



Peace River School Division

CAPITAL PLAN

2026-2029



Peace River School Division

Learning Together - Success for All

Capital Plan Submission Process

The deadline for School Districts to submit their 2026-2029 Capital Plans is March 31, 2026. School Boards have an opportunity to request revisions to their Capital Plan priorities between September 30 and October 15 for the submission year. Any requested change must be accompanied by a rationale, including supporting documentation such as enrolment data, facility condition report, etc., and a record of the board motion approving the change.

Changes from the Fall 2025-2028 Capital Plan

Since the 2025-2028 Capital Plan was resubmitted in the Fall of 2025, the Peace River School Division (PRSD) has become aware of the potential for significant changes to the educational and demographic environment in the community of Fairview.

On October 29, 2025 Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) announced they would be transitioning to a single campus in Grande Prairie, closing their Fairview campus effective June, 2026. In March, 2026, the Province announced that Northern Lakes College would assume stewardship of the Fairview Campus, ensuring the continuation of post-secondary education in the region through a community-led model.

As a central pillar of the Board's previous capital plan relied on a partnership with NWP to create a K-12 Collegiate School in Fairview, the PRSD Board of Trustees has determined it is prudent to wait for clarity regarding the future of the campus programming and potential new partnerships with Northern Lakes College and the newly established community stewardship entity. Consequently, the Board has directed a reorganization of capital priorities for submission in their 2026-2028 Capital Plan.

All projects, along with supporting documents, are submitted through Blims.



Pre-Planning Funding for a Value Scoping Session in the town of Peace River

Currently, PRSD is operating four schools within the Town of Peace River: Springfield Elementary School (K-4), T.A. Norris Middle School (5-8), Peace River High School (9-12), and Peace River Outreach School.

T.A. Norris has not undergone a modernization since 1990. Originally a Junior High School, it transitioned to a middle school model at the start of the 2006-2007 school year following the closure of McGrath School and the subsequent modernizations of Springfield Elementary and Peace River High School. T.A. Norris School now requires a significant modernization.

To determine the optimal scope of this project, a Value Scoping Session will explore the best options for grade configuration, educational programs, community needs, and potential partnerships. Ahead of this session, the Board of Trustees has decided to move forward with a formal community engagement process in the Spring of 2026. This initiative ensures the Board is bringing the clearly defined priorities and aspirations of the local community to the value scoping table, ultimately ensuring that the final decision best meets the long-term needs of Peace River students and families. The Value Scoping will then build upon this foundation, providing a technical and collaborative framework for the future of education in the Town of Peace River.



Pre-Planning Funding for Value Scoping regarding the Modernization of Worsley Central School (#13005)



Worsley Central School was last modernized in 1989. Some facility upgrades have been completed using IMR and CMR funding, but funding has not been sufficient to cover all the required repairs and replacements. The wood floor structure in the 1956 and 1961 portions of the school require structural upgrades. Other building components upgrades required include hardware, lighting, millwork, plumbing fixtures, roofing, HVAC systems, flooring, fire alarm upgrades, interior finishes, site drainage and sidewalk replacements. Several of the existing classrooms will also be resized and modified to achieve better use of existing space and better accommodate programs such as CTS and video conferencing. Partnerships with community organizations and the Municipality along with determining the final project scope can better be determined following a Value Scoping Session. Estimated Cost: \$5,789,676 (subject to change following Value Scoping).



Fairview K-12 Collegiate School (Solution Project)

The Peace River School Division (PRSD) requests approval for a new K–12 school. This project will replace both E.E. Oliver Elementary and Fairview High School, eliminating more than \$18 million in estimated deferred maintenance while reducing duplication of administration, custodial, and operating costs. The new facility will be right-sized for approximately 670 students and designed to support future growth and programming.

The school will include purpose-built Career and Technology Studies (CTS) labs, science and art rooms, inclusive education spaces, sensory rooms, and community-use areas. Importantly, PRSD intends for this new K–12 facility to be designated as a Collegiate School in partnership with a local college with a focus on trades training. This partnership will directly enhance CTS instruction by providing dual credit opportunities, the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), and access to post-secondary instructors, equipment, and expertise in trades and technology. This model will ensure students in Fairview have access to high-quality, future-ready career and technology programming that cannot be achieved within the limitations of the current aging school facilities.

The PRSD will also work closely with the Town of Fairview and the MD of Fairview as part of their Master Recreation Plan. The goal is to ensure joint-use opportunities such as gymnasiums, fitness or field house facilities, and other recreation spaces that can be integrated into the new school design. This partnership approach will create a true community hub that benefits both students and residents.

As part of this project, the existing E.E. Oliver and Fairview High School sites will be decommissioned. The PRSD will explore options with the Town and MD of Fairview for future use of these sites (re-use or demolition), ensuring that the outcome aligns with municipal planning and community needs.

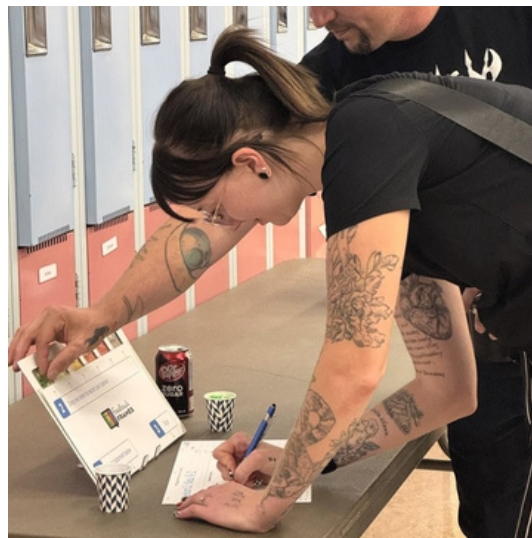
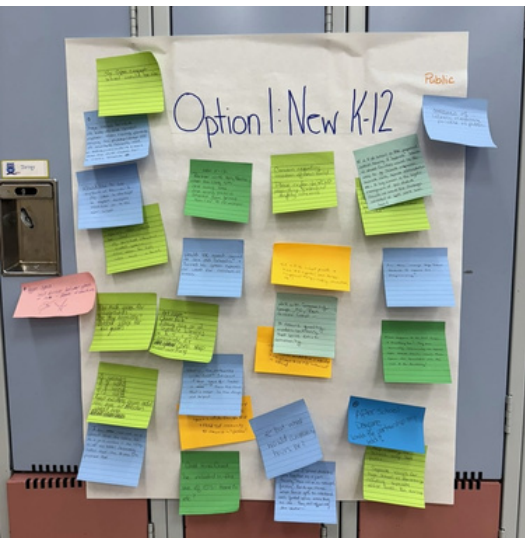
Enrolment, Utilization & Student Needs

Over the past five years, enrolment at E.E. Oliver Elementary and Fairview High School has remained relatively stable at approximately 560–610 students combined. While overall student numbers have not shifted significantly, the number of students with complex learning and behavioural needs has steadily increased. This includes both formally coded students under Alberta Education’s Inclusive Education framework and non-coded students requiring intensive supports.

Current utilization rates highlight a major funding challenge. E.E. Oliver Elementary operates at approximately 65% of its design capacity, while Fairview High School is at roughly 60%. Alberta Education’s capital planning framework and funding formulas place emphasis on utilization. Operating multiple underutilized schools results in duplicated staffing, administration, and facility costs that are not fully funded through the Division’s annual Operating & Maintenance grant. This creates long-term inefficiencies that divert resources away from classroom programming, hence posing significant ongoing financial challenges for the PRSD.

Role of Value Scoping

The next steps will be to hold a Value Scoping Session for Fairview. This session will allow all partners to confirm grade configurations, program requirements, site readiness, and potential partnerships. While the Division's preferred solution is a new K-12 Collegiate School, the Value Scoping process will also examine other options, including modernization of the existing schools, if that is determined to be the best long-term solution. This ensures that all alternatives are thoroughly evaluated and that the chosen approach represents the most effective investment for students, families, and the community. Essentially, while the preferred option is the new K-12 Collegiate School, the value scoping process will determine if modernization of one or both existing schools is the most feasible long term solution for educational delivery in the community of Fairview.



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