



WESTMOUNT
CHARTER SCHOOL

CAPITAL PLAN

2025 - 2028

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Westmount Charter School Capital Plan 2025-2028

Comprehensive Capital Plan for Increasing Student Capacity and Modernizing Westmount Charter School

Introduction

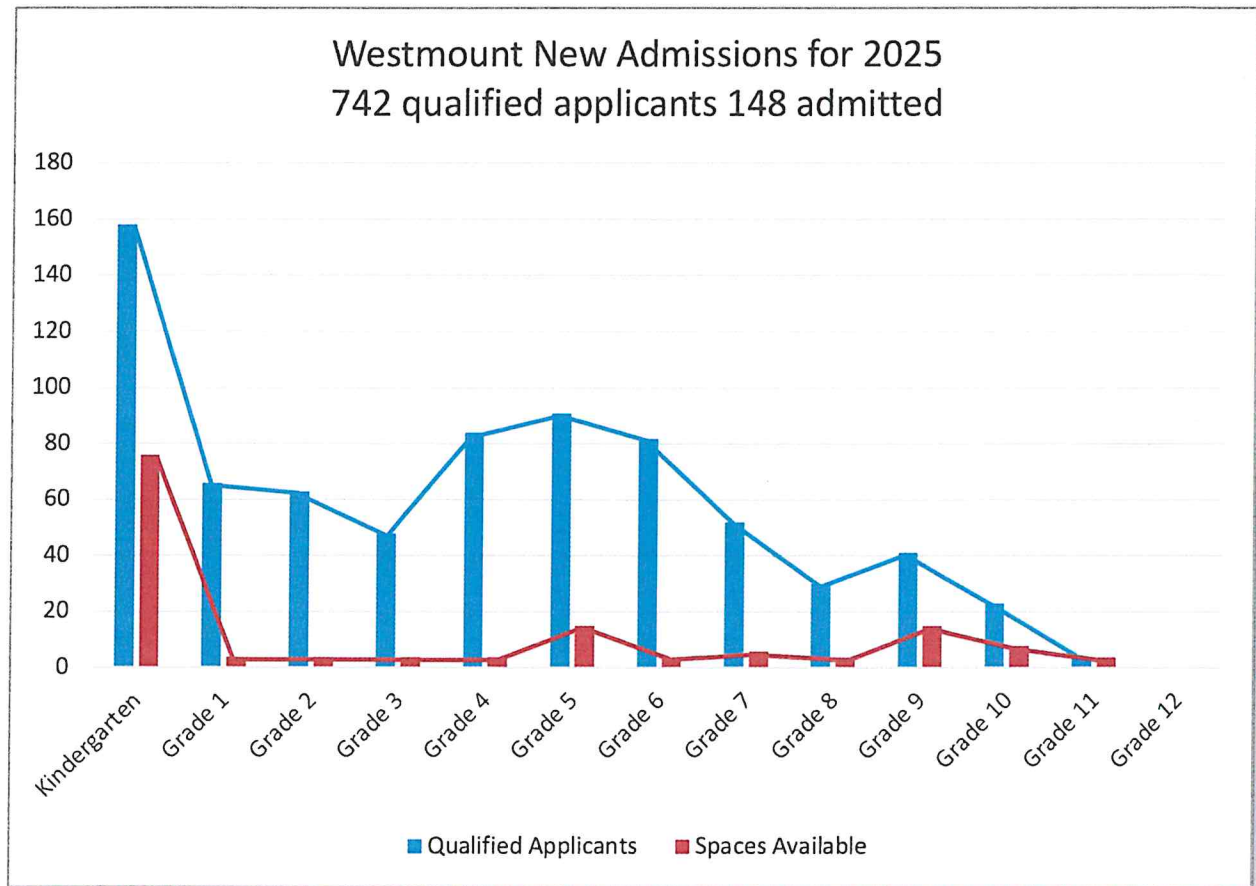
At Westmount, our unique charter is grounded in the principle of “fostering gifted education from the inside out”. This philosophy prioritizes authentic relationships and a holistic approach to students’ social, emotional, and academic development. We serve a richly diverse community of neurodiverse learners, embracing a wide range of cultural backgrounds, gender identities, gender expressions, and English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners.

Beyond giftedness, we support students with special education needs, including twice-exceptional learners, as well as those who may be underachieving or excelling beyond expectations. Our goal is not only to educate but to create an environment where students can deeply understand and challenge themselves, cultivating a passion for lifelong learning.

With the right support, our students thrive, guided by empathetic and well-informed staff, ultimately becoming engaged, capable, and contributing members of both our school and the broader community.

Westmount Charter School stands at a critical juncture. With aging infrastructure dating back to the late 1960s and an overwhelming demand for enrollment, the school faces a pressing need for modernization and expansion. **Every year, approximately 600 qualified students—gifted learners who require the specialized education Westmount provides—are turned away due to space constraints.** The Westmount new admissions for 2025 illustrates the persistent enrollment gap, highlighting the urgent need for increased capacity.

Our current facilities feature outdated infrastructure, including original washrooms, locker rooms, and makeshift fitness spaces—none of which adequately meet the needs of today’s students. Without immediate intervention, we risk not only restricting access to gifted education but also diminishing the quality of the student experience for those already enrolled.



This capital plan presents a strategic and forward-thinking approach to solving these challenges by:

- Securing immediate pre-planning and financial support from Alberta Education to assess expansion and modernization options.
- Implementing urgent facility upgrades to improve student learning conditions.
- Exploring long-term solutions such as facility expansion, modular classrooms, facility leasing, or constructing a new school to meet projected growth.

Investment in these initiatives is not just about bricks and mortar—it's about unlocking the potential of gifted students who thrive in an enriched academic environment.

Immediate Actions: Request for Pre-Planning/Planning and Modernization Funding

Purpose

Obtain funding for feasibility studies, value scoping, program assessments, and modernization projects to determine the best course of action for increasing student capacity.

Key Actions

- October 22, 2024: Submitted a formal funding request to the Executive Director of Capital Planning, Alberta Education.
- March 14, 2025 – Approval of up to \$50,000 in Pre-Planning funds to engage in a value-scoping exercise.

Pre-Planning (\$50,000)/Planning Funding Activities (Estimated Cost: \$200,000)

- Structural Analysis: Assess the feasibility of expanding existing buildings.
- Space Optimization: Identify opportunities to reconfigure space for additional classrooms.
- Building Code Compliance: Conduct a facilities condition assessment and hazardous material investigation to ensure safety and regulatory compliance.

Modernization Projects (Estimated Cost: \$2.1 Million)

Why Modernization is Critical

Most of Westmount Charter School's infrastructure remains unchanged since its original construction in the late 1960s. Without upgrades, these outdated facilities hinder the school's ability to provide a modern, functional, and safe learning environment.

- Elementary School Washroom Upgrades – \$1,000,000

- No significant renovations since the late 60s. Aging plumbing, inefficient layouts, and outdated fixtures create a poor student experience and increase maintenance costs.
- Middle/High School Locker Room Renovations – \$800,000
 - Locker rooms remain original to the building, lacking modern privacy and accessibility features. Renovations are essential for student comfort, hygiene, and inclusion.
- Fitness Room Modernization – \$300,000
 - Currently an open, makeshift space, the fitness area requires upgrades to support physical education and student well-being effectively.

Building or Leasing a Larger Facility

Objective

Secure a long-term solution to accommodate projected enrollment growth and ensure that every gifted student who qualifies can attend Westmount Charter School.

Financial Projections

- Lease Estimate: \$45 per square foot plus operating costs.
- New School Build: Estimated funding request of \$85 million for a 100,000 sq. ft. facility capable of supporting 1,200 students.

Key Actions

- Government Advocacy: Demonstrate to provincial stakeholders the increasing demand and the need for dedicated funding.
- Space Requirement Analysis: Ensure any new facility meets the unique needs of gifted education.
- Property Search: Identify and evaluate potential lease or land acquisition options.
- Negotiations: Engage with landowners and property developers to secure favourable lease or purchase agreements.

- Logistics & Transportation Plan: Develop a strategy to ensure student accessibility.

Timeline Overview

Short-Term (0-6 months)

- Secure pre-planning/planning and modernization funding.
- Initiate feasibility studies.
- Explore modular classroom and facility expansion options.

Medium-Term (6-18 months)

- Complete feasibility studies.
- Finalize design plans for modular classrooms or facility expansion.
- Secure additional funding and permits.
- Begin facility expansion or modular classroom installation.
- Finalize lease agreements for an alternative site or initiate new school construction.

Conclusion

Westmount Charter School has a proven track record of excellence in gifted education, but without critical infrastructure investment, hundreds of students will continue to be denied access to the specialized learning environment they need.

This capital plan is not just an appeal for funding—it is an opportunity to invest in Alberta's brightest minds. By modernizing our facilities and expanding capacity, Westmount will be able to:

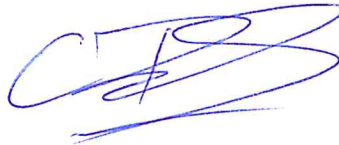
- Accommodate more gifted students who are currently turned away.
- Enhance learning environments with safe, updated, and innovative spaces.
- Future-proof the school by securing a long-term solution for growth.

With provincial support, Westmount Charter School can continue to be a leader in gifted education, empowering exceptional students to reach their full potential.

Respectfully submitted and approved at the March 19, 2025, Board Meeting.



Peter Khu
Board Chair



Calvin Davies
Superintendent