordinated by Bowness High School;
- Some NSS staff will have an opportunity to move to Bowness High School to support learning continuity for NSS students; and
- NSS staff will have student transition meetings with Bowness High School staff to share data and information about each student, including achievement data, social/emotional needs, attendance and sports commitments.

Grade 9 is currently not offered at Bowness High School, but this grade level can be added to accommodate students wishing to attend from NSS if a minimum cohort size of 25 students is attained.

Financial impacts

The 2019-2020 cost of the program was as follows:

	2019/2020
Principal (1 FTE)	\$ 140,096
Assistant Principal (1 FTE)	\$ 120, 536
Learning Leader (1 FTE)	\$ 103,991
Teachers (11.07 FTE)	\$ 1,119,177
SIS Assistant (0.7143 FTE)	\$ 44,389
Admin Secretary (1 FTE)	\$ 75, 653
School Technology Support (0.3 FTE)	\$ 29,983
Supplies General	\$ 3,723
Supplies Classroom	\$ 20,335
Copier Charges	\$ 2,075
Minor equipment	\$ 40,122
Telephone	\$ 2,805
Lease	\$ 108,331
Total	\$ 1,811, 216

For the 2020/2021 school year, the Resource Allocation Method (RAM) total is approximately \$1.25 million dollars. If students were to be accommodated at Bowness High School, the CBE could avoid costs of approximately \$350,000 per year. These costs include over \$242,000 in school administration, and \$108,000 in lease costs. The remaining amounts from the RAM allocation would follow students to Bowness High School or other receiving high schools through the Weighted Moving Average (WMA) per student allocation.

Additionally, even if some or all current NSS students choose not to be accommodated at Bowness High School and instead return to another school jurisdiction, the CBE will likely not see provincial revenue impacted given the continued system-wide enrolment growth that is forecasted.

Lastly, WinSport currently charges parents a fee of approximately \$4750.00 per student per year. All money is collected by WinSport and is directed to services for students provided by WinSport.

Alternative use of the school building

Currently, the building is leased from WinSport. Should the Board decide to close the school, the lease for the school will be terminated.