



Candidate Information Session

September 25, 2025

Land Acknowledgment

Rocky View Schools would like to acknowledge the land and recognize all the Indigenous Peoples whose footprints have marked these lands from time immemorial. Together, we can learn and honour the Ways of Knowing of Indigenous Peoples for all future generations.

Agenda

- Introductions
- About Rocky View Schools (RVS)
- RVS Education Plan 2023 – 2027
- Enrolment Growth & Capacity
- Capital Plan
 - Challenges
 - School Project Updates
- Audited Financial Statement & Budget
- Board Advocacy Priorities
- Board & Trustee Roles
- Time Commitment
- Important Meeting Dates
- Trustee Election Website
- Election Finances/Contributions
 - Candidate Duties
 - After the Election
- Advertising
- Signage
- Candidate Forums
- Education Act
- Question & Answer Period

About RVS

Vision

Rocky View Schools is a world-class learning organization where all students achieve their absolute best.

Purpose

Rocky View Schools connects with all students to ensure everyone learns, belongs and succeeds.



29,200+ students and growing by 500 – 1,000+ students every year



53 schools



3,000+ staff



5th largest school division in Alberta (student population)



207,000+ residents represented



82 languages commonly spoken by families



13% of students speak English as an additional language



Includes **4,500+ square kilometres** of land

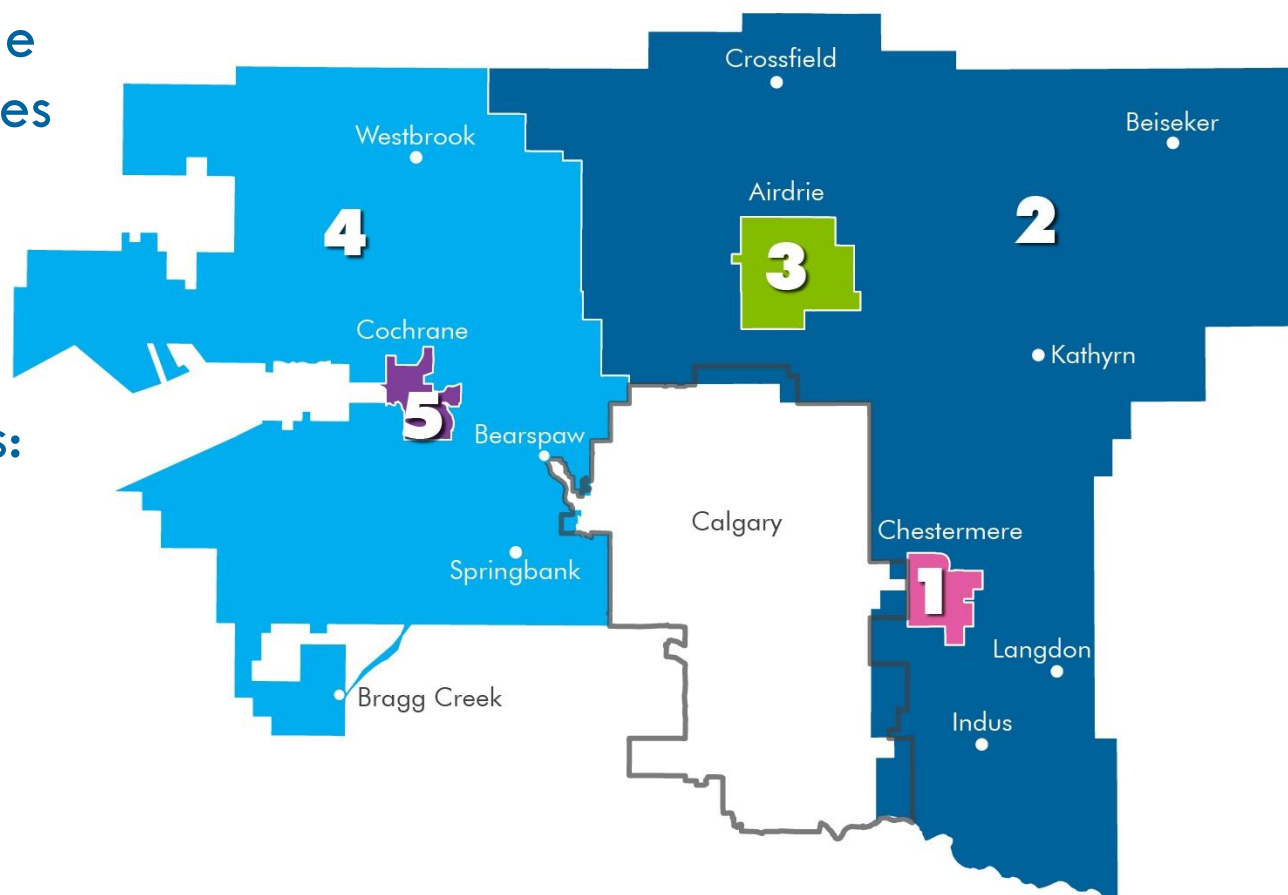


Encompassing **urban and rural communities** to the west, north and east of Calgary

Situated on the traditional territories of the **Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta** including the **Siksikaitsitapi (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani, Amskapi Pikuni)**, the **Tsuut'ina**, the **Îyâxe Nakoda Nations (Bears paw, Chiniki, Goodstoney)**, and **Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta District 4**

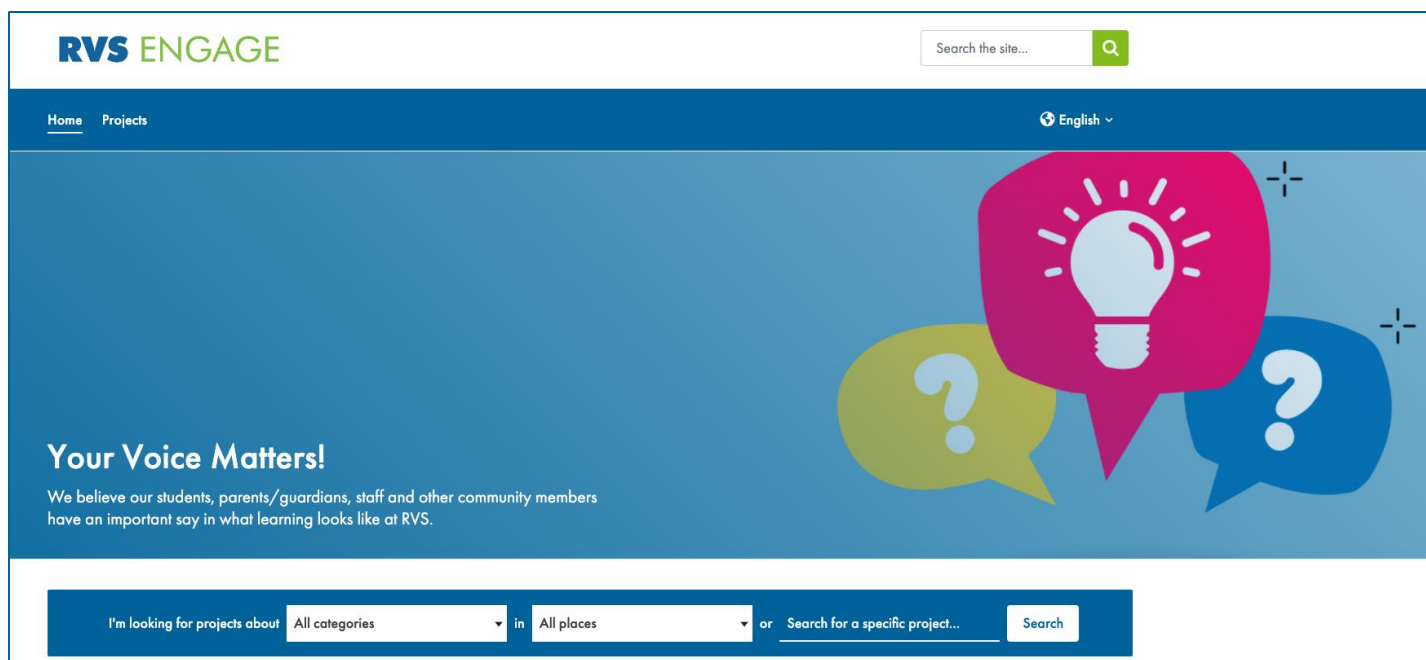
About Rocky View Schools

- Largest school division outside of the two major municipalities in Alberta
- Blend of rural and urban communities
- Eight trustees and five wards:
 - Ward 1 – One trustee
 - Ward 2 – One trustee
 - Ward 3 – Three trustees
 - Ward 4 – One trustee
 - Ward 5 – Two trustees
- \$344 million+ organization



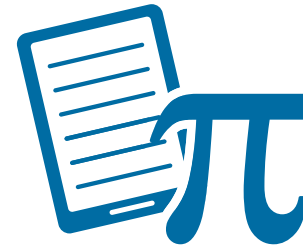
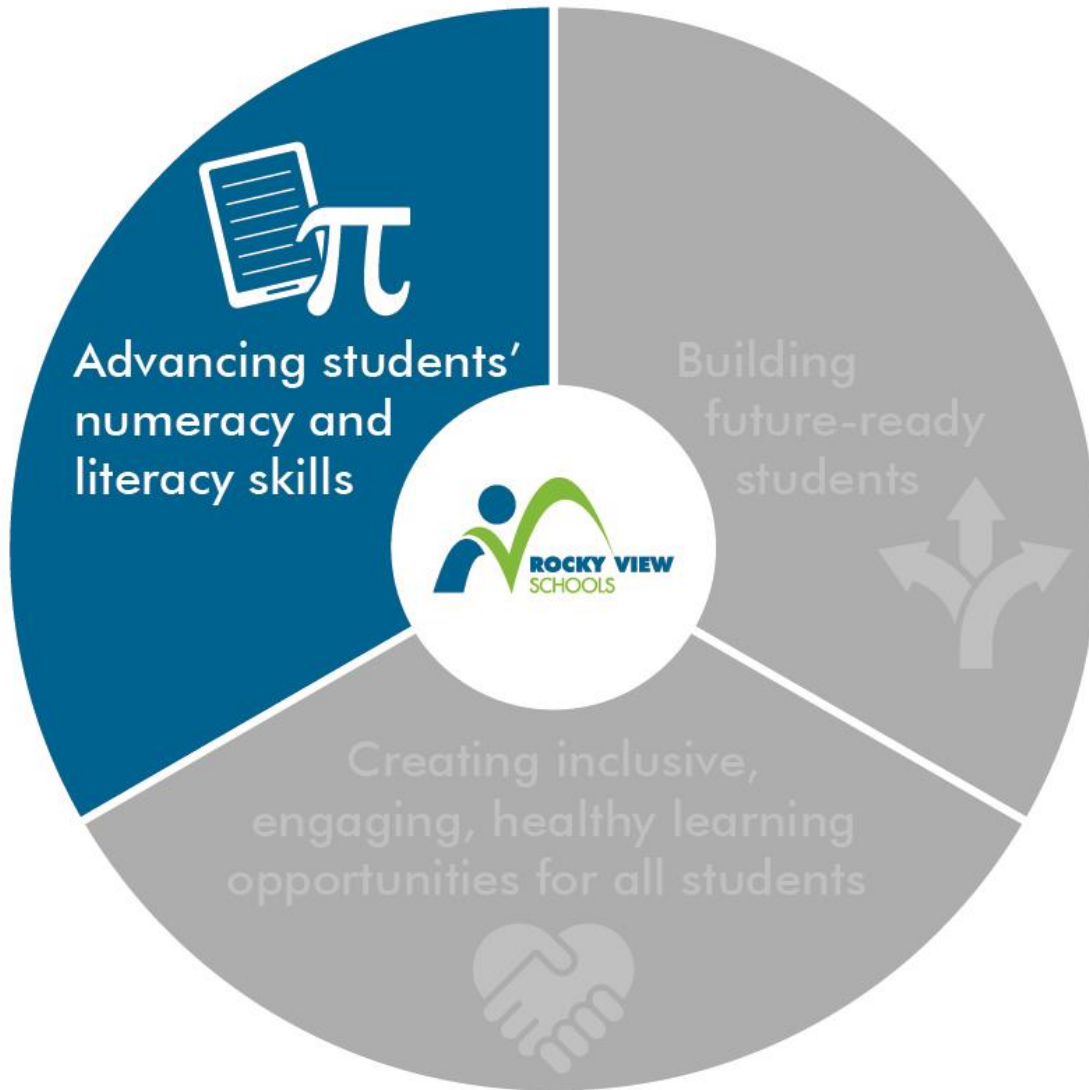
RVS' Engagement Hub

Clear, timely and coordinated community engagement is critical to transparency and good decision-making. [RVSEngage](#) is our online engagement platform.



2023 – 2027 Education Plan: Focus on the Future

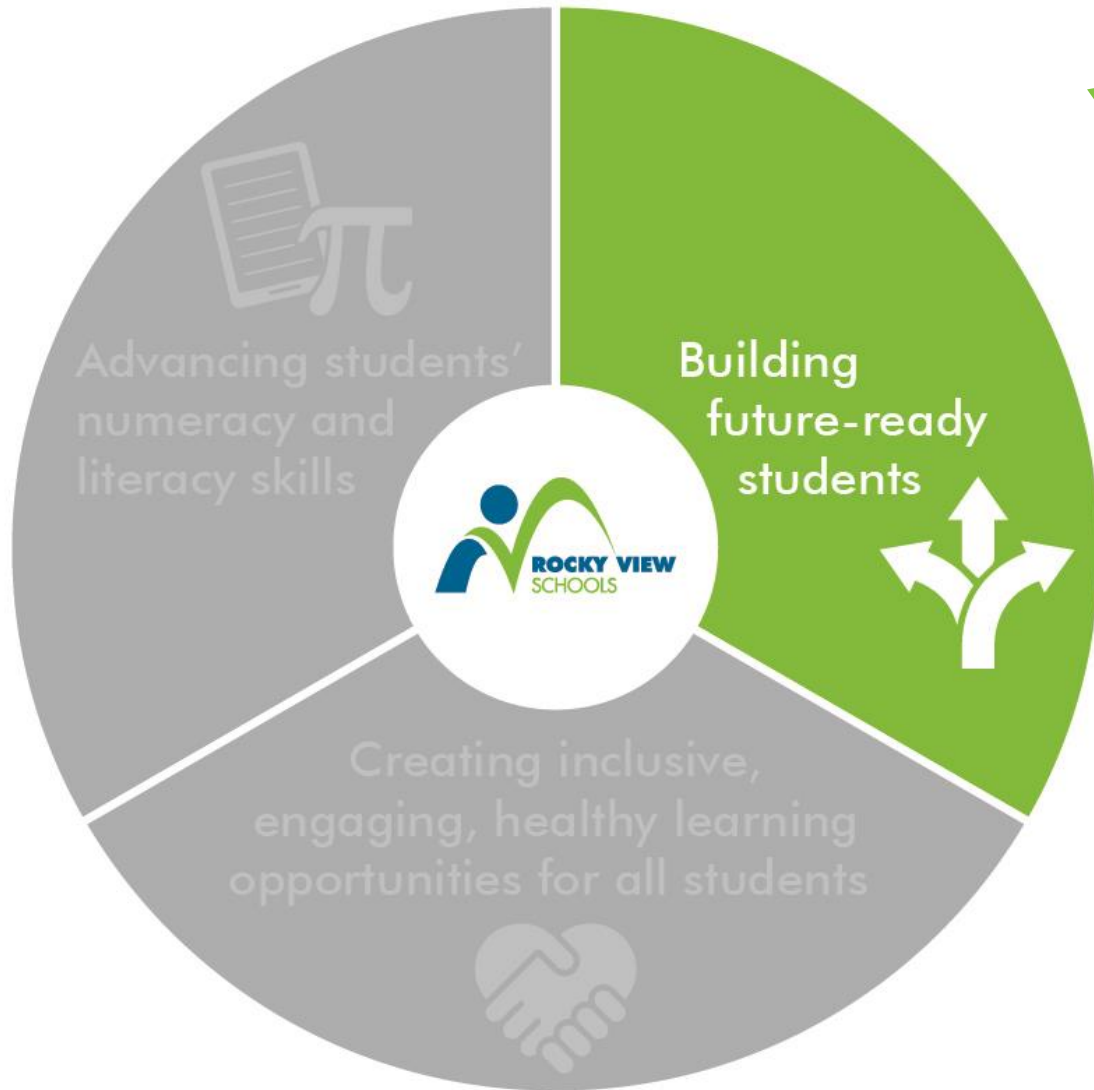
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Numeracy and literacy skills remain the cornerstone of learning; building these skills in students is critical for all our teachers. RVS is committed to using proven, research-based, effective strategies to help students read, write and perform math. Our AERR will showcase the results of this focus.

2023 – 2027 Education Plan: Focus on the Future

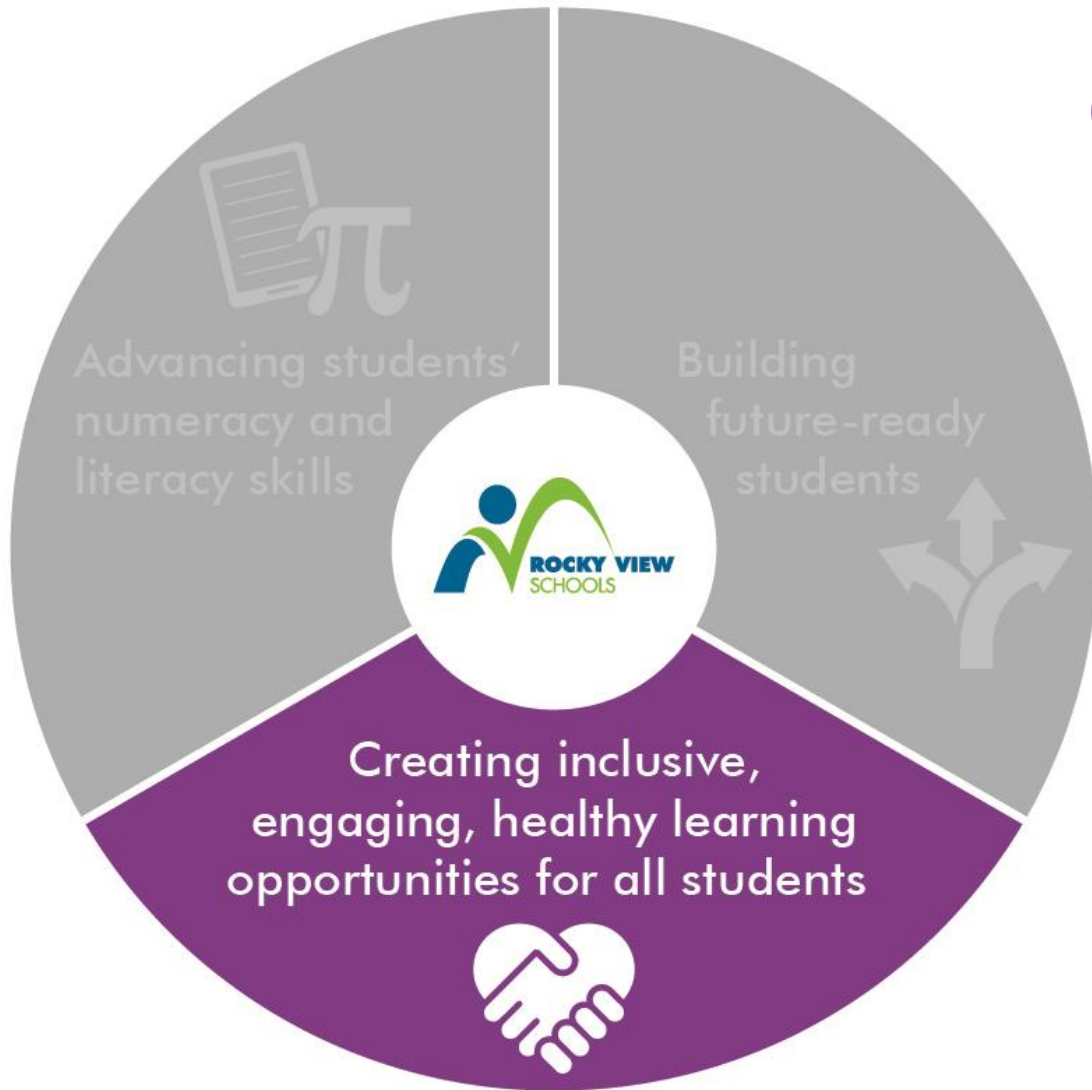
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RVS students will be ready for the future, in any path they choose. This will be accomplished through the achievement of Alberta student competencies: critical thinking, communication, problem solving, collaboration, managing information, cultural and global citizenship, creativity and innovation, and personal growth and well-being.

2023 – 2027 Education Plan: Focus on the Future

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While focusing on numeracy, literacy and critical student competencies, RVS students will also find joy and engagement in their learning. Consistent teaching practices help to create positive and inclusive learning experiences for everyone; RVS will use division practice guides to assist with this to help create inclusive, engaging and healthy learning opportunities for all.

Enrolment Growth & Capacity

- Average enrolment increase is 2 – 4 per cent/year for the last four years
- Expected to increase to more than 31,000 students by 2028

School Utilizations

Overall RVS	84%
Airdrie	94%
Chestermere/Indus/Langdon	80%
Cochrane/Westbrook/Bearspaw	89%
Bragg Creek/Springbank	74%
Crossfield	83%
Beiseker/Kathryn	56%

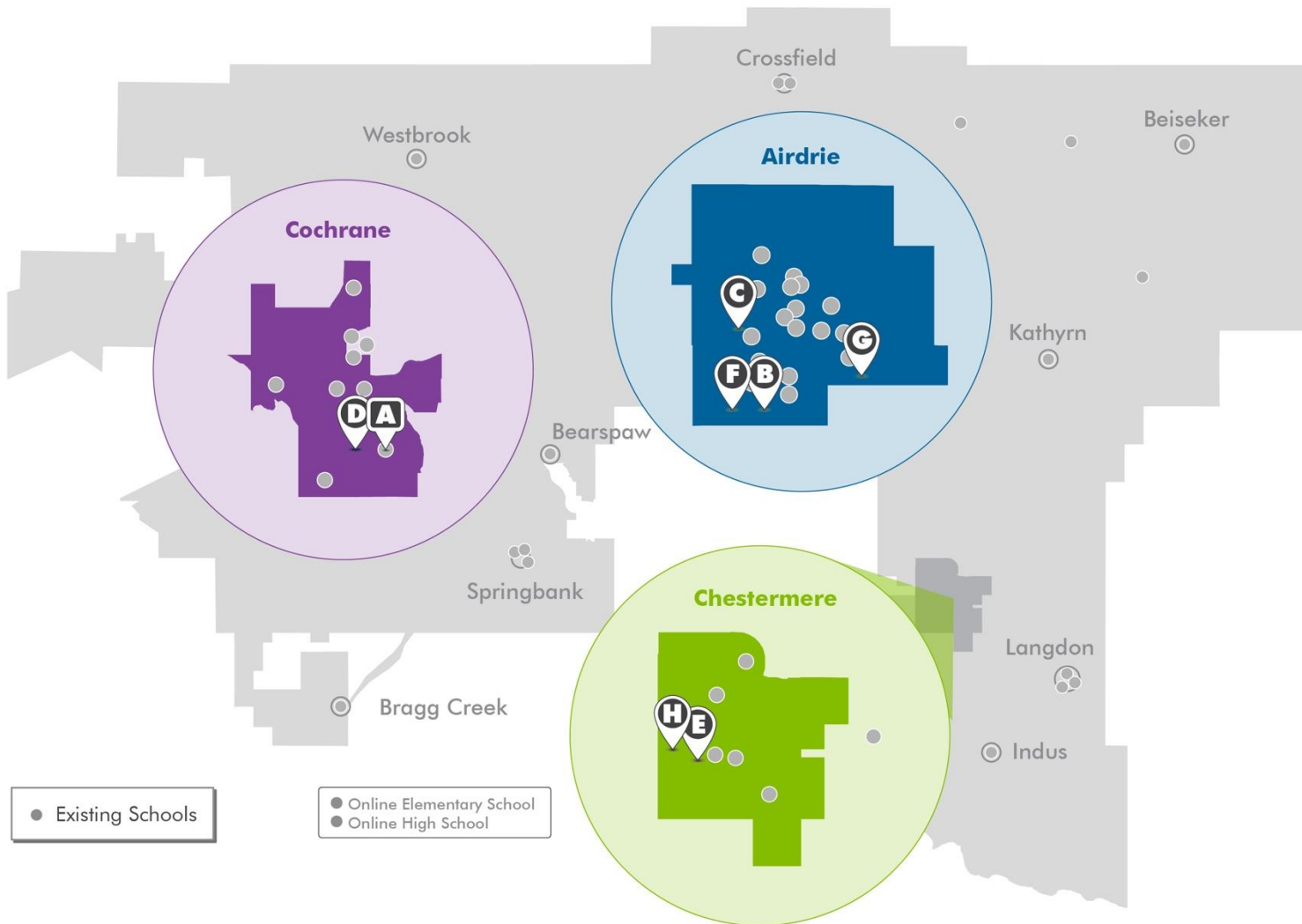
Capital Plan

- Each school division in the province submits its list to the Government of Alberta each March
- Provincial government decides what, if anything, to fund
- Before RVS can place a project near the top of the priority list, the local municipality and developer must have site ready and transferred to RVS
- Modular classrooms are another mechanism used to address utilization pressures

Capital Priority List

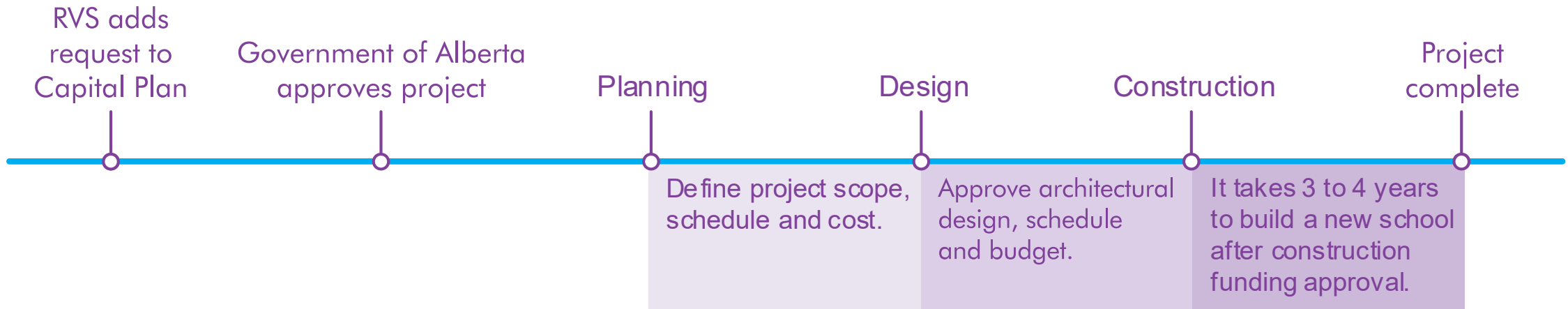
2026 Budget Request	Capital Project	Build Out Capacity	Community	Project Classification	Site Readiness Status
1	Cochrane 9 – 12	1,525	Horse Creek	New School	Fall 2025
2	Cochrane K – 8	950	Heartland	New School	Ready
3	Airdrie 7 – 9	1,045	Cobblestone Creek	New School	Spring 2026
2027 Budget Request	Capital Project	Build Out Capacity	Community	Project Classification	Site Readiness Status
4	Chestermere K – 9	815	Clearwater Park	New School	2026
5	Crossfield K – 8	680	Vista Crossing	New School	2026
2028 Budget Request	Capital Project	Build Out Capacity	Community	Project Classification	Site Readiness Status
6	Airdrie K – 9	905	Wildflower/ Vantage Rise	New School	TBD
7	Springbank Middle	280	Springbank	Addition	Ready

School Projects Update



A	Expansion/Modernization Bow Valley High School	Underway
B	K – 9 School South Windsong, Airdrie	Construction Funding
C	K – 9 School Bayview, Airdrie	Construction Funding
D	K – 8 School Rivercrest, Cochrane	Construction Funding
E	K – 9 School Dawson's Landing, Chestermere	Construction Funding
F	High School Southwinds, Airdrie	Construction Funding
G	K – 9 School Lanark, Airdrie	Planning Funding
H	High School Chelsea, Chestermere	Planning Funding

School Project Process



2023/24 Audited Financial Statement

- **Revenues** = \$314.7 million
- **Expenditures** = \$314.2 million
 - Largest expenditure = \$185.7 million (teacher salaries and benefits)
 - Board Governance and System Administration = 2.85 per cent / \$8.9 million
- Approximately \$6.2 million in total operating reserves (excluding transportation)
- Clean audit opinion from external, independent auditors

2025/2026 Budget Priorities

- Provide direct resources to schools to support student learning with a focus on numeracy, literacy and new curriculum implementation
- Support student and staff wellness
- Enhance facilities and technology infrastructure
- Target an operating reserve balance at the end of the 2025/26 fiscal year, excluding transportation, at 1 to 2 per cent

2025/2026 Budget

- Maximizing every dollar of our budget to enhance student learning and success.
- The majority of RVS's budget is directed straight to schools—funding classroom staffing, core learning supports, inclusion, Indigenous education, wellness, technology, and school resources.
- Every instructional dollar RVS receives is spent to directly support learning. Zero instructional dollars are spent on division operations.
- Focusing funding directly into classrooms, RVS will allocate \$221.8 million to schools plus an additional \$50.6 million managed centrally.
- Total teaching staff for 2025/26 is 1,346. Including school administrators, the total FTE is 1,430.

2025/2026 Budget continued

- With rising inflation and increasing core costs of school division operations, budget and service pressures will continue to be felt across RVS for this coming year given the modest increase in funding from the government.
- Maintains a lean budget for system administration at 2.99 per cent prioritizing any additional spend in areas of greatest operational need.

Annual Education Results Report (AERR)

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2023/24 Annual Education Results Report



The AERR includes our performance measures related to RVS' Education Plan and highlights accomplishments and initiatives from the previous year.

2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan



2022 – 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Purpose

Rocky View Schools connects with all students to ensure everyone learns, belongs, and succeeds.

Vision

Rocky View Schools is a world-class learning organization where all students achieve their absolute best.

Priorities



Improving our students' learning



Strengthening our workforce



Bolstering our infrastructure



Connecting with our community

The 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan is driven by four priorities:

- Improving our students' learning
- Strengthening our workforce
- Bolstering our infrastructure
- Connecting with our community



SPACE for STUDENTS

Municipal and provincial governments must support growing school divisions in bolstering infrastructure where students and staff can thrive.

- **New Schools** – the provincial government must build new schools equal to the pace of increasing student populations.
- **School Sites** – municipalities must prioritize right-sized, shovel-ready sites for new schools in early phases of any development plans.
- **Modulars** – provincial government must fund modulars and relocations as necessary to provide needed classroom space.
- **Innovative and Well-maintained Schools** – provincial government must dedicate sufficient resources to address technology evolution and aging buildings.



SUPPORT for STUDENTS

Government must invest in the success of every student to ensure all students experience an education that is inclusive, safe and supportive.

- **Equitable Funding** – every student must be fully funded every year.
- **Classroom Complexity** – provincial government must invest significantly to support student success in increasingly complex classrooms.
- **Prioritize Public Education** – provincial government funding for public education must be prioritized and strengthened.
- **Mental Health** – services and resources for mental health and well-being must be increased to meet the evolving needs of our students and staff.

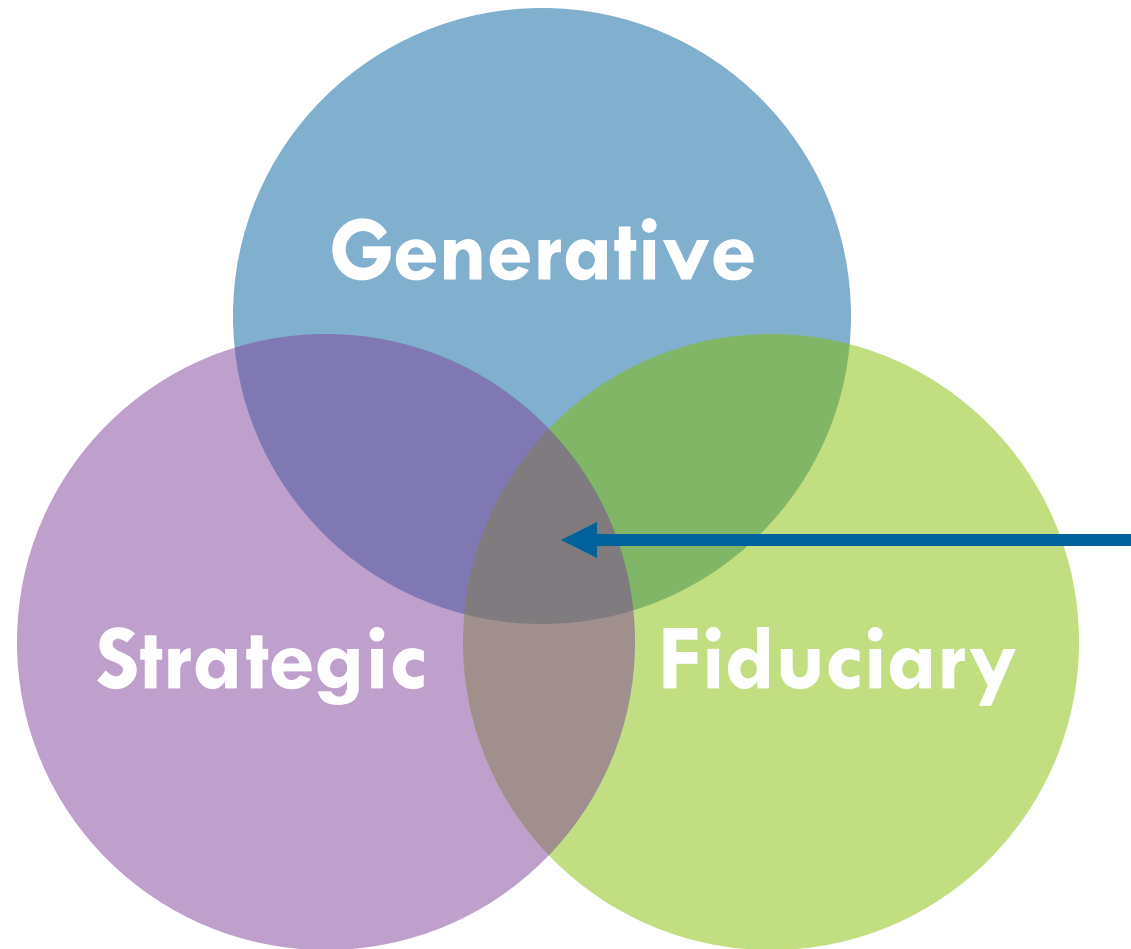
The Board's advocacy priorities reflect the goals and desired outcomes of the Strategic Plan. They also support the Board's vision of RVS as a world-class learning organization where all students achieve their absolute best.

Challenges

- Growth and high utilization of schools in urban areas
- Time it takes to build approved new schools
- Funding formula continues to disadvantage growing school divisions – every student needs to be fully funded every year
- Inflation
- Increasing complexity in classrooms and the need for additional funding to support student success
- A lack of services and resources for mental health and well-being to meet the evolving needs of students.
- Recruiting enough teachers within the budget available

School Board Roles and Responsibilities

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**Great
governance
happens here.**

School Board Roles and Responsibilities

Generative

- Develop divisional strategic plan
- Set educational goals and priorities
- Develop policy
- Identify budget priorities
- Develop school calendars
- Develop school councils
- Establish school boundaries
- Evaluate educational and operational outcomes

Strategic

- Advocate Board positions
- Identify outcomes and strategies
- Monitor educational and operational outcomes; refine course of action
- Establish specialized supports and services
- Build relationships with communities and municipal partners
- Provide process and opportunities for meaningful public engagement

Fiduciary

- Approve Education Plan
- Adopt annual budgets
- Approve audited financial statements
- Develop capital plans
- Adjudicate hearings
- Hire and evaluate the Superintendent
- Develop Trustee Code of Conduct

Policy 2: Role of the Board

Highlights

- Governing the Division through a policy framework while setting the strategic direction
- Overseeing the Division and creating the conditions for student, staff and organizational success
- Being accountable to the Minister of Education and the communities served by the Division for ensuring the delivery of quality education
- Providing assurance to the Minister of Education and the public that the Division is fulfilling its obligations
- Engaging to build understanding and allow for the sharing of values and viewpoints
- Advocating for the needs of the Division to provide the best support possible to enable student success

Policy 3: Role of the Trustee

Highlights

- Adhere to high ethical standards that build public trust and confidence in the Division and uphold the integrity of the Board
- Participate in decision making and effectively contribute to the work and decisions of the Board
- Serve as a liaison between the Division and the community (parents/guardians, students and the public) encouraging active participation in education and student learning
- Work together with the Superintendent to successfully advance the mandate of the Division including student success
- Engage in ongoing learning and professional development to stay informed about education, governance, policy and best practices to support their governance role

Meetings and Time Commitment

Board meetings consist of:

- Public meetings (typically two Thursdays each month Sept. – June)
- Committee meetings (multiple committee meetings is typical)
- Board Planning Committee meetings
- In camera meetings
- Special meetings

Trustee time commitments:

- Most Thursdays 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- One meeting per month for each committee served on
- Expectation of preparation time for each meeting (e.g., 2–3 hours per Board meeting, committee mtgs)
- Communicating and connecting with community members
- School council meetings for each school in your Ward (one evening per month/school. Airdrie/Cochrane schools are split between trustees)

Attendance also expected at:

- Evening public consultations
- Meetings with other elected officials
- Two multi-day Alberta School Board Association events per year
- Major school events (e.g., graduations, major school celebrations, new school openings, groundbreakings)
- Professional learning
- School visits during orientation (10 – 12 full days)

Important Dates: September to December 2025

Sept. 25	Candidate Information Session	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Oct. 20	Election Day	
Oct. 23	Board Orientation	9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Oct. 28	Board Orientation	9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Oct. 30	Organizational and Board Meeting	9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Nov. 6	Board Meeting	9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Nov. 6	Joint Board/School Council Meeting	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 13	Board Orientation	9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Nov. 16 – 18	ASBA Fall General Meeting (Edmonton)	
Nov. 27	Board Meeting	9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Dec. 4	Board Orientation	9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Dec. 11	Board Meeting	9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Important Dates: Remainder of year

- Board meetings take place generally two Thursdays of each month during the school year.
- Meetings with local and provincial government officials
- Strategic plan development meetings/events
- School attendance area meetings
- School tours: 12 full days from February to May

RVS Website

Visit the RVS website for:

- Candidate information and forms
- Learn more about RVS
- Access to this presentation
- Link to ASBA campaign website
- Links to Local Authorities Election Act, Education Act
- Access to Board policies

Election Finances/Contributions

New for 2025

- Debt to the local jurisdictions for which the election is being held cannot equal or exceed \$500 for one to be nominated as a candidate.
- Total donations by an ordinary resident or corporations legally entitled to make political contributions in Alberta cannot exceed \$5,000
- A candidate may spend up to \$10,000 of their own money during the campaign period, which does not need to be reimbursed to the candidate by the campaign funds at the end of the campaign.

Every candidate MUST file a financial disclosure statement regardless of the amount they have raised

Candidate Duties During Campaign

- Issue receipts for every contribution. A receipt must include:
 - (a) candidate's full name;
 - (b) date of contribution;
 - (c) name of individual contributor;
 - (d) address of individual contributor;
 - (e) candidate's signature;
 - (f) amount contributed;
 - (g) candidate's signature;
 - (h) unique receipt number; and
 - (i) method of payment.
- Obtain receipts for every expense
- Open a campaign account at a financial institution when contributions exceed \$1,000
- When a campaign account is opened, place all contributions into the account

Candidate Duties During Campaign continued

- Use money for payment of campaign expenses only
- Do not accept contributions from people outside of Alberta
- Do not accept contributions from corporations and unincorporated organizations
- Do not accept contributions from trade unions and employee organizations
- Do not work with third parties to avoid contribution or expense limits
- Follow local rules on signage, advertising and campaigning
- Do not campaign on school property during school hours (without permission)

After the Election

After the election, all candidates are required to follow these rules:

- Keep records of contributions and expenses for three years after the disclosure statement deadline
- File a campaign disclosure statement by March 2, 2026
- If you have expenses or contributions of \$50,000 or more, file a review engagement with the disclosure statement
- Within 60 days of filing a disclosure statement, candidates can retain surplus amounts under \$1,000. Amounts of \$1,000 and more must be donated to a registered charity

After the Election continued

- Eliminate campaign deficits 60 days after filing a disclosure statement
- File an amended disclosure statement within 30 days after the 60-day period showing any surplus or deficit has been dealt with according to Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA) requirements
- Note: This information is provided for the convenience of reference only. Candidates are subject to further requirements in the *Local Authorities Election Act*. Candidates are advised to refer to the LAEA and obtain legal advice regarding the full extent of their obligations

Third Party Advertising

Form 27 – Registration of a Third Party

- Filed with local jurisdiction when advertising costs of at least \$1,000 are incurred or third party accepts or intends to accept donations of at least \$1,000
- For groups and corporations, include a list of principal officer(s) or principal members
- If the TPA has a governing body (e.g., a board of directors), the application must include a copy of the resolution passed by the governing body authorizing the third party to incur election advertising expenses

Form 28 – Third Party Advertising Contribution Statement

- Must be filed no later than March 1 following the election

Election Advertising Includes:

- Canvassing for the benefit of a candidate
- Organizing events where the primary purpose of the event is to promote or oppose a candidate
- TV, radio, newspaper ads
- Signs, billboards, posters
- Newsletters, brochures, mailing inserts
- Ads on the internet with a placement cost (pay-per-click, paid social media, pop-up ads, etc.)
- [Advertising Guidelines for Political Participants](#)

Election Advertising Does NOT Include:

- Editorial, debate, speech, interview, column, letter, news
- Book distribution or promotion
- Communication by a corporation to employees or shareholders
- Sharing political views on the internet (blogs, posts on social media that are not paid)
- Phone calls encouraging voter participation
- Advertising by local jurisdictions (i.e., The City of Airdrie, Elections Calgary)
- Unintended information/advertising in another jurisdiction

Campaigning/Signage

- Rules around campaigning vary by municipality
- Standard campaign rules are as follows:
 - The campaign period begins 30 days prior to election day. No signage is allowed prior to that period. Election signage is permitted on City/Town/County property (only during the campaign period) and private property with permission from the landowner. There is to be no signage or campaigning in or on the grounds of the voting station on advance polling days and Election Day, and signs are to be collected within 48 hours of the polls closing on Election Day
- Campaign signage rules vary by municipality and are included in land use bylaws.

Candidate Forums

- Airdrie - Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. at the Airdrie Public Library, Inspire - Coffee with the Candidates
- Beiseker - Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Beiseker Community Hall
- Crossfield - Sept. 30 at 6:30 at the Crossfield and District Community Centre
- Redwood Meadows - Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. at the Townhall

Public or Separate Support – School Education Act 74 (3)

- Where a separate school district is established, an individual residing within the boundaries of the separate school district is a resident of the separate school division if the individual declares that the individual is of the same faith as those who established the separate school district, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic.
- The rules of residency requirements have nothing to do with where an elector directs their taxes. It is solely a question of faith.
- When a person is confused as to whether they take a ballot for public school trustee, the question to ask is:
“If you are of the Roman Catholic faith, you are not eligible to vote for the public school trustee and must take a ballot for the separate school trustee”

Candidate Information Session

- Questions?

Connect With Us

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All links in this
presentation can
be accessed via
this QR code.