Classical Academy
ALBERTA

Three-Year Capital Plan Synopsis
2027-2030

Approved by the Alberta Classical Academy Board of Directors:
March 23, 2026

Submitted to Alberta Education:
March 31, 2026

Introduction

Alberta Classical Academy submits an annual capital plan to secure funding for priority capital projects that support demand for our classical program and ensure adequate physical amenities for it. The following plan accounts for immediate facility needs and growth plans over the next three years, considering drivers such as student health and safety, building condition, functionality and programming, and enrolment pressures.

The Academy has transformed its acquired facilities to reflect a focus on the classical arts, demonstrating ingenuity and fiscal responsibility. However, facility limitations and high utilization rates are well-documented in annual reports and capital plans, and the Academy continues to work closely with the Alberta government and its Capital Planning division to address deficiencies and advance capital priorities.

Background

As the first classical public charter school of its kind, in the province and in Canada, Alberta Classical Academy serves as a strategic partner with Alberta Education, advancing key government priorities and ministerial mandates, including the support and expansion of school choice, the promotion of parental involvement in education, and the enhancement of system capacity and infrastructure to address the needs of Alberta's growing and increasingly diverse student population.

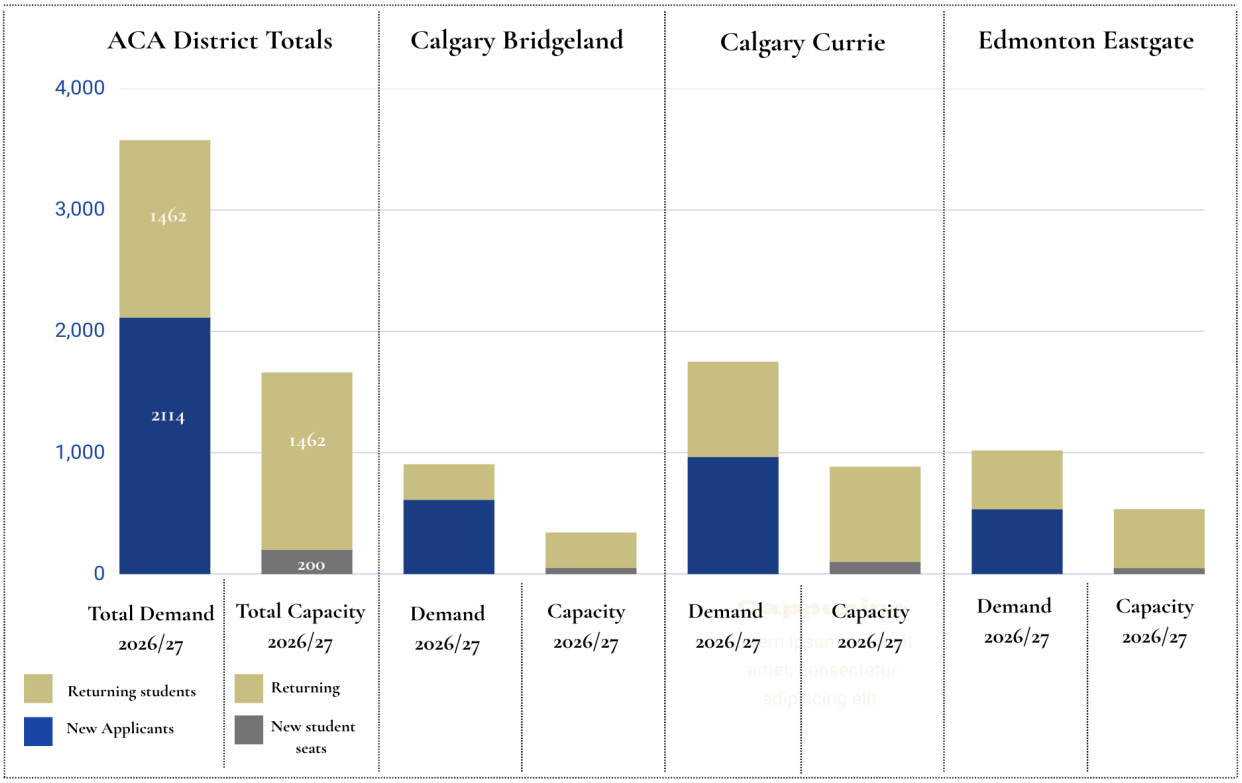
Established in 2022, Alberta Classical now operates three campuses and serves growing student populations in Calgary and Edmonton, with plans to expand to Lethbridge in 2027/28. Today, ACA serves 1457 students across the district and employs 130 staff.

Enrollment Demand

Demand for our classical program continues to outpace the number of available seats. ACA does not carry over applications or waitlists from year to year. To date, 2,114 new student applications have been received for the upcoming 2026/27 school year; a number that continues to grow despite the lottery being held on February 1, 2025.

Most applicants should not expect to receive an offer of admission for the upcoming academic year. This is due to the fact that over 95% of currently enrolled students have re-enrolled, leaving only approximately 200 student seats available across the entire district. Of these, 130 are in Kindergarten, many of which are expected to be filled by sibling applicants in accordance with the Academy's enrolment policies.

Total Enrollment Demand vs Capacity for the 2026/27 school year



The chart above indicates the current demand for the 2026/27 academic year, compared to the capacity or number of available seats presently available, as at March 2026. It is anticipated that applications for 2026/27 will continue to be submitted.

Safety and Growth Pressures

Fulfilling our charter mandate to offer a K–12 classical program by 2028 has required the addition of one grade level per year. However, our initial school sites were not designed to accommodate a full K–12 continuum and are now operating beyond capacity. For example, our Currie campus is currently at 123% utilization and is projected to exceed 130% for the 2026–27 academic year. This level of overcrowding has necessitated securing temporary leased space for overflow instruction to ensure student safety and avoid enrollment contraction, which would require the withdrawal of currently enrolled students.

Facility Needs & Functional Issues

Facility limitations, including a lack of a gym, science and CTS labs, art and music rooms, green spaces, and temporary classroom walls at the Eastgate campus, impede the consistent delivery of certain Alberta curriculum and classical charter-mandated programs. These constraints contribute to documented student safety risks, operational inefficiencies, and stakeholder dissatisfaction.

Three Year Capital Plan Summary

For the 2026 and 2027 fiscal years, the Academy is grateful to be advancing the following two high-priority capital projects, as announced in the 2025 and 2026 provincial budgets:

- The Edmonton Classical Academy, Eastgate Campus, was announced in the 2025 budget to acquire and modernize a K–12 school to serve 650 students. The acquisition by Alberta Education is now complete, and the design process for modernization is underway, with construction scheduled to begin in late 2026 or early 2027.
- Calgary Classical Academy, Currie Campus, has received planning funds in the 2026 budget to support a campus expansion for its K–12 program. Funding will enable planning for build-outs, including the construction of a gymnasium, as well as the development or acquisition of specialized facilities necessary to address surging utilization. These improvements are critical to expanding the campus capacity to accommodate a K–12 student population of 1,410 students.

The Academy continues to collaborate productively with Alberta Education and Childcare's Capital Planning division and Alberta Infrastructure on these two projects, which mark a substantial investment in education and signal strong government support for advancing public charter schools and educational choice for Albertans. These projects will alleviate overcrowding, ensure student safety, and improve program delivery for our existing student population.

Looking ahead to 2027 through 2030, ACA's capital funding requests will focus on medium-term sustainability and continued expansion to advance our charter mandate of providing classical education to more Alberta students. These initiatives include a proposal to acquire an existing school building in Calgary to establish a grades 5–8 campus and alleviate growth pressures, as well as the conversion of a new K–12 school facility in Edmonton.

The geographic expansion of our classical network to Lethbridge, Alberta, approved by the Minister of Education in December 2025, is worth mentioning. Due to difficulties with identifying and preparing a suitable school site, the Lethbridge opening is now tentatively deferred to September 2027. This underscores the challenges and extended timelines charter schools face in securing purpose-built facilities, which often require us to enter complex leasing agreements to adapt and convert unconventional spaces into schools to meet our operational needs and the growing demand for our program.

Overall, these projects and others listed in the following section will expand the Academy's instructional footprint, enhance student programming, and ensure that ACA can deliver its full K–12 program as enrollment demand continues to grow. They will also support the realization of school choice for Alberta families seeking a classical education for their children.

Capital Projects

The chart below lists the highest priorities for the next five fiscal years. The bulk of these capital requests are predicated on the assumption that surplus school facilities - and especially middle and high school facilities - will not be available for charter schools to revitalize in the coming years. Should this situation change, Alberta Classical Academy may be able to satisfy some of our growth requirements at a lower cost by leasing and conducting more modest renovations to existing school buildings.

Approved or In Progress

Project	Description	Students	Grades	GOA Budget Year	Completion Date	Projected Cost
CCA Currie* Second Building	3rd Floor Conversion	235	K-12	2026	August 2027	6.74M
CCA Currie*	Gymnasium & CTS Building	250 Gym & for 1410	K-12	2026	August 2028	39.76M
CCA Currie* Second Building	1st, 2nd Floor Conversion	345	K-12	2026	August 2028	14.58M

Proposed Capital Plan

Priority	Project	Description	Studen	Grades	GOA Budget Year	Completion Date	Projected Cost
1	Lethbridge New K-12	Conversion	720	K-12	2026	Aug-27	24.66M 5.50M Purchase 19.16M Reno
2	Calgary New 5-8	Existing School Building Purchase	260	5-8	2027	Aug-27	6.25M 5.75M Purchase 0.495M Reno
3	Edmonton New K-12	Conversion	658	K-12	2028	Aug-29	39.43M 11.43M Purchase 28.00M Reno
4	Calgary New K-12	New School Build	1,316	K-12	2029	Aug-29	66.15M

Summary

The growth of Alberta Classical is constrained by limited facilities, restricting access and undermining the promise of school choice. Funding capital improvements would enable full delivery of its classical curriculum and programs, advancing key provincial education objectives.