

Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD)

Advocacy Success



The Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) is the largest Catholic school district in Alberta, with 118 schools serving more than 64,000 students. As a school district, we are unique in that we represent the interests of over five municipalities that include metro, urban and rural areas in Airdrie, Calgary, Chestermere, Cochrane and Rocky View County. Our mission and vision is *Living and Learning in our Catholic Faith, so that students, centred in Christ, realize their full potential.*

\$ Funding

Did You Know?

CCSD (and other school districts) successfully advocated to revise the previous three-year Weighted Moving Average (WMA) funding model, leading to the implementation of a new, more equitable approach.

- Under the new two-year model, **30% of funding** is based on current-year enrolment, while **70%** is determined by projected enrolment for the upcoming year, providing better financial stability for growing, metro districts like CCSD.

70% of funding determined by projected enrolment



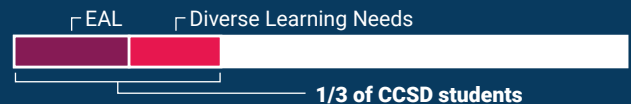
30% of funding determined by current year enrolment

- CCSD is hopeful that the new two-year enrolment-based model will provide additional funding and support.**
- CCSD's Board of Trustees approved the operating budget with revenues of \$723.3 million and expenditures of \$741.9 million, resulting in a deficit of \$18.6 million funded by operating reserves (savings). The 2025-2026 CCSD budget was approved by the Board of Trustees on Wednesday, May 21, at a regular board meeting. Please visit our website, under [News/Media Releases](#) for further information.

+ Complexity

Did You Know?

CCSD serves more than 64,000 students and approximately 12,000 students are English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners and approximately 9,700 have diverse learning needs = **Approximately 1 in 3 CCSD students have complex learning needs.**



- CCSD applied for the **Mental Health in Schools Pilot Grant** and was granted \$1.8 million dollars over two years (January 2023-January 2025). The grant allowed us to have a mental health professional (school wellness workers) in 21 elementary schools, ensuring every school had access to support. The grant has now been extended to June 2025 and **CCSD will continue to advocate for this funding.**
- CCSD is grateful that the government increased the complexity grant by 20% and provided a grant rate increase of 2.32% for various specialized learning supports in Budget 2025.

🏠 Infrastructure

Did You Know?

CCSD has experienced consistent and significant student growth since 2021, **with an increase of approximately 6,800 students, a 12% rise—based on the annual September 30 enrolment counts.**

- CCSD's Board of Trustees is proud of the advocacy work regarding infrastructure and for the investment in projects (listed to the right).
- While CCSD is grateful for the investment, **we still need shovels in the ground as soon as possible** to meet the needs of our growing student population.



4
partially
funded
projects

Planning Funding (Announced)

Carrington EL/JH (March 2025)
Walden EL/JH (March 2025)

Design Funding

Bishop McNally HS (March 2023)
Cornerstone EL/JH (March 2025)

7
fully
funded
projects

Full Construction Funding

Chestermere EL/JH (March 2023)
Legacy EL/JH (March 2022)
Nolan Hill EL/JH (March 2023)
Redstone EL (March 2023)
Seton/Rangeview HS (March 2023)
St. Martin de Porres HS (September 2021)
West Calgary HS (March 2023)

\$ Funding

64,995
524

Projected number of students for 2025-2026

Unfunded students under the new 70/30 model

- CCSD appreciates the new funding formula, but with over **500 students still unfunded**, we will continue to operate at a **deficit in 2025-2026**.
- CCSD will advocate to bring back the supplemental enrolment grant to **fund every student**.
- In the last five years:
 - **Electricity costs** have risen **over 10%**
 - **Natural gas costs** have increased **more than 55%**
 - **Inflation and tariffs** will continue to strain the budget.
- Provincial Bargaining and Compensation Office (PBCO) sets employer mandates, yet **no additional funding is provided to support school districts** with negotiated staff settlements.
- The government funds **collegiate program start-up costs**, but CCSD does **not** receive funding for **ongoing staffing and resources** to sustain these new programs.
- Similarly, **new school builds are not fully funded** for textbooks, additional staff and other resources, which can cost upwards of \$1 million dollars.



+ Complexity

Complex learning needs may include autism, significant dysregulation, cognitive disabilities, medical diagnoses and mental health challenges. Many students require support for multiple needs.

- **CCSD parents and staff have made it clear that addressing student complexity in the classroom is a top priority.**
- **More personnel support is needed**, including teachers and certificated staff, as well as non-certificated staff such as educational assistants, psychologists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists.
- **Increased infrastructure funding** is essential to support students with limited mobility and accessibility needs, both in modernized and new school buildings.

With CCSD's growing student population, our staff are working tirelessly and are stretched thin.

- **Stronger collaboration between healthcare and education is crucial.** To advance this effort, CCSD has hired a medical doctor to support staff and families of students with medical complexities and to support conversations regarding joint support and greater collaboration between healthcare and education.

🏠 Infrastructure

- CCSD would appreciate greater transparency and a clearer understanding of the government's process for advancing or prioritizing infrastructure projects. **Additionally, we would like to see more district-managed projects to better address local priorities.**
- CCSD is experiencing consistent growth, with an expected increase of approximately 1,200 – 2,400 students per year. **CCSD expects to have over 100% utilization of our schools by 2029, even including currently announced projects.**
- While several infrastructure projects are at various stages of funding, our schools remain at capacity, **with no new schools set to open in 2025 and only one school expected to open in 2026** - a K-9 school in Legacy with an opening capacity of 500 students.

To meet the needs of our expanding student population, we urge the government to **prioritize additional funding for partially funded projects, recognize the urgent need for new schools and modernizations and provide better timeliness regarding school sites being available in early land development phases.**