



November 4, 2022

Parents and Guardians,

Each year, the Calgary Board of Education prepares a report called the Three-Year System Student Accommodation Plan (SSAP). It identifies schools with student accommodation challenges over a three-year timeframe.

Accommodation challenges vary, but some common issues include schools being too full, schools with declining enrolment or schools experiencing a shift in student demographics. Sometimes the problem affects only one or two schools, and other times a group of schools need to be considered together.

In developing the SSAP each year, CBE examines the following on an annual basis: current trends of enrolment growth and decline in CBE programs (including the regular program), the demographic composition of new and established communities, community growth/decline, birth data, census data and other variables. This allows us to analyze the educational opportunities for students in relation to where they live.

Dr. Gordon Higgins School is listed on the 2022-25 SSAP because we are affected by a new school construction project.

#### **Why is our school part of the 2022-25 SSAP?**

In June, CBE informed our school about the construction delays on Prairie Sky School, the new school in Skyview Ranch. The delays have required that students from the Skyview Ranch community attend Dr. Gordon Higgins School until the school's construction is complete.

Our school's student enrolment will be affected by the opening of Prairie Sky School. Opening new schools means that students can attend school closer to home. However, it also creates excess space in the schools that the students previously attended. Due to the expected decrease in enrolment at our school, it has been identified that changes may be required at our school within the next 18 months.

#### **What are some of the possible changes we could see?**

To accommodate the anticipated decrease in enrolment one of the following changes may be required:

- An alternate use for the excess space could be identified for your school (e.g. accommodate students from a different community, lease of space, other CBE programming or CBE administrative use).
- Grade configuration changes between existing schools in the community.

#### **How will students, parents and staff be involved?**

Sometimes there are options to be explored with school communities before a decision is made. Other times there is really only one possible solution, which means school communities will not have opportunity for input on the decision. The appropriate level of involvement is determined by guidelines in the CBE's community engagement framework, called [Dialogue](#).

**How and when will we know more?**

School principals will take the lead in circulating information to their school communities. You will receive a communication when more information is available, via email or a printed letter. Our school will also post updated information to the school website, share information at school council meetings and communicate through other methods as needed. Principals will work with others at the CBE to provide school communities with information that is important and relevant to them.

**How will you communicate with families new to our school?**

Information will be provided at the time of registration to help families understand that the school has been identified on the SSAP and there could be changes affecting the school in the future.

**How can I learn more about the SSAP and how the CBE manages space for students?**

Visit our [Managing Space for Students page](#) on the CBE website. If that information doesn't answer your questions, please email [accommodation@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:accommodation@cbe.ab.ca).

**What if I have other questions specific to my school?**

Please contact your school principal. Information will also be shared at the next school council meeting.

