



2027-2030

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2028

2029

2030

Three-Year Capital Plan

CONSEIL SCOLAIRE FRANCOSUD
APRIL 2026

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BOARD CHAIR FOREWORD



Gregory van Duyse
Président / Board
Chair
Conseil scolaire
FrancoSud

Le Conseil scolaire FrancoSud est fier de présenter cette version actualisée du Plan capital triennal 2027-2030. Nous tenons aussi à exprimer notre reconnaissance envers Alberta Education et Alberta Infrastructure pour la collaboration étroite que nous avons développée au cours des dernières années.

Le programme « Schools Now » a marqué un tournant important pour FrancoSud. Il a permis d'accélérer de façon significative le développement de nos infrastructures scolaires, en soutenant à la fois la construction de nouvelles écoles et la modernisation de nos installations existantes. Ces investissements contribuent directement à mieux répondre aux besoins croissants de nos élèves et de leurs familles, tant en milieu urbain que rural.

Les nombreux projets en cours au FrancoSud illustrent tout ce qu'il est possible d'accomplir grâce à une collaboration étroite entre les partenaires gouvernementaux et les autorités scolaires.

Pour nos familles, ces avancées signifient des trajets en autobus plus courts, des milieux d'apprentissages modernes et adaptés aux besoins des élèves et un meilleur accès à un parcours complet en éducation francophone jusqu'à la fin du secondaire. Bien que du travail reste à faire, nous sommes enthousiastes pour l'avenir et profondément reconnaissants du soutien qui rend ces progrès possibles.

The Conseil scolaire FrancoSud is proud to present this updated version of the 2027-2030 Three-Year Capital Plan. We would also like to express our appreciation to Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure for the strong collaboration we have developed over the past several years.

The Schools Now program has been a significant turning point for FrancoSud. It has helped accelerate the development of our school infrastructure by supporting both the construction of new schools and the modernization of our existing facilities. These investments directly help address the growing needs of our students and families, in both urban and rural communities.

The many projects currently underway at FrancoSud illustrate what can be achieved through strong collaboration between government partners and school authorities.

For our families, these advances mean shorter bus rides, modern learning environments designed to meet students' needs, and better access to a complete French-language education pathway through the end of high school. While there is still work ahead, we are optimistic about the future and deeply grateful for the support that makes this progress possible.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2027–2030 Three-Year Capital Plan outlines Conseil scolaire FrancoSud’s strategic infrastructure priorities in alignment with the Alberta School Capital Manual and the guidelines of the Alberta Francophone School Board Working Group. The plan provides an evidence-based framework to address accommodation pressures while ensuring substantive equivalence with majority-language education systems, as required under Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Established in 2013, Conseil scolaire FrancoSud is responsible for providing French first-language education to rights-holders across Southern Alberta. The division currently operates 19 schools (15 public and 4 Catholic) serving students from more than 74 communities across a territory exceeding 75,000 square kilometres. In Calgary alone, students travel from all 206 neighbourhoods of the city to attend one of FrancoSud’s nine Francophone schools.

Over the past seven years, FrancoSud has experienced sustained enrolment growth reflecting the vitality of the Francophone community in Southern Alberta. Student enrolment has increased from approximately 3,518 students in 2019 to a projected 4,300 students by September 2026, representing an increase of more than 22%. Conservative projections indicate continued growth, bringing total enrolment to over 4,600 students by 2030.

Demographic trends continue to intensify infrastructure pressures. Calgary, the largest centre within FrancoSud’s jurisdiction, is projected to reach approximately 1.48 million residents by 2028 and exceed 1.6 million by 2030. At the time of the 2021 Census, Calgary was home to 20,390 children eligible for Francophone education (ages 0–18), while Southern Alberta counted a total of 28,256. Given the strong population growth observed since 2021, these numbers are already significantly higher today in 2026.

Despite this strong demographic base, FrancoSud currently captures approximately 13% of eligible students. Strategic infrastructure investments will be critical to increasing this capture rate to our goal of 20% by 2030.

Recent provincial initiatives such as the Schools Now Program have supported the advancement of several FrancoSud infrastructure projects through early-stage funding, streamlined approvals, and strengthened collaboration between school authorities and the province. Building on this progress, continued investment will be required to address ongoing enrolment growth and meet the evolving needs of Francophone communities across Southern Alberta.

The 2027–2030 Capital Plan prioritizes expanding system capacity through various infrastructure projects, including new school construction, modernizations and capacity increases in our facilities. These projects align with the 2026–2036 FrancoSud Infrastructure Roadmap and support several key objectives:

- Addressing enrolment growth and accommodation pressures across Southern Alberta



- Reducing excessive student travel times and improving local access to Francophone schools



- Providing modern, inclusive and sustainable learning environments



- Supporting student retention and reducing assimilation pressures



- Strengthening schools as community hubs for Francophone life



These investments will help reduce transportation burdens, currently averaging up to 132 minutes daily for some students, while ensuring equitable access to high-quality Francophone education across both urban and rural communities. Knowing that modern, well-located school infrastructure remains essential to supporting the continued growth of Francophone education and the long-term vitality of Francophone communities across Southern Alberta.

VISION, MISSION AND MANDATES

Vision

Inspire students to dream, strive for excellence, and flourish in their Francophonie.

Mission

We bring excellence in Francophone education to life by cultivating exceptional learning environments and providing enriching experiences for every student. By promoting academic success, personal growth, and a strong sense of belonging, we prepare students to become confident, accomplished individuals rooted in their Francophone identity. In our Catholic schools, students are also encouraged to explore and deepen their faith while living Catholic values.

FrancoSud fulfills its mission through four interconnected mandates:

1. Constitutional Mandate (Section 23)

Under Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, FrancoSud has the responsibility to provide homogeneous French first-language education wherever numbers warrant.

Key principles include:

- Ensuring substantive equivalence with majority-language education systems
- Providing comparable facilities, programs, travel times, and educational experiences
- Reducing assimilation pressures and supporting the vitality of Francophone communities

Accessible, high-quality Francophone schools remain essential to preserving language and culture in Southern Alberta.

2. Capital Mandate

FrancoSud's capital mandate translates constitutional rights into modern, accessible infrastructure.

Key elements include:

- Annual submission of the Three-Year School Capital Plan (3YSCP) to Alberta Education
- Prioritization of new schools, modernizations, additions, and replacements
- Ensuring facilities support enrolment growth and program delivery
- Improving building condition, functionality, and programming capacity

Strategic infrastructure planning helps reduce excessive travel times (currently averaging 132 minutes daily for some schools) and improves student retention within the Francophone system.

3. Community Mandate

FrancoSud schools serve as community hubs that support the vitality of Francophone life.

Schools contribute to communities by:

- Preserving and transmitting French language and culture
- Hosting community events, cultural activities, and family programming
- Providing shared access to gyms, auditoriums, and gathering spaces
- Creating inclusive spaces where students, families, and community members connect

4. Partnerships and Community Initiatives

FrancoSud actively collaborates with municipalities, community organizations, and government partners to maximize the impact of its schools.

Examples include:

- Community infrastructure funding such as the \$500,000 Lethbridge Community Improvement Project grant
- Federal programs supporting early childhood and Francophone cultural initiatives
- Joint-use infrastructure planning with municipalities town of Aidrie funding a second gymnasium

These partnerships strengthen schools as shared assets that benefit both Francophone families and the broader community.

Together, these mandates ensure that FrancoSud's infrastructure investments support equitable access to education, cultural continuity, and the long-term vitality of Francophone communities across Southern Alberta.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS & TRENDS

The 2021 Census provides the most recent comprehensive baseline for identifying eligible Francophone rights-holders in Southern Alberta. It revealed a substantial untapped pool of **28,256** individuals aged 0–18 years with Section 23 rights: **20,390** in the Calgary region (currently only 13% enrolled at FrancoSud) and **7,866** in rural Southern Alberta (17.5% enrolled). This significant gap between potential and actual enrolment highlights the urgent need for improved, accessible infrastructure to attract and retain more rights-holder families, as inadequate or distant facilities remain a primary barrier to participation in French first-language programs.

Calgary – Right-Holders by Quadrant (2021 Census)

| Quadrant | Total population 0-18 | Right Holders 0-18 | % of Quadrant population | % of total of Calgary Right holders |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Northeast (NE) | 64,285 | 3,740 | 5.8% | 18.3% |
| Northwest (NW) | 71,280 | 4,890 | 6.9% | 24.0% |
| Southeast (SE) | 78,720 | 5,660 | 7.2% | 27.8% |
| Southwest (SW) | 70,895 | 6,100 | 8.6% | 29.9% |
| Calgary Total | | 20,390 | | 100% |

Southern Alberta – Right-Holders by Age Group (2021 Census)

| Age Group | Calgary Right-Holders | Rural Southern Alberta Right-Holders | Total Right-Holders |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 0-4 years | 4,865 | 1,779 | 6,644 |
| 5-12 years | 9,840 | 3,634 | 13,474 |
| 13-18 years | 5,685 | 2,453 | 8,138 |
| Total | 20,390 | 7,866 | 28,256 |
| % Enrolled at FrancoSud | 13% | 17.5% | 14.5% (overall) |

Note on Data: The Census is conducted every five years by Statistics Canada. The 2021 figures represent the most recent official baseline for FrancoSud. To provide accurate planning estimates for the 2027–2030 horizon, FrancoSud extrapolates from these numbers using observed enrolment trends, regional demographic growth rates, immigration patterns, and historical capture-rate improvements following new facility openings. This extrapolation approach ensures projections remain realistic and defensible while accounting for the dynamic nature of population and rights-holder distribution.

Projected Growth and Development in Calgary continues to experience strong population growth, with the metro area estimated at **1,688,000** in recent data (up 4.6% from 1,611,000 in 2021). From 2016 to 2023, the city added an average of **18,747** residents per year. Applying this average growth rate, Calgary’s population is projected to reach approximately **1,483,000** by 2028 an increase of roughly **93,700** people over the 2023 baseline.

Calgary strongest growth has occurred in and near the Greater Downtown core, as well as in new and expanding communities on the Southeast and Northeast edges (Calgary & Region Economic Outlook 2023–2028). These high-growth zones align closely with quadrants that already hold the largest concentrations of Francophone rights-holders:

- Northeast and Southeast quadrants: highest residential expansion, family-oriented development, and demographic pressure.
- Northwest: continued suburban expansion, particularly in communities like Panorama Hills, Hamptons, and surrounding areas.
- Southwest: steady infill and new development in areas such as Alpine Park, Providence, and Silverado.

FrancoSud Capital Project Expectations

In recent years, with the strong support and partnership of the Government of Alberta, FrancoSud has made meaningful progress in fulfilling its mandate under Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Through previously approved and funded projects such as the Airdrie secondary school now under construction and the Lethbridge gymnasium expansion nearing completion. FrancoSud has been able to deliver new and improved facilities that better serve growing enrolment, reduce travel times and enhance the educational experience for Francophone students and families. These successes demonstrate the tangible impact of collaborative provincial investment in closing infrastructure gaps and strengthening retention.

At the same time, significant work remains to fully meet the projected growth and capture a greater share of eligible rights-holders (targeting 20–25% enrolment). To continue this positive momentum, FrancoSud anticipates concentrating near-term capital projects in the following priority growth corridors:

- Calgary Northeast: new junior high construction (Coral Springs 7-9) and continued elementary capacity enhancements to meet rapid family settlement.

- Calgary Southeast: modernization and expansion of École La Source (K-6) to relieve overcrowding and accommodate rising demand.

- Calgary Northwest: modernization/expansion of École La Rose Sauvage (7-12) and planning for K-9 and 10-12 facilities to serve expanding suburban populations.

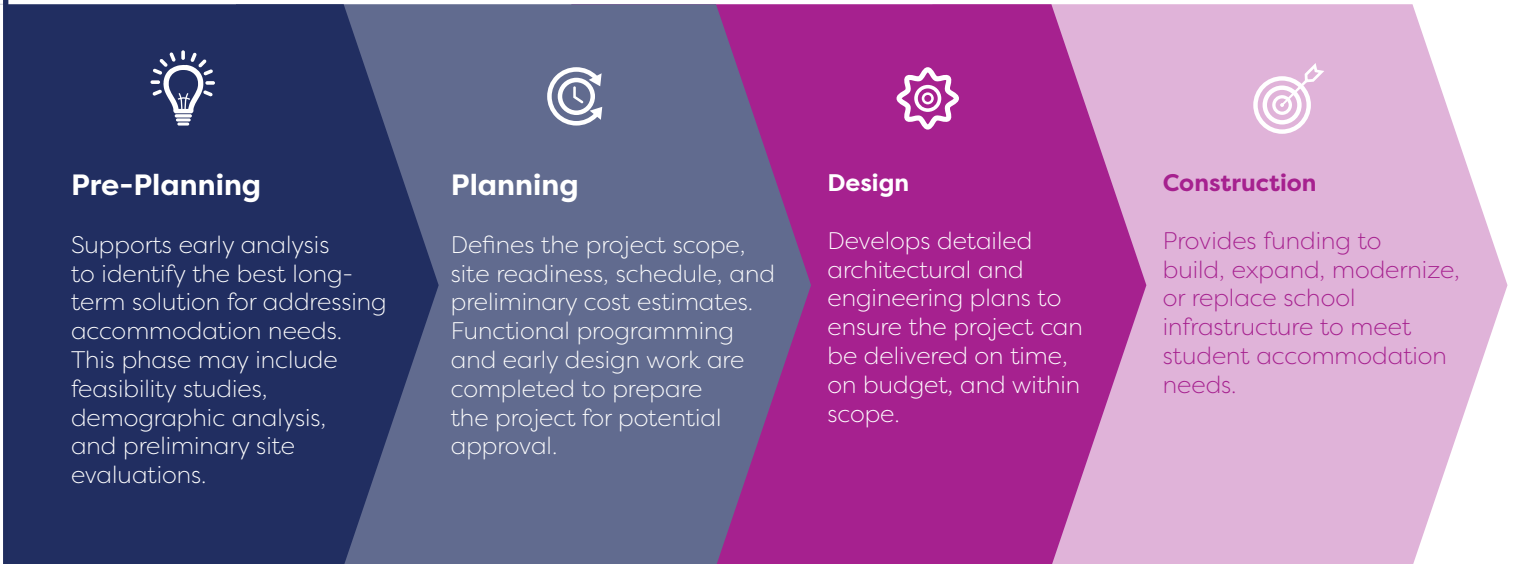
- Calgary Southwest: new K-6 Catholic school in Alpine Park/Providence to achieve quadrant balance and reduce travel times.

- Suburban growth corridors: full K-12 complexes in Chestermere, a secondary school in Cochrane, and a multi-grade complex in Canmore to address fast-growing bedroom communities.

By continuing to invest strategically in these high-growth zones, FrancoSud aims to further shorten travel times, improve accessibility, build on recent retention gains, and ensure that French first-language education remains a vibrant, attractive, and fully accessible option for families across Calgary and Southern Alberta.

CAPITAL PLANNING

The Government of Alberta follows a structured capital planning process in which school infrastructure projects progress through successive phases as planning requirements are completed and approvals are granted.



Current Active FrancoSud projects

Pre-Planning

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Cochrane | 7-12 Secondary school | Catholic |
| Calgary | École de la Source modernization | Public |
| Chestermere | K-6 & 7-12 School Complex | Public |
| Calgary | K-6 in NE | Catholic |
| Calgary | K-6 in SW | Catholic |
| Rocky View County | K-6 | TBD |

Planning

| | | |
|---------|--|----------|
| Calgary | École de la Rose sauvage modernization | Public |
| Canmore | K-6 & 7-12 School Complex | Catholic |
| Calgary | 7-9 in Coral Springs | Public |

Design

| | | |
|---------|-------------------------|----------|
| Calgary | K-6 in Harvest Hills | Public |
| Calgary | K-9 in Hamptons | Catholic |
| Calgary | 10-12 in Panorama Hills | Public |

Construction

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Airdrie | 7-12 Secondary school | Public |
| Lethbridge | Gym Expansion at École la Vérendrye | Public |

CAPITAL PRIORITIES

The following sections detail projects currently under construction, those with design or planning approvals, and the current prioritized list of new requests for the 2027-2030 period. These priorities are sequenced to respond to the highest enrolment pressures, facility condition needs, and geographic gaps.

Capital priorities - Calgary

| Year | Priority | Project | Location | Project type | Grade configuration | School type | Capacity |
|-----------|----------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------|
| 2027-2028 | 1 | Hamptons Francophone K-9 | 10400 Hamptons Blvd. NW | New build | K-9 | Catholic | 465 |
| | 2 | Panorama Hills Francophone High School | 955 Panamont Blvd. NW | New build | 10-12 | Public | 635 |
| 2028-2029 | 3 | Coral Springs Francophone Junior High School | 383 Coral Spring Blvd. NE | New build | 7-9 | Public | 565 |
| | 4 | École de la Rose sauvage modernization | 2512 4 St NW | Modernization/ Capacity increase | 7-12 | Public | 605 |
| 2029-2030 | 5 | École de la source modernization | 360 94 Ave SE | Modernization | K-6 | Public | 349 |
| | 6 | Calgary SW Francophone K-6 School | Providence/ Alpine - Calgary SW | New build | K-6 | Catholic | 445 |

Capital priorities - Rural

| Year | Priority # | location | Project type | Grade configuration | School type | Capacity |
|-----------|------------|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------|
| 2027-2028 | 1 | Cochrane | New build | 7-12 | Catholic | 275 |
| | 2 | Canmore | New build | K-6 & 7-12 | Catholic | 475 |
| 2028-2029 | 3 | Chestermere | New build | K-6 & 7-12 | Public | 475 |
| 2029-2030 | 4 | Lethbridge | Modernization/ Capacity increase | K-12 | Public | 515 |



HAMPTONS K-9 FRANCOPHONE SCHOOL

10400 Hamptons Boulevard NW, Calgary

PROJECT TYPE | SCHOOL TYPE

New build

Catholic

STATUS

Currently in Design stage

GRADES | CAPACITY

K-9

465 students

YEAR LISTED IN CAPITAL PLAN

2019

Right-holders in Catchment area (Census 2021)

8630 eligible Francophone students
0-18 years old

This project is currently in the design stage.

It is included in this Capital Plan to ensure it is seriously considered by the Government of Alberta for expedited approval to the construction phase, given the clear and immediate need.

Needs Assessment and Project Rationale

There is an urgent need to establish a Catholic Francophone school in North Calgary to serve students in the northern quadrants. Currently, French-language Catholic education is limited to two locations in the south and central southwest, resulting in excessive transportation times often exceeding 90 minutes each way. To meet its constitutional obligations under Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and Alberta Act, FrancoSud must ensure equitable access to education across all quadrants of the city. Reasonable travel times are essential to maintaining enrolment, supporting student well-being, and preserving Francophone Catholic education.

Project Overview and Status

The proposed Hamptons school would provide a K-9 program (with future expansion potential) that is accessible, modern, and equivalent to English-language Catholic schools. It would also include spaces for early childhood programs.

At present, École Sainte-Marguerite-Bourgeoys is the only Catholic secondary option serving the entire city, requiring all Francophone Catholic students in Grades 7–9 to attend a single southern location. This centralized model limits program flexibility and created barriers to access. The proposed school at 10400 Hamptons Boulevard NW would provide a more balanced grade configuration and deliver localized, high-quality programming closer to home, significantly reducing travel times that currently exceed one hour each way for many students. Improved proximity aligns with provincial expectations and is critical to retaining students who might otherwise transition to English Catholic or French immersion programs.

The proposed site is fully serviced, exceeds 10 acres, and is ready for development, minimizing project risk and supporting efficient delivery. FrancoSud has also engaged local stakeholders early in the process, and the school would serve not only as an educational facility but also as a vibrant community hub supporting cultural activities and strengthening connections among Francophone families.

Ultimately, this project supports substantive equivalence by ensuring Francophone Catholic students in North Calgary have access to facilities, programming, and travel conditions comparable to those of their English-speaking peers. Supported by strong demographic growth and enrolment projections, this initiative represents a sustainable, forward-looking solution that addresses immediate access challenges while supporting long-term capacity and community vitality.

Projected Enrolment

Due to the length of current bus routes, several eligible Catholic students choose to attend French immersion programs closer to home, despite their right to French first-language education.

If the Hamptons school were to open immediately, it would already serve 138 students FrancoSud who are currently commuting long distances to southwest Calgary. This represents a strong and established base of enrolment seeking more accessible options.

Based on FrancoSud’s experience, the opening of a local school has a direct and significant impact on enrolment, consistently generating a surge in registrations as geographic barriers are removed. This effect is expected to be even more pronounced in the Hamptons area. For many years, families in northern Calgary have had no access to a Catholic Francophone option, leading some to forego French first-language education entirely or turn to immersion programs.

This pent-up demand, combined with the existing cohort of commuting students, is reflected in the enrolment projections below, which demonstrate strong and sustained growth.



Projected Enrollment

| | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | total |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 2025-2026 | 9 | 10 | 17 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 19 | 14 | 17 | 138 |
| 2026-2027 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 15 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 169 |
| 2027-2028 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 25 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 16 | 202 |
| 2028-2029 | 30 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 27 | 31 | 21 | 16 | 18 | 15 | 232 |
| 2029-2030 | 36 | 37 | 27 | 31 | 37 | 23 | 20 | 15 | 19 | 14 | 249 |

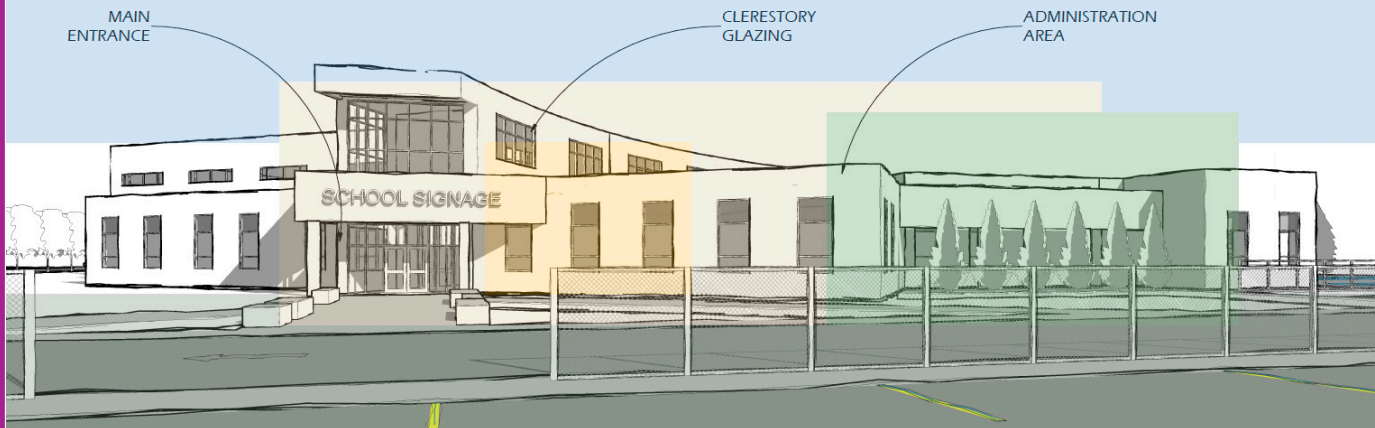
Summary

The Hamptons project represents a ready-to-advance, high-impact investment that addresses both immediate access challenges and long-term growth. With strong enrolment projections, an existing student base, and a fully prepared site, this project is well-positioned to move quickly to construction.

Its advancement will ensure equitable access to Catholic Francophone education and support the continued growth and vitality of the Francophone community in North Calgary.

For additional details, please refer to the Planning Report prepared by GGA-Architecture.

[Planning Report - Hamptons K-9 Francophone School](#)



PANORAMA HILLS FRANCOPHONE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

955 Panamont Boul. Nw

PROJECT TYPE | SCHOOL TYPE

New build Public

STATUS

Currently in Design stage

GRADES | CAPACITY

10-12 635 students

YEAR LISTED IN CAPITAL PLAN

2023

Right-holders in Catchment area (Census 2021)

8630 eligible Francophone students
0-18 years old

This project is currently in the design stage.

It is included in this Capital Plan to support its advancement to the construction phase, given the significant and immediate pressures on existing secondary infrastructure and the strong projected growth in the region.

Needs Assessment and Project Rationale

There is an urgent and growing need to expand secondary capacity in North Calgary, particularly in the Northwest and Northeast quadrants. École La Rose Sauvage a school that was designed for a k-12 program, currently the only Francophone public secondary school in the region (Grades 7-12), is experiencing sustained enrolment pressure and is projected to exceed its functional capacity in the near term. Without additional infrastructure, the school will face overcrowding that compromises program delivery, student experience, and retention. The 2021 Census confirms a substantial Francophone population in North Calgary, with a strong concentration of rights-holders in both the Northwest and Northeast. Combined with

Project Overview and Status

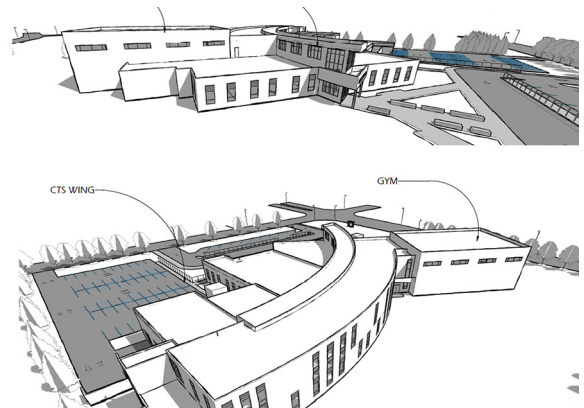
The proposed Panorama Hills High School would provide a dedicated Grades 10-12 Francophone public secondary program in North Calgary, complementing an eventual reconfiguration of École La Rose Sauvage as a Grades 7-9 junior high school. This model would establish a clear and sustainable secondary pathway for Francophone students in the northern quadrants.

ongoing residential development and continued family migration, this growth underscores the need for accessible, high-quality French first-language secondary education closer to home. At present, there is no dedicated Francophone public high school in North Calgary, forcing students to remain in an increasingly constrained facility or transition to English-language or French immersion programs, outcomes that undermine access to homogeneous French-language education and pose risks to long-term enrolment and cultural continuity.

The proposed Panorama Hills High School directly addresses these challenges. The current Grades 7–12 configuration at École La Rose Sauvage limits program specialization and creates operational pressures; separating junior and senior high will enable more targeted, age-appropriate programming and support expanded course offerings aligned with Alberta Education standards. Strategically located in Panorama Hills, the project will serve both Northwest and Northeast Calgary, including emerging Calgary northern communities, and will significantly reduce travel times, improving accessibility, student experience, and retention. In addition, the school will function as a community hub, strengthening partnerships, supporting cultural activities, and reinforcing the Francophone presence in North Calgary. Ultimately, this project supports substantive equivalence by ensuring Francophone students have access to facilities, programming, and travel conditions comparable to those of English-language students. Combined with

the reconfiguration of École La Rose Sauvage, it represents a sustainable, long-term solution that addresses current capacity pressures while positioning FrancoSud to accommodate future growth and maintain system stability.

Current enrolment patterns demonstrate strong and sustained demand for Francophone public secondary education in North Calgary. École La Rose Sauvage continues to absorb growth from across the city, including a significant proportion of students travelling from northern communities. The proposed model, transitioning École La Rose Sauvage to a Grades 7–9 configuration and establishing a new Grades 10–12 high school in Panorama Hills will enable a more balanced and efficient distribution of students across both facilities. This approach will relieve enrolment pressure at La Rose Sauvage, support the delivery of specialized senior high programming in a purpose-built environment, and improve student retention by providing a complete secondary pathway within reasonable proximity. Based on FrancoSud’s experience, the introduction of a new, accessible secondary facility is expected to generate increased enrolment by removing geographic barriers and enhancing program offerings, which will be critical to maintaining strong capture rates and supporting long-term system growth in North Calgary.



Summary

The Panorama Hills High School project represents a critical next step in addressing the growing demand for Francophone public secondary education in North Calgary. By relieving pressure on École La Rose Sauvage and establishing a dedicated senior high facility, this project provides a balanced, sustainable solution that supports both immediate needs and long-term growth.

For additional details, please refer to the Pre-Design Report prepared by BR2 architecture.

[Pre-Design Report - Panorama Hills Francophone Senior High-School](#)



CORAL SPRINGS FRANCOPHONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

383 Coral Spring Bou.l NE, Calgary

PROJECT TYPE | SCHOOL TYPE

New build Public

STATUS

Currently in Planning stage

GRADES | CAPACITY

7-9 565 students

YEAR LISTED IN CAPITAL PLAN

2024

**Right-holders in Catchment area
(Census 2021)**

3740 eligible Francophone students
0-18 years old

This project is currently in the planning stage.

It is included in this Capital Plan to support its advancement to the design phase, given the urgent need to establish accessible junior high capacity in Northeast Calgary and respond to sustained enrolment growth in the region.

Needs Assessment and Project Rationale

Demographic trends and enrolment patterns indicate strong and growing demand for Francophone junior high programming in Northeast Calgary. The area continues to experience sustained residential growth, attracting young families, including a significant number of Francophone rights-holders.

Currently, the absence of a local junior high option results in a loss of students at a critical transition point. Establishing a dedicated Grades 7–9 facility in Coral Springs would create a clear and continuous educational pathway, significantly improving retention rates beyond elementary school.

Project Overview and Status

The proposed Coral Springs school would provide a dedicated Grades 7–9 Francophone public junior high program in Northeast Calgary, addressing a critical gap in the current continuum of education. This facility would offer modern, purpose-built learning spaces designed specifically for junior high students and support a seamless transition from elementary to secondary education.

This pattern contributes directly to student attrition after Grade 6, weakens enrolment retention, and poses long-term risks to the vitality of Francophone education in one of Calgary’s fastest-growing areas.

Based on FrancoSud’s experience, improved proximity and access to age-appropriate facilities lead directly to increased enrolment and stronger program participation.

The proposed school will:

- Relieve enrolment pressure on École La Rose Sauvage
- Reduce travel times and improve daily student experience
- Strengthen student retention between elementary and secondary levels
- Support long-term enrolment growth in Northeast Calgary

This project is therefore essential not only to address current access challenges but also to unlock latent demand and support sustainable system growth.

Summary

The Coral Springs Junior High School project addresses a critical and urgent gap in Francophone education in Northeast Calgary. By providing a dedicated Grades 7–9 facility in a high-growth area, this project will improve access, reduce travel times, and strengthen student retention at a key transition point.

Advancing this project to the design phase is essential to ensuring that Francophone students and families in Northeast Calgary have equitable access to high-quality education and a clear pathway to continue their learning in French.

For additional details, please refer to the pre-planning report prepared by OTA architecture.

[Pre-Design Report - Coral Springs Francophone Junior High School](#)





ÉCOLE DE LA ROSE SAUVAGE MODERNIZATION

2512 4 St NW, Calgary | Current total capacity 486 students | ACU 85%

PROJECT TYPE | SCHOOL TYPE

Modernization / Public
Capacity increase

STATUS

Currently in Planning stage

GRADES | PROPOSED CAPACITY

7-9 605 students

YEAR LISTED IN CAPITAL PLAN

2023

**Right-holders in Catchment area
(Census 2021)**

8630 eligible Francophone students
0-18 years old

Modernization Rationale

École La Rose Sauvage remains FrancoSud’s only public school offering secondary programming (Grades 7-12) on the north side of Calgary. Originally constructed as an elementary school (K-6) on the former Queen’s Park Elementary site and converted to a Francophone facility in 1996, the building was never designed or expanded to support a full secondary program. As a result, the facility does not meet the functional, programmatic, or experiential standards

expected of a modern junior or senior high school.

While the recent opening of the new secondary school in Silverado has significantly improved access for students in Southwest Calgary, northern students continue to face substantial barriers. In 2023-2024, the average daily commute for students travelling from the north to École La Rose Sauvage reached approximately 130 minutes. These extended travel times, combined with the limitations of the facility, contribute directly to enrolment loss and reduced retention, as families increasingly opt for local English-language or French immersion alternatives.

The current condition of the school presents critical challenges to the delivery of quality secondary education. The facility lacks essential specialized spaces required to support Alberta Education programming, including dedicated CTS, science, fine arts, and technical learning environments. Existing spaces are often repurposed, limiting program depth and flexibility. The gymnasium is undersized and does not meet secondary standards, while outdoor and recreational spaces are constrained and insufficient.

In addition, the building’s layout, aging infrastructure, and piecemeal expansions over time result in inefficiencies, limited visibility, and an overall environment that does not reflect a contemporary secondary school.

These limitations are particularly significant given that École La Rose Sauvage must continue to serve as the primary secondary option for Francophone students in North Calgary until a dedicated senior high school is established. In its current state, the school falls well below the standards of comparable English-language public and Catholic schools in the region in terms of facilities, programming capacity, and overall student experience.

A comprehensive modernization is therefore essential to:

- Upgrade and expand instructional and specialized learning spaces to support both junior high programming (Grades 7–9) and the continued delivery of senior high education in the interim
- Improve facility functionality, aesthetics, and visibility to better reflect a modern secondary learning environment
- Enhance student experience and program delivery, supporting improved retention and enrolment capture
- Move toward substantive equivalence with comparator schools in North Calgary

This modernization represents a critical interim investment to sustain viable Francophone public secondary education in North Calgary. It will ensure that students have access to a learning environment that supports their academic success and well-being while the longer-term development of a dedicated northern high school is advanced.

Recent enrolment trends further reinforce the importance of modern infrastructure. As demonstrated across FrancoSud, improvements to school facilities have a direct and measurable impact on student retention. The notable increase observed following the opening of École Le Phare (Grades 7–12) illustrates how modern, purpose-built environments strengthen enrolment stability and support the long-term vitality of Francophone education.

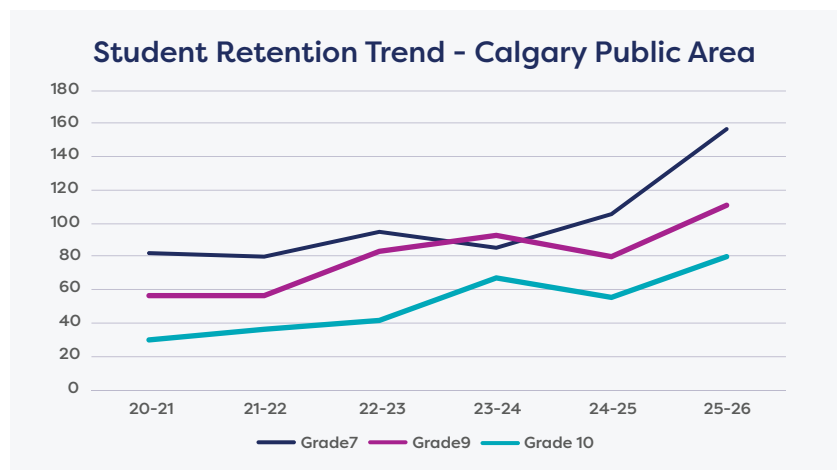


École de la
ROSE
SAUVAGE

Enrollment History & Projection

| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| 2020-2021 | 82 | 55 | 57 | 30 | 21 | 29 | 274 |
| 2021-2022 | 80 | 77 | 56 | 36 | 30 | 23 | 302 |
| 2022-2023 | 95 | 99 | 83 | 42 | 44 | 36 | 399 |
| 2023-2024 | 85 | 87 | 93 | 67 | 36 | 56 | 424 |
| 2024-2025 | 73 | 86 | 80 | 55 | 54 | 43 | 391 |
| 2025-2026 | 94 | 84 | 80 | 50 | 45 | 61 | 414 |
| 2026-2027 | 100 | 90 | 85 | 53 | 48 | 66 | 442 |
| 2027-2028 | 106 | 96 | 91 | 57 | 51 | 80 | 471 |
| 2028-2029 | 113 | 101 | 96 | 60 | 54 | 75 | 499 |
| 2029-2030 | 119 | 107 | 101 | 63 | 57 | 79 | 526 |

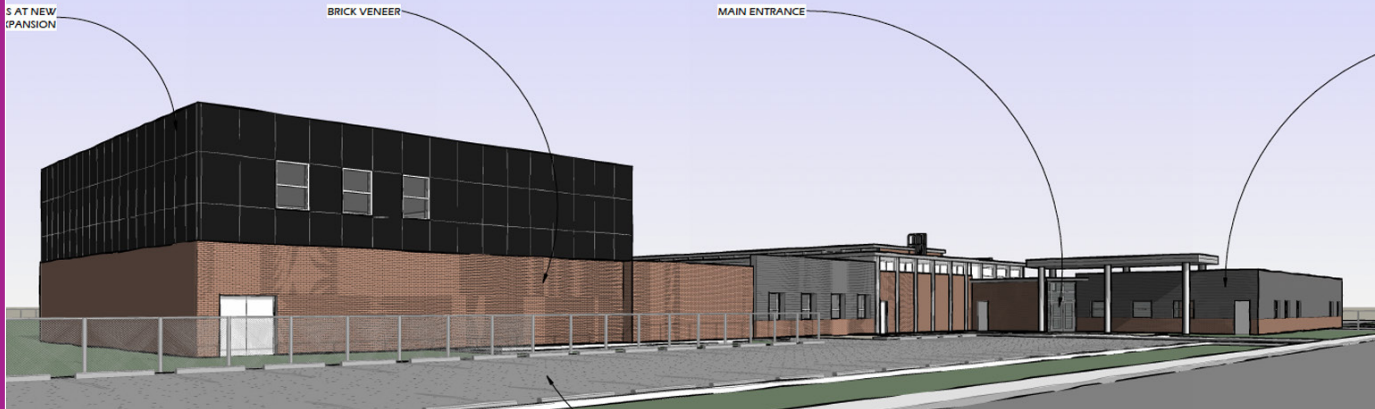
This graph illustrates student retention trends over the past several years in the Calgary Public region. Overall, retention has steadily improved as FrancoSud has invested in modern, comparable learning environments aligned with those of anglophone schools. A notable increase is observed in the 2025-2026 school



year, directly coinciding with the opening of École Le Phare (Grades 7-12). This trend clearly demonstrates the positive impact that modern, purpose-built Francophone educational infrastructure has on student retention and the long-term strength of the Francophone school system.

For additional details, please refer to the Conceptual Design Report prepared by Iwanski Architecture.

[Conceptual Design Report - École de la Rose sauvage Modernization](#)



ÉCOLE DE LA SOURCE MODERNIZATION

360 94 Ave Se, Calgary | Current total capacity 449 students | ACU 47%

PROJECT TYPE | SCHOOL TYPE

Modernization / Public

STATUS

Currently in Pre-Planning stage

GRADES | PROPOSED CAPACITY

K-6 349 students

YEAR LISTED IN CAPITAL PLAN

2024

Right-holders in Catchment area (Census 2021)

1324 eligible Francophone students
0-18 years old

Modernization Rationale

The modernization of École La Source represents a strategic investment in the future of French first-language education in Southeast Calgary. Beyond addressing aging infrastructure, this project will transform the school into a modern, efficient, and purpose-built K–6 learning environment that supports academic success, student well-being, and community engagement.

Originally constructed in 1971 as an elementary school, École La Source has served generations of students but now faces significant challenges related to aging infrastructure, outdated design, and evolving educational needs. With the recent opening of the new Francophone secondary school in Silverado, students in Grades 7 and above have transitioned to a purpose-built facility. This shift allows École La Source to fully refocus on elementary programming, creating an opportunity to realign the school’s design, layout, and capacity with the needs of younger learners.

As part of this transition, four modular classrooms are planned to be removed, reducing the school’s capacity by approximately 100 student spaces, to a total of 349 (ACU: 60%). While this adjustment reflects the new K–6 configuration, it also highlights the importance of optimizing the existing facility to ensure it remains functional, efficient, and aligned with projected enrolment

Enrollment History & Projection

| Year | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 2020-2021 | 35 | 44 | 42 | 42 | 39 | 38 | 33 | 23 | 21 | 24 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 351 |
| 2021-2022 | 54 | 35 | 44 | 42 | 40 | 35 | 42 | 36 | 19 | 24 | 13 | 8 | 7 | 374 |
| 2022-2023 | 48 | 58 | 37 | 47 | 48 | 37 | 35 | 45 | 38 | 22 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 429 |
| 2023-2024 | 48 | 48 | 63 | 40 | 38 | 53 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 29 | | | | 393 |
| 2024-2025 | 40 | 38 | 42 | 61 | 39 | 30 | 48 | 23 | 27 | 24 | | | | 372 |
| 2025-2026 | 36 | 37 | 27 | 31 | 37 | 23 | 20 | | | | | | | 211 |
| 2026-2027 | 37 | 38 | 27 | 31 | 38 | 23 | 20 | | | | | | | 214 |
| 2027-2028 | 37 | 38 | 28 | 32 | 38 | 24 | 21 | | | | | | | 217 |
| 2028-2029 | 38 | 39 | 28 | 32 | 39 | 24 | 21 | | | | | | | 224 |
| 2029-2030 | 38 | 39 | 29 | 33 | 39 | 25 | 21 | | | | | | | 227 |

* Grades 10-11-12 moved to École de la Rose sauvage due to lack of space
 * Repurposed as a K-6 with the opening of École de l'Horizon

Despite reduced secondary pressure, École La Source continues to serve a growing population in Acadia and surrounding Southeast communities, where demand for Francophone education remains strong. However, the current facility no longer meets modern expectations for elementary learning environments.

Key challenges include:

- Outdated and undersized classrooms that limit flexible and collaborative learning
- An undersized gymnasium (177 m²) that does not meet current program needs
- Aging mechanical systems (HVAC, plumbing, roofing) leading to increased maintenance costs
- Limited energy efficiency, resulting in higher operating costs and environmental impact
- A lack of specialized and flexible spaces for contemporary programming (e.g., collaborative areas, STEM, creative spaces)
- Accessibility limitations, including the absence of an elevator to access the second

A comprehensive modernization will address these challenges by:

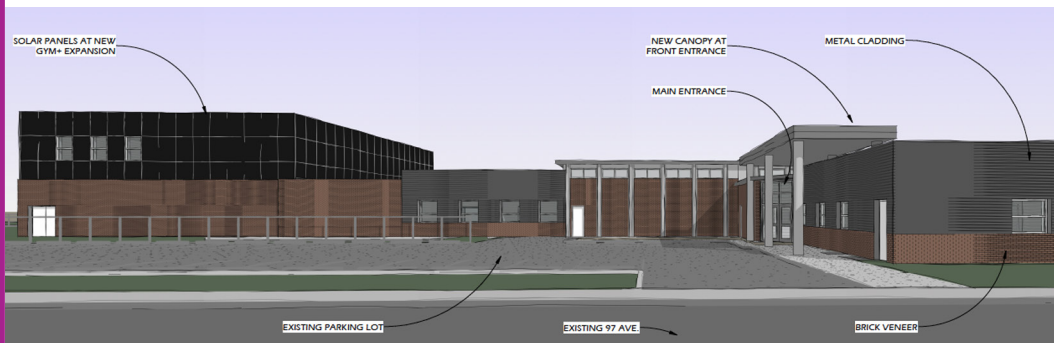
- Creating flexible, student-centered learning environments adapted to K-6 programming
- Improving accessibility, safety, and inclusivity for all students
- Upgrading core infrastructure to extend the building’s lifespan and reduce long-term costs
- Integrating energy-efficient systems to improve sustainability and operational efficiency
- Enhancing the school’s role as a community hub for Francophone families in Southeast Calgary

With the transition of secondary students to Silverado, École La Source has a unique opportunity to evolve into a fully optimized elementary school aligned with 21st-century educational standards. This project will ensure that the facility reflects both current needs and future growth, while strengthening the overall Francophone education continuum in the region.

This modernization is a forward-looking investment that will improve student experience, support enrolment stability, and reinforce the presence of high-quality French first-language education in Southeast Calgary for years to come.

For additional details, please refer to the Feasibility Study prepared by BR2 Architecture.

[Feasibility Study - École de la Source Modernization](#)





CALGARY SW FRANCOPHONE K-6 SCHOOL

Providence/Alpine Development – Southwest Calgary

PROJECT TYPE | SCHOOL TYPE

New build | Catholic

STATUS

Currently in Pre-Planning stage

GRADES | CAPACITY

K-6 | 445 students

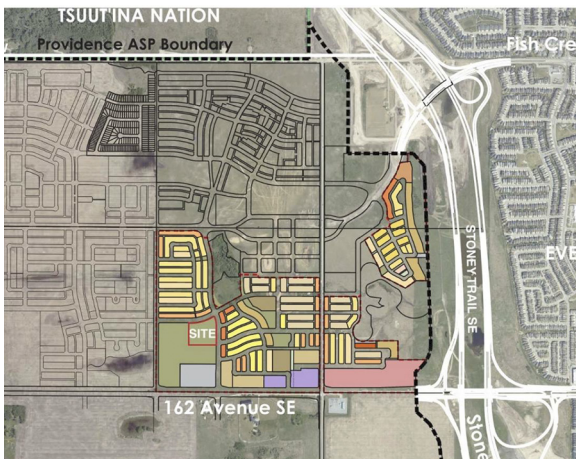
YEAR LISTED IN CAPITAL PLAN

2024

Right-holders in Catchment area (Census 2021)

6100 eligible Francophone students
0-18 years old

Proposed location :



Needs Assessment and Project Rationale

École Sainte-Marguerite-Bourgeoys is the only Catholic school offering elementary programming in the southwest quadrant of Calgary. Due to its location, which is not centrally situated within its catchment area, many students experience extended commute times. In addition, the school’s capacity to effectively deliver programming from Kindergarten through Grade 9 is limited by facility constraints, including a single gymnasium and the absence of a cafeteria to adequately support the full student population.

For additional details, please refer to Pre-Schematic Design Report prepared by Stantec Architecture.

[Pre-Schematic Design Report - Calgary SW Francophone K-6 School](#)



COCHRANE FRANCOPHONE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Southbow Landing - North (Cochrane) | Current total capacity 239 students | ACU 86%

PROJECT TYPE | SCHOOL TYPE

New build | Catholic

YEAR LISTED IN CAPITAL PLAN

2019

STATUS

Currently in Pre-Planning stage

Right-holders in Catchment area (Census 2021)

765 eligible Francophone students
0-18 years old

GRADES | CAPACITY

7-12 | 275 students

Enrollment History & Projection

| Year | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 2020-2021 | 19 | 24 | 19 | 28 | 24 | 18 | 17 | 15 | 1 | 5 | | | | 170 |
| 2021-2022 | 24 | 15 | 25 | 18 | 22 | 22 | 20 | 17 | 14 | 2 | 1 | | | 180 |
| 2022-2023 | 24 | 26 | 17 | 27 | 19 | 29 | 21 | 19 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 1 | | 203 |
| 2023-2024 | 15 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 20 | 29 | 18 | 27 | 17 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 210 |
| 2024-2025 | 30 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 24 | 13 | 22 | 11 | 13 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 216 |
| 2025-2026 | 20 | 27 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 18 | 23 | 13 | 16 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 205 |
| 2026-2027 | 21 | 27 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 22 | 15 | 16 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 211 |
| 2027-2028 | 21 | 26 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 17 | 16 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 217 |
| 2028-2029 | 22 | 26 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 19 | 19 | 15 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 221 |
| 2029-2030 | 22 | 25 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 24 | 18 | 21 | 15 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 224 |

Demographic Growth and Context

Cochrane is one of Alberta’s fastest-growing communities, experiencing sustained and significant population growth over the past decade. The 2021 federal census recorded a population of 32,199, representing a 24.5% increase since 2016 and ranking Cochrane as the fastest-growing municipality in Alberta at that time (and 11th in Canada).

This trend has continued, with municipal data indicating a population of 37,011 in 2024 and approximately 39,397 in 2025. Growth remains consistent at around 5% annually, with projections exceeding 40,000 residents by the end of 2025. This rapid expansion, driven by family migration, proximity to Calgary, and Cochrane’s appeal as a mid-sized community, has significantly increased the number of eligible Francophone rights-holders.

Current Situation and Facility Limitations

Despite this growth, Cochrane does not have a dedicated French-language Catholic secondary school. Francophone Catholic students currently attend École Notre-Dame des Vallées (K-12), a facility originally designed as a K-8 school and not equipped to support full secondary programming.

The school lacks essential infrastructure, including purpose-built CTS spaces, adequate science facilities (with the existing lab subdivided to create additional classroom space), a full-sized gymnasium, sufficient outdoor athletic fields, and the physical presence of a true secondary school.

These limitations contribute to low retention rates at key transition points (Grades 6-7 and 8-9), as the facility does not present as a viable long-term secondary option.

Need for a Dedicated Secondary Facility

Given Cochrane’s sustained growth and the established Francophone population base identified in the 2021 Census, the need for a dedicated Catholic secondary school (Grades 7-12) is clear.

A new facility would provide accessible, high-quality programming in a modern environment, including specialized classrooms, appropriate athletic facilities, and learning spaces aligned with Alberta Education standards. This would ensure substantive equivalence with English-language Catholic schools in the community.

Site Identification

FrancoSud has collaborated closely with the Town of Cochrane to secure a site for this project. **As the result of a Special Council Meeting held on March 30, 2026, the Town is in support of officially transferring the northern Southbow Landing school site to FrancoSud as soon as planning or design funding is received from the provincial government.**

This site presents a near shovel-ready opportunity, with recent grading completed and servicing infrastructure expected in the near term. Its size aligns well with our operational needs, while its proximity to existing and planned school facilities offers opportunities for shared amenities. Strategically located, the site ensures strong accessibility for students, families, and transportation services. In addition, appropriate zoning is already in place, minimizing potential delays related to land use approvals.

Summary

Site identification is completed and this project must now move forward. Establishing this new school will reduce travel times, improve student retention and provide Francophone Catholic families with a local, viable secondary option. This project represents a sustainable, forward-looking investment that aligns with demographic trends and supports the long-term vitality of the Francophone community in Cochrane.





CANMORE FRANCOPHONE SCHOOL COMPLEX

Canmore – site to be determined | Current total capacity 225 students | ACU 87%

PROJECT TYPE | SCHOOL TYPE

New build Catholic

YEAR LISTED IN CAPITAL PLAN

2019

STATUS

Currently in Planning stage

Right-holders in Catchment area (Census 2021)

460 eligible Francophone students
0-18 years old

GRADES | CAPACITY

K-6 & 7-12 475 students

Enrollment History & Projection

| Year | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 2020-2021 | 32 | 9 | 20 | 14 | 19 | 21 | 13 | 17 | 11 | 18 | 13 | 12 | 7 | 206 |
| 2021-2022 | 14 | 31 | 11 | 20 | 14 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 19 | 6 | 18 | 12 | 12 | 207 |
| 2022-2023 | 13 | 14 | 32 | 11 | 21 | 16 | 18 | 17 | 10 | 15 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 187 |
| 2023-2024 | 17 | 12 | 15 | 33 | 10 | 22 | 17 | 13 | 16 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 182 |
| 2024-2025 | 18 | 19 | 14 | 19 | 34 | 10 | 20 | 17 | 11 | 14 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 196 |
| 2025-2026 | 19 | 16 | 19 | 16 | 17 | 34 | 9 | 19 | 17 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 185 |
| 2026-2027 | 19 | 16 | 20 | 16 | 18 | 35 | 10 | 20 | 18 | 6 | 12 | 12 | 10 | 212 |
| 2027-2028 | 20 | 17 | 20 | 17 | 18 | 36 | 10 | 20 | 18 | 6 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 219 |
| 2028-2029 | 20 | 17 | 21 | 17 | 19 | 37 | 10 | 21 | 19 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 225 |
| 2029-2030 | 21 | 18 | 21 | 18 | 19 | 38 | 10 | 21 | 19 | 7 | 14 | 14 | 11 | 231 |

Demographic Growth and Context

Since 2021, Canmore’s population has grown from 15,990 to an estimated 17,137 in 2024, representing a 7.1% increase. Annual growth has stabilized at approximately 2–3% in recent years, driven by tourism, the rise of remote work, and continued family relocation. This steady expansion has significantly increased demand for French first-language education, particularly among eligible rights-holders.

Looking ahead, growth is expected to accelerate. Major developments such as Three Sisters and Smith Creek are projected to bring an additional 10,000 to 15,000 residents to Canmore over the next two decades. While this growth will occur gradually, it highlights the need for long-term infrastructure planning that can accommodate future demand and avoid the need for repeated expansions or interim solutions.

Current Facility and Capacity Constraints

École Notre-Dame-des-Monts (NDM), FrancoSud’s only Francophone school in Canmore, operates in a co-located facility shared with Our Lady of the Snows (OLS) of the Christ the Redeemer Catholic Division. Despite recent expansions, including a new secondary wing for NDM and additional portable classrooms for OLS, the shared facility has reached, and in some areas exceeded, its practical capacity.

What was once a viable interim solution has become increasingly unsustainable. High enrolment in both schools has reduced access to shared

spaces, limited programming flexibility, and negatively impacted the overall student experience.

Impact on Enrolment and Student Experience

The consequences are already evident. In the 2022–2023 school year, NDM experienced a decline in enrolment, as families increasingly turned to alternative options due to overcrowding, limited access to facilities, and the lack of dedicated Francophone space. Parents and students have expressed growing concern regarding restricted access to specialized rooms, reduced extracurricular opportunities, and an environment that does not fully support a thriving Francophone educational experience.

Proposed Solution: Dedicated School Complex

FrancoSud recognizes this situation as a critical risk to the long-term viability of French first-language education in Canmore. Continued population growth, combined with the limitations of the current facility, requires a permanent and forward-looking solution.



FrancoSud is therefore advancing plans for a dedicated Francophone school complex in Canmore, with a K-6 and 7-12 configuration.

This purpose-built facility would provide:

- Adequate instructional and specialized spaces (science labs, CTS rooms)
- A full-sized gymnasium and outdoor athletic facilities
- Modern learning environments aligned with Alberta Education standards
- A culturally affirming setting that supports Francophone identity and community vitality

Community School Approach

The proposed facility is envisioned as a true community school, designed to serve both students and the broader Francophone population. The school will include flexible and accessible spaces that can be used for cultural events, community gatherings, recreational activities, and partnerships with local organizations. This approach will strengthen the school's role as a central hub for Francophone life in the Bow Valley and enhance community engagement.

Site Identification

FrancoSud continues to work closely with the Town of Canmore, local stakeholders, and provincial partners to identify and secure a suitable site

for this project. Access to an appropriate site remains the primary challenge and a critical factor in advancing the project. Numerous discussions have taken place with both the municipality and the Government of Alberta, and these collaborative efforts are ongoing. FrancoSud is actively exploring all viable options and remains committed to working with partners to secure a location that meets zoning, accessibility, and long-term growth requirements.

Summary

A dedicated Francophone school complex in Canmore is essential to address current capacity challenges, reverse enrolment decline, and eliminate barriers to access. It also represents a long-term investment aligned with projected population growth, ensuring infrastructure is in place to support the community for decades to come.

This project will not only preserve but strengthen French first-language education in the Bow Valley, providing a sustainable, high-quality learning environment for current and future generations.



CHESTERMERE FRANCOPHONE SCHOOL COMPLEX

Chestermere – site to be determined

PROJECT TYPE | SCHOOL TYPE

New build Catholic

YEAR LISTED IN CAPITAL PLAN

2019

STATUS

Currently in Pre-Planning stage

Right-holders in Catchment area (Census 2021)

640 eligible Francophone students 0-18 years old

GRADES | CAPACITY

K-6 & 7-12 475 students

Right-holders in Catchment area

| | 0-4 years old | 5-11 years old | 12-18 years old |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Chestermere | 60 | 130 | 105 |
| Strathmore | 40 | 70 | 60 |
| Wheatland county | 15 | 25 | 30 |
| Rocky View County East | 35 | 85 | 85 |
| TOTAL (640) | 150 | 310 | 280 |

Demographic Growth and Context

Chestermere, one of the fastest-growing communities east of Calgary, is experiencing exceptional and sustained population growth. The population increased from 22,163 in the 2021 federal census to 28,129 in the 2024

municipal census (City of Chestermere, November 2024), representing a

27% increase in just three years and an average annual growth rate of approximately 11.4%.

Projections indicate the population will exceed 32,000 by 2029, driven by continued residential expansion, proximity to Calgary, and significant economic development in Rocky View County. This growth is attracting new families, including an increasing number of Francophone rights-holders.

Current Situation and Access Challenges

Historically, Francophone education has been absent within Chestermere. Until recently, eligible families had no local French first-language public option and were required to commute to Calgary.

The nearest elementary school, École La Mosaïque (Northeast Calgary), is operating above capacity (over 103%), while the only junior-secondary option, École La Rose Sauvage (Northwest Calgary), is also nearing capacity (85%). Commutes of 60 to 90 minutes each way have created significant barriers to enrolment, student well-being, and the preservation of Francophone language and culture.

Interim Program and Early Impact

In response to strong demand from local families, FrancoSud launched a Francophone education program in September 2025 to serve students from Chestermere, Strathmore, Langdon, and surrounding areas in Rocky View County. As an initial step, *L'école de l'Oasis* (Chestermere) program was temporarily housed at École La Source in Calgary while renovations were completed at the Chestermere Regional Community Association (CRCA) to create a learning environment adapted to student needs.

On March 31, 2026, families will mark an important milestone as students begin attending classes in this newly established local space. This transition represents a significant step forward, allowing students to access Francophone education closer to home without the burden of long bus commutes.

Currently serving 35 students in, this school is already demonstrating strong growth, with enrolment projected to reach approximately 50 to 60 students as soon as next year. Transportation times have been reduced from over one hour to approximately 30–40 minutes, significantly improving accessibility. This increased proximity is helping to reverse enrolment losses to English-language programs and strengthening the Francophone presence in this rapidly growing region.

Economic Drivers and Future Growth

Regional growth is being further accelerated by major economic developments. The expansion of De Havilland Canada's operations in the Calgary region, including a strong presence in Rocky View County, is attracting skilled workers and families from across Canada, including Francophone households.

In addition, the proposed Western Corridor Railway project is expected to stimulate further industrial and residential development throughout the region, including Chestermere and surrounding communities. These factors will contribute to sustained population growth and increasing demand for French first-language education.

Need for a Permanent School Complex

While the current four-classroom configuration inside the CRCA provides essential short-term capacity, it remains a transitional solution. The scale and pace of growth in Chestermere clearly demonstrate the need for a permanent, purpose-built K-12 Francophone public school complex.

A dedicated facility would :

- Provide modern, purpose-built learning environments, including science labs, CTS spaces, arts facilities, a full gymnasium, and outdoor recreational areas
- Significantly reduce travel times, improving student well-being, engagement, and retention
- Serve as a vibrant community hub that supports Francophone identity, language, and culture
- Ensure substantive equivalence with neighbouring English-language schools and fulfill constitutional obligations under Section 23

Site Identification

FrancoSud is actively collaborating with the City of Chestermere and local developers to identify and secure a suitable site. These discussions are progressing positively, with site evaluation and acquisition efforts moving toward a viable long-term solution aligned with growth, accessibility, and planning requirements.

Summary

The current school program in Chestermere represents a critical first step, significantly reducing transportation times and rebuilding enrolment momentum. However, it remains an interim measure. With no permanent Francophone schools serving communities east of Calgary and Strathmore and with existing Calgary schools already at or beyond capacity the development of a full K-12 school complex is an urgent priority. This investment will ensure long-term, sustainable access to French first-language education and support the continued growth and vitality of the Francophone community in this rapidly expanding region.



ÉCOLE LA VÉRENDRYE MODERNIZATION

625 21 Street South, Lethbridge | Current total capacity 411 students | ACU 59%

PROJECT TYPE | SCHOOL TYPE

Modernization / Capacity increase | Public

YEAR LISTED IN CAPITAL PLAN

2024

STATUS

Currently in Pre-Planning stage

Right-holders in Catchment area (Census 2021)

1055 eligible Francophone students 0-18 years old

GRADES | PROPOSED CAPACITY

K-12 | 515 students

Enrollment History & Projection

| Year | K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | Total |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 2020-2021 | 21 | 25 | 16 | 15 | 18 | 21 | 23 | 13 | 16 | 16 | 6 | 12 | 10 | 212 |
| 2021-2022 | 20 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 19 | 22 | 11 | 11 | 13 | 4 | 12 | 190 |
| 2022-2023 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 17 | 14 | 18 | 22 | 26 | 11 | 10 | 13 | 4 | 220 |
| 2023-2024 | 18 | 19 | 19 | 18 | 23 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 20 | 24 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 228 |
| 2024-2025 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 17 | 19 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 9 | 11 | 211 |
| 2025-2026 | 22 | 18 | 15 | 18 | 18 | 21 | 17 | 15 | 18 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 201 |
| 2026-2027 | 21 | 19 | 16 | 18 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 19 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 212 |
| 2027-2028 | 21 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 21 | 19 | 19 | 17 | 20 | 18 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 223 |
| 2028-2029 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 19 | 23 | 18 | 20 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 233 |
| 2029-2030 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 24 | 17 | 21 | 19 | 21 | 25 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 241 |

Facility Background and Limitations

École La Vérendrye faces significant infrastructure challenges due to its age and original design. Built in 1952 as Allan Watson School, the facility reflects a mid-century model with large classrooms intended to accommodate over 30 students. While generous in size, this layout results in a limited number of instructional spaces, restricting flexibility and program delivery.

The building was vacated in 1985 and later repurposed for Francophone education in 2003, with a major renovation completed in 2010. Despite these improvements, the facility, now over 70 years old, was never designed to support a full K-12 program and lacks many of the features required for contemporary secondary education.

Program Gaps and Substantive Equivalence

The current configuration limits the school's ability to deliver a comprehensive and competitive K-12 program aligned with modern expectations. Compared to neighbouring anglophone schools, École La Vérendrye does not provide equivalent access to Career and Technology Studies (CTS) programming.

The absence of purpose-built workshops, tools, and specialized spaces for areas such as mechanics, construction, and welding significantly restricts hands-on learning and career preparation opportunities. Similarly, arts programming including music, visual arts, and drama is constrained by the lack of dedicated studios and appropriate facilities, limiting the richness of the student experience.

Recent Investments and Opportunity

The recent modernization of the gymnasium represents a significant step forward. This upgraded facility will enhance physical education, student engagement, and retention, and is expected to be fully operational for the 2026–2027 school year.

This investment creates an opportunity to build on existing improvements and advance a comprehensive modernization and expansion project that brings the school closer to substantive equivalence with neighbouring majority-language schools.

Proposed Modernization and Expansion

The proposed project includes the addition of a dedicated secondary wing designed to support Grades 7–12 programming.

This new space would include:

- Purpose-built CTS workshops and equipment for skilled trades
- Science laboratories and specialized learning environments
- Arts studios and flexible spaces for creative and collaborative learning

At the same time, the existing building would be reconfigured to better support elementary programming (K–6), improving functionality, space utilization, and overall learning conditions. This approach would create distinct, age-appropriate environments for elementary and secondary students.

Demographic Growth and Enrolment Pressure

The need for this investment is reinforced by strong population growth in Lethbridge. The city's population increased from approximately 98,406 in 2016 to 106,271 in 2021, with recent estimates exceeding 110,000 residents. Lethbridge is also attracting an increasing number of Francophone families from Quebec, New Brunswick, and international contexts, resulting in a growing population of Section 23 rights-holders.

This demographic trend is driving enrolment demand and highlighting the need for modern, equivalent facilities that can support long-term growth.

Current Capacity and Functional Constraints

Although the school's Annual Capacity Utilization (ACU) currently sits at 59%, this figure reflects the limitations of an outdated facility rather than surplus capacity. The combination of oversized classrooms, limited specialized spaces, and aging infrastructure restricts the school's ability to deliver a full and high-quality K-12 program.

Rationale for Investment

A modernization and expansion project is essential to:

- Add a dedicated secondary wing with modern workshops, labs, and creative spaces
- Reconfigure the existing building to optimize elementary programming
- Improve space utilization and overall functionality

- Create distinct, purpose-built environments aligned with current educational standards
- Ensure substantive equivalence with neighbouring anglophone schools
- Leverage the newly upgraded gymnasium as part of a cohesive, modern school complex

Summary

Through targeted modernization and the addition of a new secondary wing, École La Vérendrye can be transformed into a modern, adaptable K-12 school that meets the evolving needs of Lethbridge's Francophone community.

This project represents a strategic investment in equitable access to high-quality French first-language education. It will strengthen program delivery, support student success, and contribute to the long-term growth and vitality of the Francophone community in southern Alberta.

For additional details, please refer to the Feasibility Report prepared by Iwanski architecture.

[Feasibility Report – École La Vérendrye Modernization](#)

CONCLUSION

The enrolment trends and population projections presented in this document highlight a vibrant and expanding Francophone community in Southern Alberta. This growth reflects a strong commitment among families to high-quality Francophone education. Through collaboration with Alberta Education, Alberta Infrastructure, and other provincial ministries, FrancoSud has made meaningful progress in expanding access to Francophone programming. Today, these programs better serve families across urban, suburban, and rural communities. FrancoSud values these partnerships deeply, as they have enabled the development of new facilities and program enhancements that strengthen educational opportunities across the region.

FrancoSud also works closely with the municipalities and communities that host our schools. When planning new educational facilities, our goal is not only to meet the needs of our students but also to contribute to the vitality of the broader community. We are proud to partner with towns and cities to create schools that serve as welcoming spaces and community hubs, supporting both educational and local activities.

Challenges remain in closing coverage gaps, reducing travel times for students, and addressing capacity pressures. However, the progress achieved to date demonstrates a promising path toward equitable access to Francophone education. With continued support, FrancoSud will further develop learning environments comparable to those offered within majority-language school systems. This commitment strengthens Alberta's diverse education system and supports the long-term vitality of Francophone communities across the province.

A review of this document, from capital needs and community hubs to partnerships, project details, and enrolment projections, reveals a clear and consistent theme: FrancoSud's efforts are focused on building a sustainable and vibrant future for French-language education in Southern Alberta. Our priorities are informed by 2021 Census data and current demographic trends, allowing us to balance immediate infrastructure needs with long-term planning objectives. The 2026 Census will provide additional insights to further align planning and resource allocation with evolving community realities.

Advancing the proposed projects outlined in this plan will be essential. These include new schools in growth areas, modernization of aging facilities, and school complexes in underserved regions. Together, these initiatives present Alberta with an opportunity to close infrastructure gaps and deliver educational environments that meet the expectations of Francophone families. Prioritizing these investments demonstrates leadership in cultural preservation and educational equity, ensuring that Francophone students have access to modern facilities, strong programs, and equitable opportunities to thrive academically, socially, and culturally.

FrancoSud looks forward to continuing this work in partnership with the province and local communities. With sustained support, we can build a stronger and more inclusive Francophone education system, one that benefits students, families, communities, and Alberta for generations to come.

SOURCES

- [Statistics Canada – 2021 Census of Population \(Data Tables and Profiles\)](#)
- [Statistics Canada – 2021 Census of Population \(Eligibility for instruction in the minority official language\)](#)
- [Government of Alberta – Population Projections and Regional Data Dashboard](#)
- [Government of Alberta – Alberta Regional Dashboard](#)
- [Town of Cochrane – Growth Study \(2024\)](#)
- [Three Sisters Mountain Village Area Structure Plan \(Canmore\)](#)
- [Smith Creek Area Structure Plan \(Canmore\)](#)
- [Calgary and Region – Economic Outlook 2025-2030 \(Fall 2025\)](#)
- [City of Calgary – Area Structure Plans](#)
- [BR2 Architecture - Pre-Design Report - Panorama Hills Francophone Senior High-School \(2025\)](#)
- [POTA Architecture - Pre-Design Report - Coral Springs Francophone Junior High School \(2026\)](#)
- [Iwanski Architecture - Conceptual Design Report - École de la Rose sauvage Modernization \(2025\)](#)
- [BR2 Architecture - Feasibility Study - École de la Source Modernization \(2026\)](#)
- [Stantec Architecture - Pre-Schematic Design Report - Calgary SW Francophone K-6 School \(2026\)](#)
- [Iwanski Architecture - Feasibility Report - École La Vérendrye Modernization \(2026\)](#)
- [GGA-Architecture - Planning Report - Hamptons K-9 Francophone School \(2025\)](#)

2027-2030



Three-Year Capital Plan

CONSEIL SCOLAIRE FRANCOSUD
APRIL 2026

● 2027

● 2028

● 2029

● 2030

