

Frequently Asked Questions—Edson K to 5 Replacement School

General

Q When will the replacement school open? The new K to 5 replacement school for Edson is scheduled to be completed for the start of the 2017-18 school year.

Q How do I register my child for the replacement school? Registration for new students and Kindergarten students will continue as normal at both A.H. Dakin and Evergreen Schools during the 2016-17 school year. Students are scheduled to begin the 2017-18 school year in the new building as of September 5, 2017. Kindergarten registration begins in January of the year that the student is to begin school. For more information please phone the schools directly.

Q What grades will the replacement school accommodate? The replacement school will be for students in Kindergarten to Grade 5. The school will also offer the current Language Enrichment program which is currently located in the A.H. Dakin School.

Q What will be the capacity of the replacement school? The replacement school for the new school in Edson is designed as a 450 permanent core school to accommodate both A.H. Dakin and Evergreen current populations, but has the built out capacity of up to 500 for future growth with the placement of additional modular classrooms.

Q Will there be community space available in the replacement school? Yes, the replacement school will continue to offer after-hours community use. School space is determined in consultation with the school and the Town of Edson.

Q What will happen to the new playground equipment installed at Evergreen School? The Board of Trustees will move the new playground to the new site at no further cost to the community.

Communication

Q Was any public consultations or engagement efforts conducted for the design of the replacement school? Yes the Board of Trustees hosted various community open houses and online surveys in 2014 and 2015 to receive public feedback on the different options for new school facilities within the Town of Edson. Based on this input, the Board approved the merging of both A.H. Dakin and Evergreen Schools' student populations into one new replacement facility. A Design Committee was established to gather input from a variety of stakeholders on important features to consider in the design of the replacement school. This Committee of stakeholder representatives (parents, students and school staff from both schools, local school trustees and division personnel) 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 will incorporate the input of stakeholders where possible, within the parameters of the Alberta Infrastructure school-design templates. <http://www.gypsd.ca/Replacement%20School%20Edson.php>

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, GYPSD will post regular updates on the division's website at www.gypsd.ca. 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 the new replacement school in Edson.

Planning and Construction

Q When will construction begin on the replacement school? The tender process for the general contractor were sent in June and closed on July 5, 2016. Once the successful contractor is awarded for the construction project, timelines for the various phases of development will be finalized. GYPSD expects to be able to communicate these timelines in the fall of this year.

Q When will construction end on the replacement school? The replacement school is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2017-18 school year.

Q Are drawings or rendering of the replacement school ready for the public view? As soon as the designs have been approved for release by Alberta Infrastructure, GYPSD will be sharing them with the school community on the division website as well as placing a poster at each school location.

Q Why did GYPSD decide to build a replacement school as opposed to simply renovating the current facilities? 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 both A.H. Dakin and Evergreen Schools, GYPSD and government representatives determined it was more efficient, and more cost effective, to build one large replacement school as opposed to modernizing either current facility.

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 GYPSD for the replacement school.

Q How will students be impacted during the construction of the replacement school? Classes at both schools will continue as usual throughout the construction process.

Q What size are the classrooms? 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 portables? The core of the replacement school will be built to accommodate a full build-out capacity of 500 students.

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. For size comparisons: a new 450 student capacity facility is very similar to the current size of École Westhaven School in Edson. Westhaven's gymnasium is currently 413 m² and a gymnasium for the new facility would be 430m²: Dakin and Evergreen's current gymnasiums at approximately 200m² is significantly smaller than current Provincial Guidelines. A central student gathering area adjacent to the learning commons, and a multi-purpose classroom that opens to the gymnasium are other design features that the community can look forward to in the new facility.



Student Transportation

Q **Will school bus boundaries change for the new facility?** GYPSD 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 new school's attendance boundary. More information related to the new school will be provided in the near future.

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.

Q **Will there be a new parking lot designed?** The design of the replacement school building and surrounding area includes the development of a parking lot and restructuring traffic flow around the school. Student safety and efficient traffic flow are key considerations in the design of the roadways, parking lots, and drop-off/pickup zones around the school. These designs will be included with the architects' renderings of the replacement school.