



FOSTERING GIFTED EDUCATION FROM THE INSIDE OUT



WESTMOUNT
CHARTER SCHOOL

CAPITAL PLAN

2026-2029

Westmount Charter School Capital Plan 2026-2029

A Comprehensive Capital Plan to Expand Student Capacity, Modernize Facilities, and Support the Long-Term Growth of Westmount Charter School.

Introduction

In 2026, Westmount Charter School (WCS) marks its 30th anniversary, celebrating three decades of leadership, innovation, and excellence in gifted education. This milestone provides a timely opportunity to honour Westmount's legacy while intentionally planning for the future to ensure continued access to high-quality, specialized programming for gifted learners across Alberta.

Since the most recent charter update, Westmount's guiding vision, fostering gifted education from the inside out, has shaped both instructional practice and organizational culture. This approach prioritizes authentic relationships, student well-being, and the intentional development of social and emotional competencies, recognizing academic success as a natural and sustained outcome of this foundation.

Westmount serves a diverse population of gifted and neurodiverse learners, including twice-exceptional students, underachieving gifted learners, students demonstrating advanced academic readiness, English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners, and students from a wide range of cultural and identity backgrounds. As a fully congregated K-12 gifted program, Westmount provides differentiated, enriched, and accelerated learning environments designed to meet the complex and varied needs of these students.

As Westmount enters its 30th year, it faces significant capacity and infrastructure pressures. While the school has established strong inclusive learning environments through instructional practice and student support, its facilities, originally constructed in the late 1960s, no longer adequately support contemporary learning design, accessibility expectations, or the scale of admissions demand for its programming. Improved and modernized facilities are essential to realize and sustain Westmount's inclusive approach fully and to enhance the quality of learning experiences for students.

Westmount currently serves approximately 1,334 students across its K-12 program. In the most recent admissions cycle, the school received 971 qualified applications; however, due to facility and capacity constraints, only 12.6% of applicants were able to access Westmount's specialized programming. This sustained and growing level of unmet demand is clearly reflected in the 2026 admissions data and underscores the urgent need for expanded and modernized facilities to improve equitable access for gifted learners.

In November 2025, Westmount completed a comprehensive Value Scoping Report to examine modernization, expansion, and long-term facility solutions in response to projected enrolment

growth and admissions demand. The report was formally submitted to Alberta Education and Childcare for consideration within the provincial capital planning process. Westmount is currently awaiting direction through the provincial budget cycle, including potential consideration under the former Charter School Construction Accelerator Pilot (SCAP), now transitioned to the Schools Now capital submission pathway.

Should the project not receive approval in the upcoming budget cycle, Westmount will resubmit the completed Value Scoping proposal as part of this year's Capital Plan and/or through the Schools Now submission process. This ensures continued alignment with provincial priorities while responding directly to sustained admissions pressures. Expansion would increase equitable access to specialized programming and create additional spaces for gifted students whose learning needs require differentiated, enriched, and accelerated educational environments.

Admissions Demand and Capacity Constraints

Admissions demand continues to increase significantly and far exceeds available capacity across both Westmount campuses. In the current admissions cycle, Westmount received 971 applications, an increase of 199 from the previous year. Despite this heightened demand, only 122 admission spaces were available system-wide, resulting in an overall acceptance rate of 12.6%.

Campus-specific data further illustrates the severity of admissions pressure:

- Elementary Campus (K-4):
 - 534 applications, an increase of 85 from the previous year
 - 98 available spaces
 - Acceptance rate of approximately 18.4%
- Mid-High Campus (5-12):
 - 437 applications, an increase of 114 from the previous year
 - 24 available spaces
 - Acceptance rate of approximately 5.5%



This figure demonstrates sustained and growing demand for Westmount’s specialized gifted programming, with admissions capacity significantly constrained across all grade levels. Without additional capital investment to expand and modernize facilities, WCS will remain unable to accommodate a substantial number of qualified applicants.

Strategic Alignment with Alberta Education Priorities

This Capital Plan aligns with Alberta Education and Childcare’s capital funding priorities by:

- Responding to sustained admissions pressures and capacity constraints, ensuring adequate infrastructure to support student access and equity in specialized programming for gifted learners.
- Modernizing aging infrastructure needs to support health and safety, accessibility, and long-term building sustainability.
- Improving learning environment functionality and programming capacity, providing flexible, modern spaces that support contemporary instructional practices, student well-being, and inclusive design.
- Advancing long-term, sustainable facility solutions that enhance operational efficiency, accommodate student growth, and demonstrate responsible stewardship of public resources.

Investment in this plan strengthens equitable access to specialized educational programming and ensures learning environments are safe, modern, adaptable, and responsive to the evolving needs of students and families.

Immediate Actions

Modernization and Expansion Strategy

Westmount Charter School will continue to leverage the November 2025 Value Scoping Report to advance both modernization and expansion planning. Immediate actions include:

- Refining phased expansion models aligned to increased student demand.
- Developing purpose-designed K-6 and 7-12 campus configurations to optimize programming delivery.
- Updating and validating enrolment and admissions projections.
- Engaging in ongoing dialogue with Alberta Education and Childcare to ensure alignment with provincial capital planning priorities.

Modernization Project

Rationale for Modernization

The majority of Westmount's core infrastructure has remained largely unchanged since the late 1960s. As a result, aging mechanical systems, washrooms, locker rooms, windows, and instructional spaces increasingly fall short of current expectations and requirements related to:

- Health and safety, including aging mechanical and electrical systems.
- Accessibility and inclusive design, where existing facility limitations, specifically the absence of an elevator in the two-storey elementary campus, create barriers for students with mobility needs.
- Energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, contributing to increased operational costs.
- Contemporary instructional delivery, where existing layouts limit flexible, student-centred and differentiated learning.
- Student dignity and well-being, including privacy, comfort, and safe use of learning and activity spaces.

Targeted modernization is essential to extend the lifecycle of existing facilities, mitigate growing reliance on IMR and CMR funding, and improve operational efficiency. Modernized spaces are also critical to ensuring safe, functional, and inclusive learning environments that fully support Westmount's specialized programming.

Should the proposal to expand and modernize the campuses not be approved in the current capital planning cycle, the following priority projects have been identified for short-term implementation to address critical infrastructure risks and immediate program needs.

Priority Projects

- **Elementary Campus - Washroom Modernization** - Estimated Cost: \$1,800,000
 - Existing washrooms require full modernization due to aging plumbing infrastructure, outdated fixtures, water inefficiencies, and non-compliance with current accessibility and privacy standards.
- **Elementary Campus - Accessibility Upgrade** - Estimated Cost: \$900,000
 - Installation of a barrier-free elevator to provide safe, reliable access between the main and second floors. This upgrade addresses existing accessibility barriers for students, staff, and visitors with mobility needs, ensures compliance with current Alberta Building Code accessibility standards, and responds to identified health and safety considerations associated with aging infrastructure. The project is essential to sustaining Westmount’s inclusive learning environment and ensuring equitable access to programming for all students and families.
- **Elementary Campus - Boiler Replacement** - Estimated Cost: \$1,000, 000
 - The current boiler system (circa 1960s) has exceeded its lifecycle expectancy and operates inefficiently. Replacing the system with a high-efficiency one will improve reliability, reduce energy consumption, and lower long-term operating costs.
- **Mid-High Campus - Locker Room Renovations** - Estimated Cost: \$800,000
 - Existing locker rooms do not meet modern privacy expectations, accessibility standards, or inclusive design requirements. A comprehensive redesign is required to support student dignity, safety, and well-being.
- **Mid-High Campus - Fitness Room Modernization** - Estimated Cost: \$500,000
 - The fitness room requires redesign and equipment renewal to support contemporary physical education programming, wellness initiatives, and safe instructional practice.
- **Mid-High Campus - New Windows** - Estimated Cost: \$1,000,000
 - Existing windows are failing, lack adequate R-values, and contribute to heat loss and increased utility costs. Replacement will improve energy performance, enhance building envelope integrity, and support environmental sustainability goals.

| Priority Projects Estimated Cost | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Item | Elementary Campus | Mid-High Campus | Total |
| Washroom | \$1,800,000 | | |
| Accessibility Upgrade | \$900,000 | | |
| Boiler Replacement | \$1,000,000 | | |
| EC Total | | | \$ 3,700,000 |
| Locker Room | | \$800,000 | |
| Fitness Room | | \$500,000 | |
| New Windows | | \$1,000,000 | |
| MH Total | | | \$ 2,300,000 |
| All Items Total | | | \$6,000,000 |

Long-Term Capacity Expansion

Objective

To secure a sustainable, long-term infrastructure solution that addresses sustained admissions demand, accommodates projected enrolment growth, and expands equitable access to Westmount’s specialized gifted programming. This objective recognizes the need to increase system capacity to support students who require differentiated, enriched, and accelerated learning environments.

Preliminary Financial Projections

Full Replacement of Both Campuses: Complete facility replacements at an estimated total capital cost of \$120.48 million, with a 25-year Net Present Value of \$144.45 million, designed to support approximately 1,800-2,000 students. The two new schools would provide long-term sustainability, alignment with programming, and operational efficiencies consistent with provincial infrastructure standards.

| Long-Term Capacity Expansion Estimated Cost | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Full Replacement of Both Campuses | \$144.45 million |

Strategic Actions

To advance long-term capacity expansion, Westmount will:

- Continue strategic advocacy and engagement with provincial stakeholders.
- Update admissions demand data.
- Refine the space requirement analysis specific to gifted programming delivery models.
- Evaluate phased expansion options, including modular classrooms, land acquisition, and new construction.
- Develop transportation, site logistics, and operational transition models.
- Align all planning with Alberta Education and Childcare’s capital prioritization framework (growth, condition, utilization, and sustainability criteria).

Timeline Overview

Medium-Term Outlook

Westmount completed a comprehensive Value Scoping Report in November 2025. The planning, analysis, and conceptual development phase is complete. The project is therefore positioned to move directly into implementation planning pending provincial approval.

Scenario 1: Value Scoping Accepted / Project Approved

Upon provincial acceptance of the Value Scoping Report and capital approval (Schools Now), the next steps would include:

Months 1-3

- Confirmation of funding allocation and approved project scope.
- Establishment of project governance and oversight structures.
- Initiation of procurement for architectural and engineering services.

Months 3-9

- Advancement from conceptual design to schematic and detailed design.
- Updated cost estimates.
- Completion of permitting and regulatory approvals.
- Development of a phased construction and transition plan.

Months 9-18

- Tendering of construction packages.
- Site preparation and early works.
- Commencement of phased modernization and/or expansion.

Because Value Scoping has already been completed, Westmount is positioned to accelerate implementation upon approval.

Scenario 2: Value Scoping Not Approved in Current Budget Cycle

If the project is not approved in the upcoming provincial budget:

Months 1-3

- Update and refine the completed Value Scoping Report.
- Incorporate updated admissions demand data.
- Refresh cost estimates to reflect current market conditions.

Months 3-12

- Resubmit the proposal as part of the annual Capital Plan and/or through the Schools Now pathway.
- Continue strategic engagement with Alberta Education and Childcare and provincial stakeholders.

Months 12-18

- Maintain project readiness.
- Evaluate interim mitigation strategies (modular, phased modernization).
- Strengthen advocacy based on admissions pressures and program access needs.

Conclusion

Westmount Charter School has a longstanding and demonstrated record of excellence in gifted education, serving students whose learning needs require specialized, differentiated, and accelerated programming. However, without strategic capital investment, many qualified students will remain unable to access this specialized educational environment. This Capital Plan represents:

- A commitment to safe, modern, and inclusive learning environments aligned with current provincial standards.
- A responsible, long-term infrastructure strategy that supports sustainable growth and prudent stewardship of public resources.
- With provincial support, Westmount Charter School will continue to lead gifted education in Alberta and empower exceptional students to reach their full potential.

Provincial support for this plan will expand system capacity, strengthen educational choice, and ensure that gifted students in Calgary and surrounding areas have access to programming designed to meet their unique needs.

With strategic capital investment, Westmount Charter School will continue to lead gifted education in Alberta and empower exceptional students to reach their full potential, contributing meaningfully to the province's future innovation, leadership, and economic prosperity.

Respectfully submitted and approved at the March 18, 2026, Board Meeting.

Simon Corrin (original signed)
Board Chair

Dr. Adriana Klassen (original signed)
Superintendent