

Frequently Asked Questions—École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary

General

Q When will the replacement school open?

École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary's replacement school is anticipated to open in the fall of 2017.

Q How do I register my child at the replacement school?

Registration for new students and Kindergarten students will continue as normal. Kindergarten registration begins in January of the year that the student is to begin school. For more information please phone the school directly (780-922-2066).

Q What grades will the replacement school accommodate?

The replacement school will provide both English and French Immersion programming for students in Kindergarten to Grade 6. The school will also offer PALS, which is the [Play and Learn at School program](#).

Q What will be the capacity of the replacement school?

The replacement school for École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary will open with a capacity of 650 and be expandable to accommodate 700 students.

Q Will there be community space available in the replacement school?

Yes, the replacement school will offer after-hours rentals. School space is determined in consultation with the school and Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) Facility Services.

Communication

Q Was any public consultations or engagement efforts conducted for the design of the replacement school?

Yes, École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary circulated a survey in November 2014 to gather input from a variety of stakeholders on important features to consider in the design of the replacement school. In total, 115 responses were received. These survey responses were considered by a committee of stakeholder representatives—including parents, students, school staff, and division personnel—who worked with an architect on design options for the replacement school. The information that came forward assisted the design process, as much as was possible, within the parameters set out by Alberta Infrastructure. Alberta Infrastructure outlines requirements and specification for the design of any new school or replacement school. The final design of the replacement school incorporates the input from stakeholders where possible, within the parameters of the Alberta Infrastructure school-design templates.

Q What opportunities will be available for future input?

École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary will continue to post regular updates on its website throughout the replacement school project. Please visit www.ardrossanelementary.ca frequently for news on the project and opportunities to share your input.

Q How will parents continue to be updated on the school construction process and important information relating to the replacement school?

Throughout the construction process, École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary will post regular updates on www.ardrossanelementary.ca. News and important information about the project will also be communicated through the school's monthly newsletter and at School Council meetings. Alternatively, visit www.projects.alberta.ca. The Government of Alberta recently launched a new interactive mapping website that tracks the progress of all new schools, replacement schools, and modernization initiatives taking place throughout the province, including École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary.

Planning and Construction

Q When will construction begin on the replacement school?

Facility Services recently hired an environmental consultant, Pinchin Group, to prepare an estimate for the abatement work. The abatement is expected to begin in October. Demolition is expected to begin after the abatement process is complete, which will likely be in November.

Given the recent announcement of a larger school, EIPS is currently working with the provincial government, Strathcona County, and Group 2—the contracted architectural firm—to review the overall design of the replacement school and the timelines for the project. Once confirmed, a general contractor will be hired for the construction project and the timelines for the various phases of development will be finalized. EIPS expects to be able to communicate these timelines in early 2016.

Q When will construction end on the replacement school?

The replacement school for École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary is scheduled to be complete by the fall of 2017.

Q Are drawings or rendering of the replacement school ready for the public view?

Given the recent announcement of a larger school, EIPS is currently working with the provincial government, Strathcona County, and Group 2—the contracted architectural firm—to review the overall design of the replacement school and the timelines for the project. As soon as the design plans are approved, EIPS will be sharing them with the school community. Please continue to check www.ardrossanelementary.ca for updates on the project.

Q Why did EIPS decide to build a replacement school as opposed to simply renovating the current facility?

When an existing school is being considered for a modernization project, a needs assessment is automatically conducted by division Facility Services staff, Alberta Education, and Alberta Infrastructure. A cost analysis then follows on all required modernization work. If the cost of modernization is more than 75 per cent of the cost of building a replacement school, the school jurisdiction can choose to prioritize the project as a replacement school capital project rather than a modernization. In the case of École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary, EIPS and government representatives determined it was more efficient, and more cost effective, to build a replacement school as opposed to modernizing the current facility.

Q Why is the capacity of the replacement school smaller than the current school?

The size of the replacement school was decided by Alberta Education, not by EIPS. That decision was based on current enrolment, population projections, and existing school-design standards. Using current population projections and planning forecasts from Strathcona County, Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure determined a school with an opening capacity of 650—that is expandable to accommodate 700 students—will meet the needs for the community now, and into the future. It should also be noted, the replacement school will be more efficient in design and will offer all the education spaces required to meet the needs of its students.

Q Do the plans for the replacement school take into account projected growth rates for the community?

Yes, both the latest population projections and Area Structure Plans for the region were shared with Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure. The government analyzed that data to determine the total amount of funding dollars it would grant EIPS for the replacement school at École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary.

Q How will students be impacted during the construction of the replacement school?

Classes will continue as usual throughout the construction process. Ten modular classrooms that are currently attached to the northern portion of the school (including those currently used by New Horizons—a charter school moving to Sherwood Park-based St. Theresa Catholic School) will be relocated to the south side of the existing school building during the construction phase. The main core of the existing school building, along with these 10 modulators, will provide enough classroom space for all École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary students during construction. Once construction of the replacement school core is complete, these 10 modulators will be relocated and connected to the replacement school building. Outside, the school's two playgrounds will be moved and relocated once the replacement school is built. For more details about the construction phase visit <http://www.ardrossanelementary.ca/index.php?page=2995>.

Throughout the construction process, École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary will post regular updates on www.ardrossanelementary.ca. News and important information about the project will also be communicated through the school's monthly newsletter and at School Council meetings.

Q Are there plans for multi-use trails in the surrounding community, or along Highway 824 in front of the school, that would enable easy access for families wishing to bike or walk to the school?

Yes, there is a paved trail behind École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary and Ardrossan Junior Senior High. The trail provides ease of access from Highway 824 and connects to the Ardrossan Recreation Complex and the various residential neighbourhoods that border both the school and recreation centre. In addition, EIPS and Strathcona County's Capital Planning and Construction Department are working with a consultant on an Access Management Plan along Highway 824 to address roadside access, pedestrian usage, and safety concerns. At this time, there are no other immediate plans for additional trails.

Q What size are the classrooms?

It's anticipated each classroom in the replacement school will be, on average, 80 square metres in size and designed to follow the provincial standard.

Q Will the replacement school be able to accommodate future modulars?

The replacement school for École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary will open with a capacity of 650 and be expandable to accommodate 700 students, through the addition of modulars.

Q What are some of the special features the replacement school will have?

The replacement school will be fully modernized and will provide the best learning environments for students. Some of the exciting new features include flex space for students, a Hot Lunch room, a conference room, removable walls, a data centre, learning commons, a student production studio, and a state-of-the-art gymnasium.

Q What education features of the old school will not be included in the replacement school?

Given the recent announcement of a larger school, EIPS is currently working with the provincial government, Strathcona County, and Group 2—the contracted architectural firm—to review the overall design of the replacement school. As soon as the design plan is approved, EIPS will be sharing them with the school community. Please continue to check www.ardrossanelementary.ca for updates on the project.

Hot Lunch Program

Q Will a Hot Lunch Program be offered at the replacement school?

Yes, the replacement school will continue to offer a Hot Lunch Program. The Hot Lunch Program is currently used by a large percentage of the school population and was one of the considerations brought forward by a number of stakeholders during the design-consultation phase. In designing the replacement school, space will be assigned for a kitchen space for the Hot Lunch Program.

Q During the construction phase will a Hot Lunch Program be offered?

Yes, the Hot Lunch Program will continue throughout the various construction phases. The parent volunteers who organize the Hot Lunch Program are currently reviewing options for temporary hot lunch program space during construction—as the current space will be unavailable. They are committed to ensuring the program continues to operate without interruption throughout the construction phases.

Student Transportation

Q Will school bus pickup and drop-off locations change?

EIPS Student Transportation provides bus service at no cost to eligible students who are attending their designated school. Alternate pickup and drop-off locations may be accommodated if they are along a designated bus route and located within the École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary attendance boundary. Kindergarten to Grade 6 students may be expected to walk up to 250 metres to their designated pickup or drop-off location.

Q Is it possible to have different bus pickup and drop-off locations?

Contact Student Transportation by phone (780 417-8151) or by email at st@eips.ca to inquire about alternate pickup or drop-off locations.

Q Will there be a new parking lot designed?

The design of the replacement school and surrounding area includes the development of a parking lot and restructuring traffic flow. Student safety and efficient traffic flow are key considerations in the design of the parking lots, and drop-off/pickup zones. To view the plans, visit www.ardrossanelementary.ca/files/10/AEL_Proposed_School_Progress_UPDATED2.ppsx.

Q My child is going into the French Immersion half-day Kindergarten program. How will busing be scheduled for Kindergarten students?

Students attending a half-day program will be transported to school if they are in a morning program and home from school if they are in an afternoon program. Noon busing isn't offered.

Q Will there be a cost for busing service?

Students residing greater than 2.4 kilometres from their designated school will not be charged a fee for busing. Busing at no cost will also be extended to those students attending their designated school who live less than 2.4 kilometres but have to walk along a road with posted speeds of 60 kilometres per hour and up, without the benefits of a sidewalk.

If a student wishes to access EIPS transportation and lives less than 2.4 kilometres from their designated school, he/she is automatically subject to a Payride fee. Students wishing to access non-designated transportation are automatically subject to a non-designated fee in addition to a Payride fee. For further clarification, please refer to [Policy 17, Student Transportation Services](#). The complete list of [transportation fees](#) is posted on the division website.

Child Care

Q What is happening with Our Little Friends/Les Petits Amis Preschool and Ardrossan Out of School Care?

As we understand, both providers have found or are in the process of finding new space to operate out of. The lease agreement between Our Little Friends/Les Petits Amis Preschool and École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary expired June 30, 2015. The lease agreement between Ardrossan Out of School Care and École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary expired August 31, 2015. For more information, please contact the child care providers directly.

Q Why did EIPS not renew the lease for Our Little Friends/Les Petits Amis Preschool and Ardrossan Out of School Care?

Alberta Education funds schools and the delivery of programming for Kindergarten to Grade 12 children. Monies for childcare facilities is currently outside of the mandate of Alberta Education and school authorities. The funding school divisions receive for school construction projects is to provide instructional space for students. There is little flexibility for additional spaces within schools outside of the parameters set by Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure. Within the specification from the province for the size of the replacement school, there is no space available to lease to external groups. For more information, Alberta Education's [School Capital Manual](#) provides a framework for the decision-making related to school infrastructure.

Demolition will begin in the fall. The current location of the leased child care space is in the portion of the school that will be part of the first phase of the demolition/construction process. To ensure the construction process can begin as soon as a contractor is in place, all lease agreements for the school were not renewed for the 2015-2016 school year.

Q Why is space for Our Little Friends/Les Petits Amis Preschool and Ardrossan Out of School Care not included in the design of the replacement school?

While it's unfortunate EIPS could not renew the leases for either businesses it was not an EIPS decision. Alberta Education is focused on the funding of schools and the delivery of programming for Kindergarten to Grade 12 children. Funding for childcare facilities is currently outside of the mandate of Alberta Education and school authorities. The replacement school for École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary simply will not have the space to house either facility.

Q Is it possible to not demolish the entire building and keep the space currently dedicated to Our Little Friends/Les Petits Amis Preschool and Ardrossan Out of School Care intact?

Unfortunately no, the school size is determined by Alberta Education, which is focused on the funding of schools and the delivery of programming for Kindergarten to Grade 12 children. Funding for childcare facilities is currently outside of the mandate of Alberta Education and school authorities.

Q What other schools within EIPS offer similar French programming as École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary?

The French Immersion program at École Élémentaire Ardrossan Elementary is a dual-track English and French Immersion program, in that both French Immersion and non-French Immersion students attend the school. Two other elementary French Immersion schools exist within EIPS—École Campbelltown in Sherwood Park and École Parc Élémentaire in Fort Saskatchewan. Both of these schools are single-track French Immersion schools and only offer French Immersion programming.

Q How can I find an EIPS school that offers an out-of-school child care program, or other child care programs, in the community?

You can visit www.eips.ca/out-of-school-care to find programs that are located at EIPS schools. Alternatively, you can contact Strathcona County Family and Community Services, which has developed a Child Care Information Bank to assist families in finding child care placements for their children. This listing of local providers includes both licensed and unlicensed preschools, afterschool programs, and family day-home agencies. Call (780) 464-4044 or visit Strathcona County's [website](#).

Also, consider getting your name on more than one wait list and call regularly to confirm your interest.

Q How do I enroll my child in a school out of my designated school boundary?

Families have the option of enrolling their children in a non-designated school within EIPS. The process for doing so is outlined in the division's boundary exemption request process posted online at www.eips.ca/boundary-exemptions. The timeframe for submitting boundary exemption requests is generally mid-February to mid-March of each year for the following fall. Registration in a non-designated school may be considered if there is space available in the requested school and/or program.