

May 28, 2026

2026–2027 Annual Operating Budget Approved

The Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the 2026–2027 Annual Operating Budget for East Central Catholic Schools. Total Alberta Education funding to the Division increases approximately 14.3% year-over-year—rising from \$24.8 million to \$27.1 million—driven by Teacher Salary Settlement grants, Base Instruction increases, and an expanded Operations & Maintenance grant. The budget projects an operating deficit of \$391,551, primarily driven by transportation (\$389,641) and facilities (\$105,599), partially offset by a modest instructional surplus of \$114,128. The Division serves approximately 2,700 students across seven schools and programs, with a projected funded enrolment of 2,646 FTE for 2026–27.

Education Plan 2025–2029: Year 2 Approved

The Board approved the East Central Catholic Schools 2025–2029 Education Plan – Year 2, effective September 1, 2026. The plan is organized across five domains: Quality Catholic Education, Student Growth & Achievement, Teaching & Leading, Learning Supports, and Governance and Local & Societal Context. Key priorities include deepening Catholic identity and faith formation, supporting Indigenous student achievement, and targeting 85% of students meeting or exceeding provincial standards on PATs. The plan was developed through broad stakeholder engagement including parent, staff, and student surveys, school council meetings, and ongoing dialogue with trustees and community members.

Locally Developed Course Renewal Approved

The Board approved the renewal of locally developed courses (LDCs) for the 2026–2030 cycle, supporting flexible programming that addresses diverse student learning needs. Approved courses include Forensic Studies 35 (LDC3256)—renewed for the 2025–2029 cycle—and the newly approved Learning Strategies suite (LDC1599, LDC2599, LDC3599) at the Grade 10, 11, and 12 levels, available in both 3-credit and 5-credit versions. Learning Strategies courses provide structured skill development in areas such as organization, study skills, and self-regulation. Forensic Studies 35 offers an engaging elective connecting scientific inquiry with real-world applications. Documentation will be submitted to Alberta Education for provincial approval.

Christ King School Replacement – Land Access and Ministerial Support

The Board has written to the Honourable Dan Williams, Minister of Municipal Affairs, requesting provincial support to resolve land access barriers preventing the Division from advancing this critically needed replacement school. The current 1.78-acre Christ King site is fully built out with no room for expansion, and efforts to work collaboratively with the Town of Stettler to identify available school reserve land have not resulted in a resolution.

Joint Use and Planning Agreement – Town of Castor Approved

The Board reviewed and approved a renewed Joint Use and Planning Agreement between East Central Alberta Catholic Separate Schools, Clearview School Division, and the Town of Castor. The agreement—required under the Municipal Government Act and the Education Act—formalizes the shared use of school and municipal facilities, including Theresetta School

(K–9, gymnasium, classrooms) and municipal facilities such as the Castor Arena, Centennial Pool, and Kinsmen Sports Grounds. The agreement establishes governance and operating committees, joint use scheduling, dispute resolution processes, and principles of cooperation, efficiency, and fairness to benefit students and the broader Castor community.

Board Members

Derek Collins, *Chair* | Mardy Charlebois, *Vice-Chair* | Alan Rogan | Angelique Peeters | Noel Wirachowsky | Rebecca Scherger | Carolyn Fetaz | Ryan Bolin