

SPACE for STUDENTS

Unless new schools are approved for construction, the overall utilization rate in RVS schools will exceed 100 per cent by 2026/27.



Did You Know?

- One-third of RVS' classrooms are modular; 9,775 students learn in modular classrooms.
- RVS has requested a staggering 32 new modular units just to keep up with enrolment growth in Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane.
- No new modular units were approved for RVS in 2022.
- Once government approves a new school or an addition it takes from two to four years to plan and build.
- RVS' student population grows by 750 – 1,000 students annually, enough to fill one to two new schools each year.
- Student enrolment in RVS increased by 91 per cent from 2001 to 2021.
- Among Alberta communities with populations over 10,000 people, Cochrane and Airdrie are the two fastest growing, with Chestermere in ninth, according to recently released census data.
- Our communities have experienced extraordinary population growth from 2001 to 2021:
 - Airdrie – 256 per cent
 - Chestermere – 429 per cent
 - Cochrane – 171 per cent
- 23 of RVS' schools are currently full; the number of full schools will grow to 39 by 2026.
- RVS students come from a wide and diverse geographic area in rural and urban locations.

RVS urgently needs more space for students.

Airdrie

- The utilization rate of all three of Airdrie's high schools is currently 104 per cent.
- The last Airdrie high school opened in 2014.
- By 2023, two of the three high schools in Airdrie had a total of thirteen freestanding modular units in the fields next to the schools.
- W.H. Croxford, the newest of the high schools, is expected to have a 140 per cent utilization rate by 2025.
- Airdrie will not have a new school open for a span of at least six years, during which time enrolment in the city's elementary and middle schools will have increased by 1,900 Kindergarten – Grade 8 (K – 8) students.
- From 2016 to 2022, the student population in Airdrie increased by about 600 students annually.
- In 2026 – the earliest RVS could open a new school – there will already be a shortage of 178 student spaces in Airdrie.
- The utilization rate in Airdrie's K – 8 schools will rise to 102 per cent by 2026 without the addition of new student spaces.

Cochrane

- In five years, an additional 1,000 K – 8 students will attend RVS schools in Cochrane.
- RVS is experiencing student population growth of approximately 300 students annually in the area, requiring a new school every two to three years in Cochrane just to keep up with this growth.
- By 2025, the utilization rate in Cochrane's K – 8 schools will exceed 105 per cent.
- Cochrane's high schools are already at 108 per cent utilization; even with the addition to Bow Valley High School – projected to open in 2025 – overall utilization will be 103 per cent in 2026.

Chestermere

- The last new school to open in Chestermere (East Lake School) was in 2014, nine years ago.
- RVS is expecting a surge of new students in Chestermere due to a significant increase in new housing starts in the community.
- Overall utilization in Chestermere's K – 9 schools is currently 103 per cent.
- The three elementary schools and one middle school in Chestermere all have the addition of modular classrooms, putting a strain on the core school facilities including CTF spaces, gyms and corridors.

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