



Alternative Programs



Riverside School 2026-27 School Year



learning | **as unique** | as every student



Calgary Board
of Education

Alternative Programs



Choice | Alternative Programs

- Science
- Indigenous Education
- Arts-Centred
- All Girls
- Languages (French, German, Mandarin, Spanish)
- Montessori
- Traditional Learning Centre (TLC)



Alternative Programs



Why Alternative Programs?

- Providing families choices to appeal to the interests and preferences of each student
- Programs focus on a particular language, culture, subject (Arts, Science), or teaching philosophy
- Informed choice is essential – what is THIS particular program about and how does it meet MY child's needs?

Alternative Programs



Inform | Key Messages

- Each program has unique features
- Integrity of the program remains the same across sites
- All sites follow Alberta Programs of Study with ATA certificated teachers
- All schools requiring a lottery follow the CBE lottery process
- Aligned with system timeframe for registration
- There is a designated Alternative Program school for each home address

Timeline for Registration

Registration **opens January 12th** for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Registration is **ONGOING**.
- Registration is paused on **Tuesday February 10**, 2026 at 12:00pm for Lottery Schools.
- Lottery drawn on Wednesday February 11, 2026 by 12:00pm.
- Results of the lottery draw sent within 10 business days of the draw.
 - Teacher's Convention counts as business days, weekends and Family Day does not
 - As with the last two years, the goal is to have it out by the 23rd (7 business days)
- Parents must accept/decline within 10 business days from the date of the acceptance offer letter/email.



Registration is Online | New and Current CBE Students

www.cbe.ab.ca



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Current CBE Students

Expression of Interest | School Engage

Alternative Programs

Select One Of The Following Options

I Want To Register A Child

I have other children in the CBE and I want to register another child for an alternative program

Start Registration ➞

Moving From One Program To Another

My child is already registered in one program (regular or alternative) and I would like to move to a different program (regular or alternative)

Move Programs ➞

Program Selection

Select One

Alternative Program

I am seeking to move in to an Alternative Program.

Alternative Program ➞

Regular Program

I am seeking to move into the Regular Program

Regular Program ➞

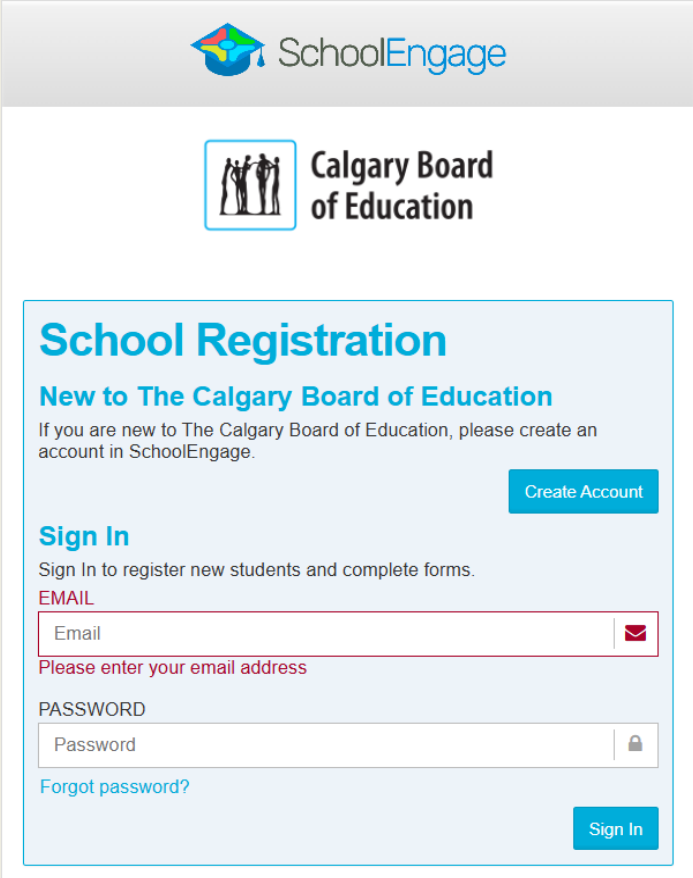
International Baccalaureate Programme (IB)

I am seeking to move into the IB Programme

IB Program ➞

Registration is Online with School Engage

- The registration form is approximately 16 tabs
- Ensure you have a few minutes to fill these out
- You may SAVE and return to the form
- Required documents prior to beginning your forms



The screenshot shows the SchoolEngage website interface. At the top, there is a header with the SchoolEngage logo (a colorful graduation cap) and the text "SchoolEngage". Below this, the Calgary Board of Education logo (a blue square with white silhouettes of people) and the text "Calgary Board of Education" are displayed. The main content area is titled "School Registration" in large blue font. Below this, it says "New to The Calgary Board of Education" in blue, followed by the instruction "If you are new to The Calgary Board of Education, please create an account in SchoolEngage." in black. A blue button labeled "Create Account" is positioned to the right. Below this, the "Sign In" section is shown in blue. It includes the instruction "Sign In to register new students and complete forms." in black. There are two input fields: "EMAIL" with a red border and a red envelope icon, and "PASSWORD" with a grey border and a lock icon. Below the email field, the text "Please enter your email address" is displayed in red. Below the password field, the text "Forgot password?" is shown in blue. A blue button labeled "Sign In" is located at the bottom right of the form area.

Registration Documentation

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Prior to starting the registration process you will require the following information:

- **Proof of primary address:**

Where the child resides. It must include the parent / legal guardian / independent student name.

Examples include: bank statement, driver's licence, GST rebate, utility bill, home or renters insurance, income tax statement, mortgage statement, property tax assessment or the Canada Revenue Agency letter

- **Child's proof of age, citizenship and legal name:**

Examples include: Alberta Birth Certificate, Canadian Birth Certificate, Canadian passport, Canadian Citizenship Card, Canadian Citizenship Certificate, Confirmation of Permanent Residence or the Canadian Certificate of Indian Status

- A **selfie** with the legal guardian / parent government issued photo identification

Additional documentation may be required:

- [Custody / Guardianship](#)

- [Student Health Form](#)

- [Student Assessment](#)

Students who are not Canadian citizens will be contacted after registration by the [CBE Welcome Centre](#).

Alternative Programs | Registration Process

Complete the Registration Process Following These Steps

1

Create a SchoolEngage Account



1. Go to [SchoolEngage](#)
2. Click *Create Account* button
3. Complete the Account Form
4. Check your Email for Confirmation and Click on the Confirmation Link
5. Sign in to SchoolEngage
6. Add a student

Refer to [SchoolEngage Support](#) for detailed steps

Launch
SchoolEngage 

2

Complete Registration Form

In SchoolEngage complete the Registration Form

In this step you will select **both** your child's designated alternative program and regular designated program school.

TIP

Remember to hit the green **Submit** button at the end of the Registration Form to ensure it has been fully completed.

3

Completed Form Sent to School For Processing

Please be patient as the school works through all their completed registrations.

School staff will contact you if there are any questions or concerns.

Please do not call the school.

4

School Informs Parents

The school informs the parent they are accepted into the program.

School may require additional forms to be completed.



Alternative Programs | Schools in Lottery Registration Process

Complete the Registration Process Following These 4 Steps

1

Create a SchoolEngage Account



1. Go to [SchoolEngage](#)
2. Click *Create Account* button
3. Complete the Account Form
4. Check your Email for Confirmation and Click on the Confirmation Link
5. Sign in to SchoolEngage
6. Add a student

Refer to [SchoolEngage Support](#) for detailed steps

[Launch SchoolEngage](#)

2

Complete Registration Form

In SchoolEngage complete the appropriate Registration Form for your child's designated school.

In this step you can select **both** your child's designated regular program and alternative program schools.

Do not register your child for your designated overflow school.

TIP

Remember to hit the green **Submit** at the end of the Registration form to ensure it has been fully completed.

3

Completed Form Sent to School For Processing

Please be patient as the school works through all their completed registrations.

School staff will contact you if there are any questions or concerns.

Please do not call the school.

4

School Confirms Registration

The school confirms student registration and adds your child to the call-back list.

The student's registration information **will automatically be transferred** to the overflow school.

School may require additional forms to be completed.





Lottery Process

What Is Lottery

A lottery is a way to equitably enrol students when a school, program or grade is identified to be at or over capacity.

As Calgary continues to grow and evolve, so does our student population, which means some schools or programs may reach capacity. Meaning some schools must run lotteries.

Lotteries ensure fair and equitable access to schools, programs (regular or alternative), or grades when student populations are at capacity or over capacity. Schools usually conduct lotteries for the grade of entry (for example, kindergarten or Grade 10), but they may also need to hold lotteries for specific grades or programs.

The lottery happens in February.



Lottery Timeline

- To have your Registration / Expression of Interest considered for the Lottery, it must be **completed and submitted by Noon on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026.**
- Schools will hold lotteries at Noon on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026.
- Results of the lottery will be communicated to families **within 10 business days.**
- Families **will then have 10 business days** to respond to any offers of placement.

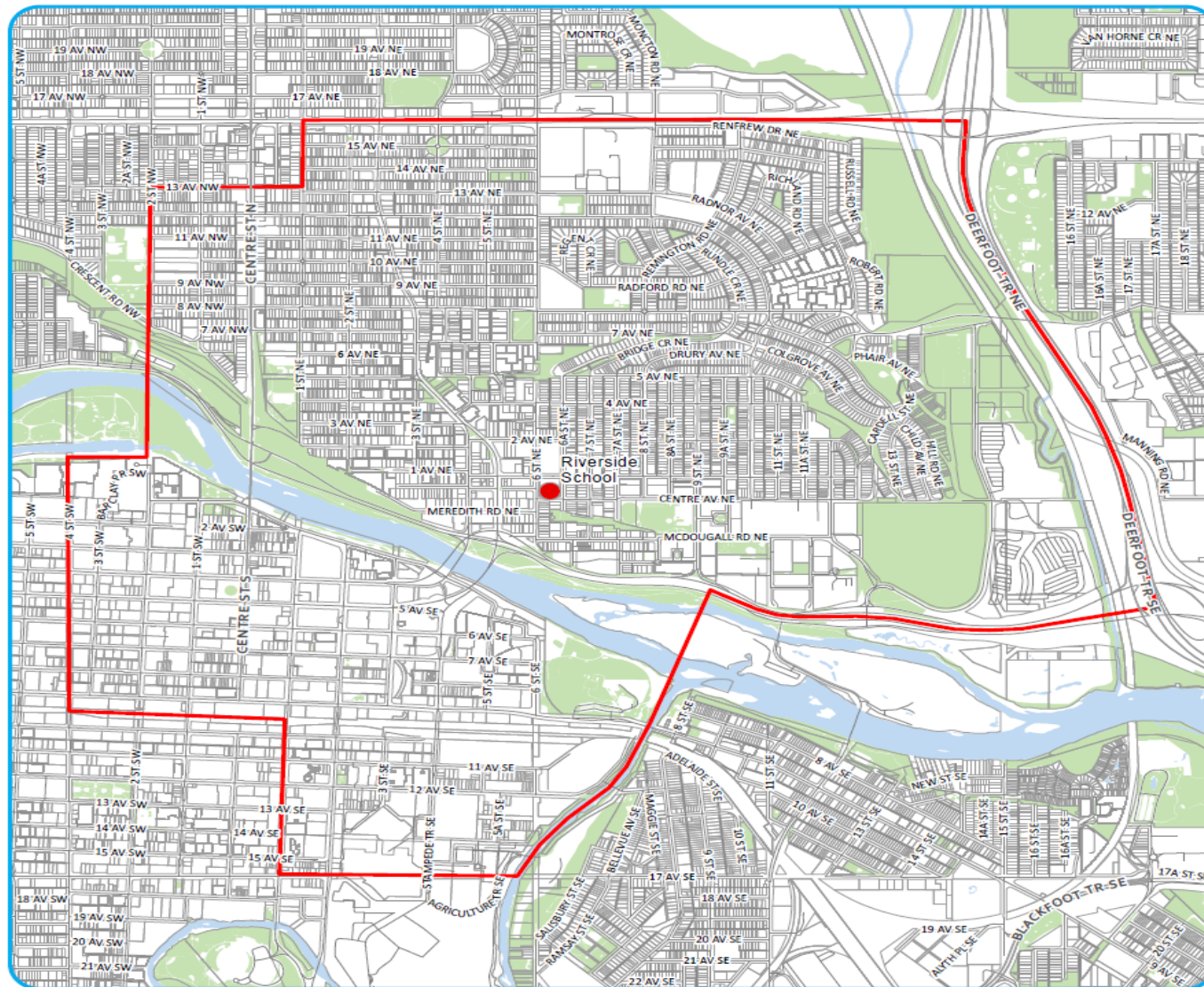


Communication from the school(s)

- We encourage you to wait until you hear if you were successful in the lottery from every school to which you expressed interest.
- Once you accept a placement, **you may not receive any further offers.**
- All offers of placement or confirmation that you were not successful will **come through SchoolEngage.** Existing CBE students may hear directly from the school.

Riverside School Lottery Zone Map

You can access a PDF version of this map here: [Lottery Zone Riverside K 9 Science](#)



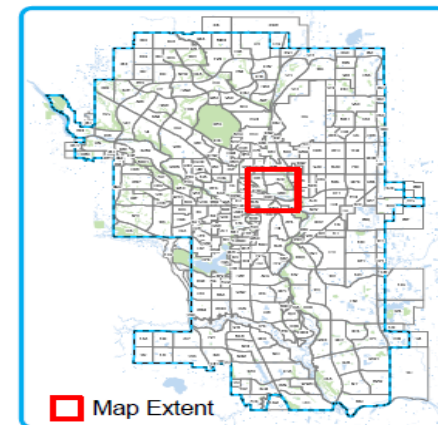
Lottery Zone

Riverside School
Grades: K-9
Science Program

107 6A ST NE



- School
- Lottery Zones
- CBE Boundary
- Greenspace
- Waterbody



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Calgary Board
of Education

1:21,000
NAD 1983 3TM 114
Date: September 10, 2025
Prepared by: Planning
Map Series: Lottery Zones

LOTTERY PROCESS

New to CBE (e.g.: Kindergarten)

1. A school, program or grade is identified to be at or over capacity and is moved into lottery status

New To CBE

2. Parents/Legal Guardians or Independent Students complete a registration or expression of interest before the lottery deadline.
3. **School processes registrations and expressions of interest** as they are received. Every submission is assigned a unique number.
4. **Lottery Draws are Completed**
Lottery draws are supervised by more than one person, including the school principal or an administration delegate, a school council member, and an administrative assistant

Schools create a **callback**
(<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/registration/registration/lottery/Pages/Lottery-Process.aspx#callback>) list.
5. **Parents or Independent Students are Notified**
Schools inform parents / independent students if they have or have not been accepted into the program.
What if I was not accepted?
(<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/registration/registration/lottery/Pages/Lottery-Process.aspx#not-accepted>)
6. **Parent or Independent Student Response**
If you applied to multiple schools/programs, wait to be notified by **all** of them.

If You Accept:
You are automatically placed into that school / program. Any other programs you applied for will be notified, and you will be removed from their lists.

If You Decline:
If an acceptance or placed on a callback list is refused, the student is removed from the list.
If the refusal is based on the inability to take all members of a family, the student may remain on the call-back list and be contacted if there is space for all.

LOTTERY PROCESS

Currently Enrolled in CBE (e.g.: grade 1 or higher grades)

1. A school, program or grade is identified to be at or over capacity and is moved into lottery status.

Currently Enrolled With CBE

2. **Students are automatically designated** to their next year's program by their designated school and are included in the lottery.
3. **Lottery Draws are Completed**
Lottery draws are supervised by more than one person, including the school principal or an administration delegate, a school council member, and an administrative assistant.

Schools create a [callback](#)
(<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/registration/registration/lottery/Pages/Lottery-Process.aspx#callback>) [list](#).
4. **Parents or Independent Students are Notified**
Schools inform parents / independent students whether they have or have not been accepted into the program.
[What if I was not accepted?](#)
(<http://www.cbe.ab.ca/registration/registration/lottery/Pages/Lottery-Process.aspx#not-accepted>)
5. **Parent or Independent Student Response**
If you applied to multiple schools / programs, wait to be notified by **all** of them.

If You Accept:
You are automatically placed into that school/program. Any other programs you applied for will be notified, and you will be removed from their lists.

If You Decline:
If an acceptance or placement on a call-back list is refused, the student is removed from the list. If the refusal is based on the inability to take all members of a family, the student may remain on the call-back list and be contacted if there is space for all.



Lottery

Priority levels influence your chance of being offered a place at a lottery school. If unsuccessful in the lottery, students are placed on a callback list in order of priority level.

Priority 1

- Students living within the lottery zone who have a sibling (brother/sister [half or step, not cousins]) that will be attending the same program in the same school; concurrently (occurring or existing simultaneously).

Priority 2

- Students living outside the lottery zone but in the designated area for the school, who will have a sibling in the same program at the same school concurrently; or
- Students living within the lottery zone who do not have a sibling in the school.

Priority 3

- All other students living in the designated attendance area.



Name NOT Drawn in the Lottery

If the student's name was not drawn in the lottery process for an alternative program, they will **attend their designated regular program school.**

If you select more than one alternative program, **each school will notify you** whether you have been accepted.

If you were not accepted into any of the lottery schools, you will attend your designated regular program school.



Registrations received after Lottery

Students registering for **an alternative program** after the lottery draw must register for their designated regular program school, as no additional spaces will be available for the next school year.



Wait List

Waitlist for Alternative & Language programs that exist will be dissolved at the end of September, beginning of October.

Call Back List listed below apply to ONLY overflow schools for designated community school, NOT Alternative or Language Programs



CallBack List

A callback list is used for regular program schools that are overcapacity and cannot accommodate all students who live within the school's designated boundary.

The callback list is prioritized according to the draw order established by a lottery. If a school reaches capacity mid-year and must cap enrolment, the callback list is based on priority designation, registration date and time.

If space becomes available throughout the school year, that space will be offered to students on the callback list who are **currently** attending their overflow or regular program school.

Alternative Programs



Inform | Transportation

- K-5 yellow bus transportation provided following CBE congregated stop guidelines for alternative programs
- transportation for grades 6-9 may be offered through congregated yellow bus stops or Calgary Transit (no rebates are provided)
- parents pay an annual fee for CBE yellow bus service or purchase monthly Calgary Transit passes
- Congregated stops are reviewed annually and informed by pre-registration for transportation, online through **MyCBE/PowerSchool**
- Congregated stops may not be within walking distance and alternate arrangements may be required to access the congregated stop

Science Program



Elements of the Science Program

- An emphasis on the development of scientific literacy
- A focus on critical thinking through science and technology perspectives across subject areas using Alberta Education curriculum
- Extensive field studies to enhance classroom inquiry (approximately 10 – 20 per year) across all seasons

Science Program



Differences and similarities with community school programs:

Differences:

- Students learn through the “lens of science”
- Focus on scientific inquiry
- Mandatory field studies
- Blended CTF program
- Focus on journaling

Similarities:

- *Alberta Curriculum*
- Daily Physical Education
- Character
- Citizenship
- Personal Development

Science Program



The Science Program classroom:

- Engages students through the practice of scientific inquiry and experiential learning
- Engages with experts in the field of science and technology
- Explores opportunities to participate in science across all areas of the curriculum
- Instills a collaborative approach to seeking solutions to complex problems

Science Program



A Science Program student...

- Has a love of science and curiosity about how the world works
- Has a willingness to take risks in learning and is comfortable with ambiguity
- Exemplifies a resiliency for learning in outdoor environments in all weather conditions
- Is willing to conform to uniform regulations when/where expected

Science Program



Science Program

Is the Science Program the Right Choice for My Child?



A successful student demonstrates:

- a love of science and curiosity about how the world works
- willingness to take risks in learning and is comfortable with ambiguity
- a resiliency for learning in outdoor environments in all weather conditions
- a willingness to conform to uniform regulations when/where expected



Characteristics of a Science Program

- Fosters critical thinking through science and technology perspectives
- Emphasizes the development of scientific literacy
- Engages students through the practice of scientific inquiry
- Investigating problems, formulating hypotheses, testing, and reporting their observations and findings
- Instills a collaborative approach to seeking solutions to complex problems
- Engages with experts in the field of science and technology
- Explores opportunities to participate in science across all areas of curriculum
- Instructional focus on inquiry, experiential learning and integrated project work using the Alberta Education curriculum
- Monthly or bi-weekly field studies per year for each student, parents are required to volunteer for a minimum of 3 field studies per registered student
- Fees will be assessed for each student per year to cover the cost of field studies

Science Program



Other considerations:

- Extra field study fee per student for whole class day trips (~\$200)
- Parent commitment to volunteer for field studies (3 times per year per child)
- Transportation fee
- Lunchroom supervision fee (gr. 1-6)
- Noon activity fee (gr. 7-9)
- Student supply fee (K-6)

Science Program



Other considerations:

- Riverside students in all grades are expected to wear uniform shirts Monday-Thursday each week.
- These uniform shirts are purchased online or in person through McCarthy Uniforms.
- **2026-2027 Uniform Purchasing Windows**
- July 2- October 31, 2026
- December 15, 2026 - January 31, 2027
- April 15, 2027- May 31, 2027

Science Program



School-specific information

- With the high level of interest in our school, **we are not able** to host an Open House evening, nor individual tours or meetings with staff
- We will host a New Families Orientation evening in **May 2026**
- Families new to our school are asked to begin the volunteer clearance process by **May 2026** (see Main Office)
- Kindergarten students **do not** attend school on Fridays



Thank You

Please contact the school at
riverside@cbe.ab.ca if you have
any further questions or concerns