



Area 6 and 7 Impacted Schools Engagement

Group A: Rosscarrock School, West Ridge School, West Springs School, Wildwood School

The opening of many new schools over the last few years has resulted in changes for thousands of Calgary Board of Education (CBE) students. With more students attending school closer to home, space has become available in the schools they previously attended. The CBE is working with stakeholders to determine how space can be utilized to most effectively meet the learning needs of students across our system. Engagement for schools impacted by new school openings began in February 2016. The period between June 2016 and March 2017 focused on engagement with affected school communities in other CBE areas.

Given the later timing of some school openings in Areas 6 and 7, conversations with principals and parents about which schools would be included in a 2017-18 community engagement process began in the spring of 2017. These discussions were focused on schools that might be directly or indirectly affected by the openings of Dr. Roberta Bondar School, Griffith Woods School and West Ridge School. Eight schools were identified to be involved:

Group A: Rosscarrock School, West Ridge School, West Springs School, Wildwood School

Group B: Alexander Ferguson School, Glenbrook School, Glendale School, Richmond School

Engagement Timeline



What are We Deciding?

By April 2018 the CBE will communicate plans for the sustainable use of learning space in schools impacted by the opening of Dr. Roberta Bondar School, Griffith Woods School and West Ridge School. Plans may be implemented for the 2018-19 school year or later.

Who is the Decision-Maker?

The director of planning and transportation, director of Area 6 and director of Area 7 have joint responsibility for recommendations and decisions. Their focus is to make decisions that are best for the system as a whole. If a recommendation is made to consider school closure, then the chief superintendent decides whether to recommend a regulatory school closure process to the Board of Trustees.

Planning Principles and What We Heard

When considering how to utilize learning space, we use the following planning principles. The principles are not intended to be checklist but rather a guide to help make decisions for the common good of all students.

- minimize disruptions for students
- provide program continuity from kindergarten to Grade 12
- keep cohort groups of students together
- allow students to attend school as close to home as possible
- provide long term sustainability
- use space and resources effectively
- provide equitable access for all students to quality learning environments and choice of programs

In addition, stakeholders told us they would like the CBE to consider:

- Offer more alternative programs
- Offer classes for students with exceptional needs
- Before and after school care



The Situation for Group A

- K-4 students from Cougar Ridge are designated to Rosscarrock School. Some Cougar Ridge students attend Wildwood School, the prior designated school for these students. West Springs School is closer to Cougar Ridge and next to West Ridge School, the designated regular program middle school for Cougar Ridge students.
- An online survey conducted in December 2017 - January 2018 indicated 86 per cent of respondents from Group A schools agree or somewhat agree with allowing K-4 students from Cougar Ridge to attend school closer to home.

Proposed Scenario for September 2018

Students from Cougar Ridge designated to West Springs School for kindergarten to Grade 4

- Current West Springs School students will remain at the school.
- Students from the West Springs community and current Cougar Ridge students at Rosscarrock and Wildwood schools will have priority registration at West Springs School.
- Grade configuration at West Springs School will stay the same and learning spaces will be preserved.
- West Springs School will have an enrolment cap. If more students register than there is space for, the lottery process will apply to Cougar Ridge students who do not currently attend Rosscarrock or Wildwood schools.
- Wildwood School will be the designated overflow school for students not accepted into West Springs should a lottery occur.
- Grade 3 students from Cougar Ridge who wish to remain at Rosscarrock School for Grade 4 will receive busing for the 2018-19 school year without being charged a fee. Busing from Cougar Ridge to Wildwood School will end June 30, 2018 unless there is a need for overflow from West Springs School.

School	Capacity	Current Enrolment	Projected Enrolment (5-Year)
Rosscarrock School (K-6)	450	178 regular program	125-150
West Ridge School (5-9)	900	586	700-725*
West Springs School (K-4)	600	497	550-575*
Wildwood School (K-6)	550	380	330-355

*Assumes number of new students from Cougar Ridge enrolling at West Springs School to be capped at approx. 50 in 2018, with room for 200 in 2022.

Key Factors and What We Heard	How the Scenario Responds
Allow students to attend school close to home	K-4 students from Cougar Ridge will be designated to West Springs School.
Cougar Ridge should have a school	The Province of Alberta is the source of funding for new school construction and uses the CBE's School Capital Plan to decide which schools to fund. A school for Cougar Ridge is currently ranked ninth in the plan.
Lotteries create uncertainty	Students currently registered at West Springs, Wildwood and Rosscarrock schools will not be subject to the lottery process. Projections indicate there will not be a need for a lottery but if there is a significant shift in enrolment patterns, a lottery will apply to Cougar Ridge students who do not currently attend Rosscarrock or Wildwood schools.
Minimize disruption to students	Grade 3 students from Cougar Ridge who wish to remain at Rosscarrock School for Grade 4 will receive busing without being charged a fee.
Overcrowding is a concern	Enrolment at West Springs School will be capped.
Uncertainty for schools losing students	Maintaining Cougar Ridge students at Rosscarrock and Wildwood schools will not boost the population significantly and does not justify the increased travel time and distance for these students. Enrolment at these schools will be monitored and further discussions may be required.
Offer more alternative and/or GATE programs	Waitlists for these programs do not indicate an unmet need in the area. Limited funds are available to expand current programming.