

# **Suzuki Charter School**

## **Capital Plan 2026-2029**

### **Background:**

The three-year Capital Plan must be approved by the board and annually and submitted by April 1 each year to Alberta Education for consideration of funding.

Project requests are prioritized with consideration for the following criteria:

- The need has been clearly defined and is supported by data and evidence
- The scope of the work has been clearly defined
- The educational solution is important to meet the mandate of program delivery for the school jurisdiction and for the ministry
- There is alignment between the estimated timeframes for the project delivery and the need for the project solution
- The project would be able to move forward expediently if funding were approved
- Site readiness is in alignment with the municipal, provincial and federal guidelines and regulation where applicable

Project drivers under which consideration is given include:

- Health and Safety
- Building Condition
- Enrolment Pressure
- Efficiency Solutions
- Functionality and Programming
- Community Renewal
- Legal

There are five categories of capital requests: new school; addition to an existing school; modernization of an existing school; replacement school; and/or solution.

Education's Capital Planning staff review and evaluate project submissions using the ministry's criteria for program delivery. Education staff provide recommendations to the ministry's senior leadership team, including the data and risk analysis, project drivers, readiness, rationale, and criticality of each project request for possible inclusion in the upcoming Ministry Capital Plan. Once the Minister of Education reaches a decision, Education finalizes and submits the Ministry Capital Plan Submission to the province-wide process for consolidation, further evaluation and funding consideration. When Education is advised by Treasury Board and Finance of the capital requests approved for funding, approval letters are sent to school jurisdictions.

In March 2023, SCSS received \$50,000 for capital planning and underwent a Value Scoping Process in fall of 2024 to determine the best supporting option for the 3-year Capital Plan.

### **Context**

Suzuki Charter School (SCS), is a K-9, publicly-funded school located in the Capilano area of Edmonton. SCS has been operating as a charter school since 1995 and the current school population is 420 students with a capacity of 395 (106%). The demand is high for additional registration spots with approximately 115 names historically on waiting lists each year. Current waitlist for 2025-2026 registration is 150 students primarily from current student/family/community word-of-mouth satisfaction and education results.

SCS initially offered K-6 programming from 1995 to 2020. Due to registration demand, SCS expanded to add Grades 7-9 in the 2020-2021 school year without additional space or funding. To realize the expansion to include junior high programming, revenue producing programs were reduced and discontinued. Renovation of interior spaces at a cost of \$160,000 was funded out of limited operating surpluses. A full program of grade 7 – 9 is offered in substandard instructional spaces for many of the CTS options. Options are delivered in nonspecialized teaching spaces (no science, computer or focussed CTS space) with instructional materials on movable carts that are mobile to classrooms but very limited in equipment. Further, hallway space is limited by the presence of music storage bins and with junior high aged students crowding in hallway transitions is a daily challenge.

SCS also offers a user-pay After-school Care program for Grade 1 to 6 students and the fees collected supplement music instruction expenses. The program is in high demand and has a wait list of approximately 50 children. Although SCS current programming licence allows for 100 children, appropriate facility space limits registration to 80 children. In the past, a Preschool Kinder-Care program was also offered which also experienced high demand but was eliminated due to insufficient space.

## **Capital Plan for SCS**

As a result of the Value scoping report, the Board decided on the best supporting option to meet a criterion of needs is to **build a replacement 1000 capacity K-9 school on the current site and demolish the existing school.** As property owner, Edmonton Public School Division supports this option. The criteria addressed by a replacement school on the current site are:

1. **Health & Safety Concerns** – Building repairs, jeopardizing the health and safety of students and staff, have not been completed and due to the age of the buildings, are substantive and increasing over time.
2. **Functionality and Programming – Inability to meet Music-Oriented Aspects of Charter** - The current facility does not meet Alberta Education guidelines, has issues related to congestion and circulation, lacks functionality and space requirements for music programming critical to the charter mandate.
3. **Enrolment Pressure Demand** - Suzuki Charter School is over capacity and not able to meet high enrolment demand for K-9. Current enrolment is 106% of capacity (420 students for 395 student capacity). Waitlists are usually 115 per year and have increased to 150 students in the 2025-2026 year.
4. **Community Renewal and Revitalization** - A replacement school on the existing site retains and allows for continued renewal in the community that accesses the school. Families are continually moving to the neighborhood to attend SCS. Students living within the school boundary has grown to 30% (from 9% in 2015).

A replacement 1000 capacity K-9 school on the current site is the preferred option because of the following rationale:

1. Health and safety concerns of building condition issues would be eliminated.
2. Safe and improved traffic flow around the school with adequate staff parking would be achieved.
3. Facility would meet expansion of capacity and programming.
4. Facility that allows fulfillment of charter mandate with adequate acoustically safe spaces for music instruction and performances.
5. Facility would meet enrolment demand with space to grow so those wanting to make SCS their choice in education could do so.
6. Facility would address the over capacity utilization rate
7. Facility would bring the school in line with Alberta Education guidelines, addresses site issues with regards to student circulation and congestion
8. Facility would remain in the community that has been renewed and revitalized with the school's presence.
9. A replacement would be designed to suit the charters' unique needs.
10. Disruption to students is minimized.
11. Current site issues would be eliminated.

	Capital Plan Funds Request	Rationale
Replacement School construction	42,091,200.00	Area 9109 x \$4,800.00/m2
Hazardous materials abatement	301,800.00	Area 3108 x \$100.00/m2
Demolition of existing building	377,250.00	Area 3108 x \$125.00/m2
Demolish modular classrooms (4)	50,000.00	Area 400 x \$125.00/m2
Misc site work	1,498,708.75	3.5% x \$42,820,250.00
Contingency	1,329,569.00	3% x \$44,318,958.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45,648,527.75</b>	