



Alternative Programs



Riverside School Science Program

2025-26 School Year

learning | as unique | as every student



Calgary Board
of Education

Alternative Programs



Choice | Alternative Programs

- Science
- Indigenous Education
- Arts-Centred
- All Boys
- 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

Alternative Programs



Timeline | Registration/Lottery

- Opens [January 13, 2025](#)
- Closed noon on Tuesday before Teachers' Convention ([February 11, 2025](#))
- Lottery drawn on Wednesday before Teachers' Convention ([February 12, 2025](#))
- Results of the lottery draw sent within 10 business days of the draw ([February 27, 2025](#))
- Parents must accept/decline within 10 business days from the date of the acceptance letter
- If you have applied to more than one program that is in Lottery, please wait until you have heard your Lottery results from all the schools before accepting one

Alternative Programs



How We Prioritize Students For Lottery

There are 3 steps to determine the priority for accepting a student into a lottery school.

Priority 1

- Students residing within the walk 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 walk zone but in the designated area for the school, who will have a sibling in the same school at the same time; or
- Students living within the walk zone who do not have a sibling in the school.

Priority 3

- All other students living in the designated attendance area.

Alternative Programs



School Engage | Expression of Interest



Calgary Board of Education

Expression of Interest - 2024-25

Form Submission: _____

Current CBE (Kindergarten to Grade 8) students may complete this form to register at an alternative program school, for 2024-25, by noon on Feb 13, 2024 for schools in lottery; and until further notice for all other Alternative Programs. All Expression of Interests are based on Priority Lists, as stated in Administrative Regulation 6090 | Child and Student Registration and Admission. Completing an Expression of Interest does not guarantee acceptance into an alternative program. Registration will not occur until a family receives an offer of acceptance and confirmation of acceptance. Acceptance into a Kindergarten program does not guarantee registration in Grade 1. Note: school year 2024-25 starts in August 2024.

Student Information

Legal Last Name _____

Legal First Name _____

Legal Middle Name _____

Student Primary Address

This is the address on file; if this is not correct, first you must submit a Demographic Verification form.

Street _____

City _____

Province _____

Postal Code _____

Home Community (in Calgary) _____

School Information

Student's current grade _____

Student's grade in 2024-25 _____

Designated Alternative Program Preference

An alternative program is a program that emphasizes a particular language, culture or subject-matter; or uses a particular teaching philosophy. All other programs fall under the regular program umbrella. For a full list of alternative programs, visit CBE's Program Options webpage.

Alternative Program - Preference 1

Note | An Expression of Interest requires at least one alternative program selection. It may have up to three selected alternative program choices. Please note that these selections are not ranked in the order that they are selected. Each will be considered equally.

Alternative Program (1st Choice) _____

Designated Alternative Program School (1st Choice) _____

Alternative Program Declaration

I have read and understand the information regarding the alternative program(s) in which I have expressed interest.

I understand that if a lottery process is utilized and the student's name is NOT drawn, the student will be enrolled in the designated regular program school based on the student's address.

I understand that I will receive any notifications / outcomes by email.

I understand that there are additional fees and/or volunteer commitments associated with the alternative program. If I am unable to pay these fees, I will apply for a waiver.

I have read and understood the transportation information and fees.

Siblings

My child has a sibling(s) who will be in the same school, same program, next school year _____

My child / student is a twin (or other multiple) _____

Declaration

I, the undersigned, _____

Please ensure you fill out ALL sections of School Engage when registering, uploading all pertinent documents helps streamline the registration process.

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 inquiry-based learning
- 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/year)
- 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 are expected to wear uniforms Monday-Thursday
- **2025-2026 Uniform Purchasing Windows**
- July 2- October 31, 2025
- December 17, 2025 - January 31, 2026
- April 15, 2025- May 31, 2026

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 2025**
- Families new to our school are asked to begin the volunteer clearance process by **May 2025** (see Main Office)
- Kindergarten students **do not** attend school on Fridays



Thank You

Please contact the school if you
have any further questions or
concerns

