

# Advocating for Catholic education



CALGARY CATHOLIC  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Our success

As the largest publicly-funded Catholic district in Alberta, Calgary Catholic serves 57,000 students in 115 schools across Calgary, Cochrane, Airdrie and Chestermere. Calgary Catholic is one of the most successful school districts in the province and we work to provide the highest-quality programs that educate and empower students from kindergarten to Grade 12. Our strong accountability results show we support student success in safe, caring and welcoming school communities and we continue to be leaders in fiscal management and responsible governance.

## Safe and caring communities

Last year, more than 91 per cent of parents felt their child's school is welcoming, caring, respectful and safe because it fosters diversity and belonging; while nearly 89 per cent of parents, students and teachers agree that students learn how to care for, respect and treat others fairly. As part of our growing Champions initiative, more than 90 per cent of students from grade 4-12 also feel they have a meaningful relationship with an adult they can turn to for guidance and support.

## Fiscal leadership and management

The board approved a balanced budget of \$615 million through reserves and savings. We were able to avoid staff and classroom cuts and increases to district fees; and add more than 60 new staff to reduce class sizes and provide more mental health support. Our funding per student is one of the lowest in the province. We are known for our fiscal stewardship and have in the past received a Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials International.

## Relationships

We govern through engagement and collaboration. As advocates for our communities, we use feedback from Parent & Trustee forums, school councils and annual surveys to ensure funding, infrastructure and legislation provide support for our students and their families.

## Board Priorities



# Student Success

## 2.6

Students score 2.6 per cent higher than the provincial average on their Provincial Achievement Tests and 1.7 per cent higher than the standard of excellence

## 2.4

Students scored 2.4 per cent higher than the provincial average on their Diploma Examinations and 0.5 per cent higher than the standard of excellence

## 81

Close to 81 per cent of our Indigenous students complete high school in three years—27.2 per cent more than the provincial average

## 1.7

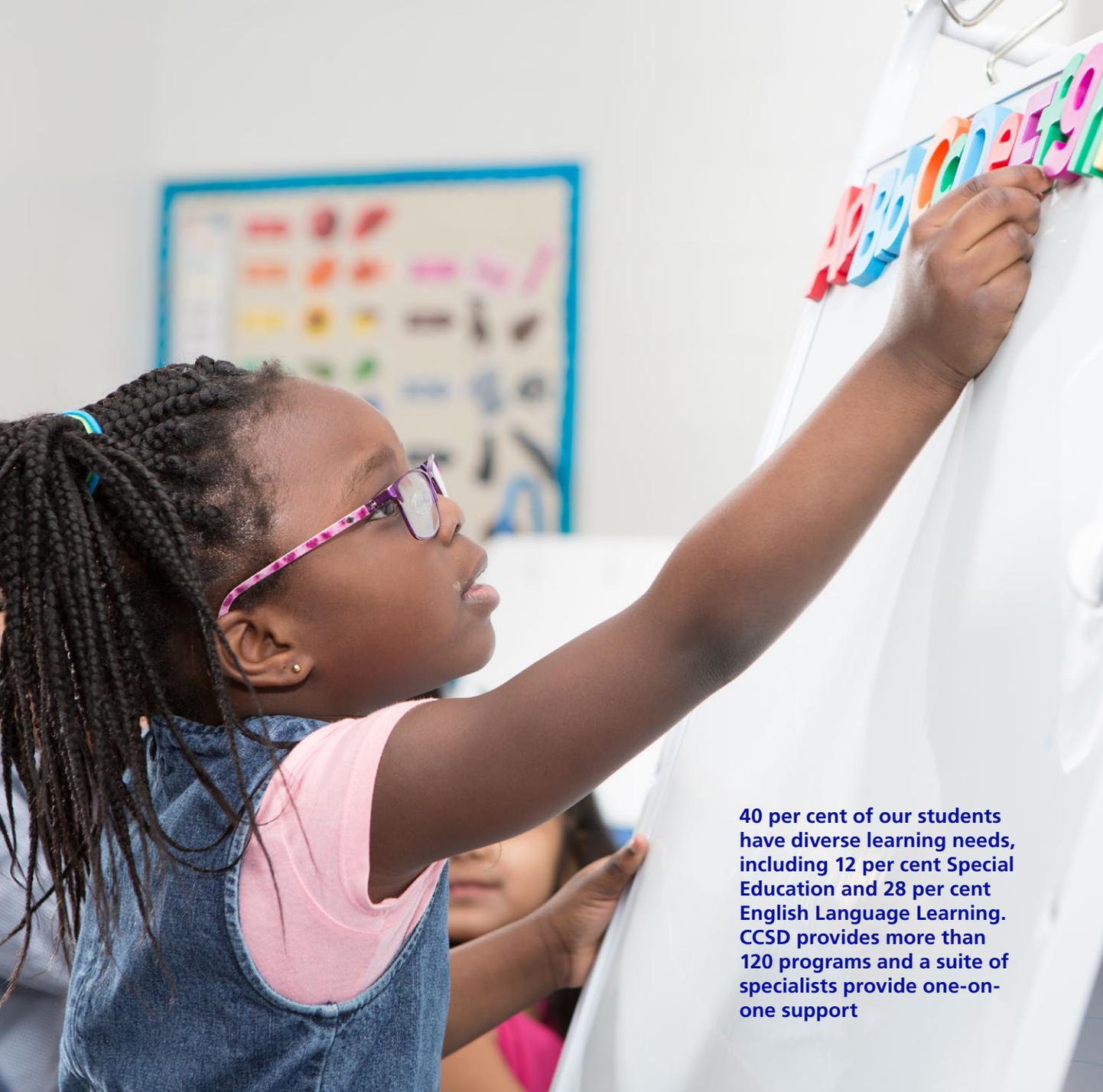
The dropout rate for all students is 1.7 lower than the province and Indigenous students dropout 3.2 per cent less than the province

## 66

More than 66 per cent of our students are eligible for an Alexander Rutherford Scholarship

## 70

More than 70 per cent of our students transition to post-secondary education



# Our opportunity

We believe every student can thrive. To ensure they do, we need sustainable funding to support the growing, and increasingly complex, student population in critically needed new classrooms.

**40 per cent of our students have diverse learning needs, including 12 per cent Special Education and 28 per cent English Language Learning. CCSD provides more than 120 programs and a suite of specialists provide one-on-one support**

## Diverse learners

Forty per cent of our students have diverse learning needs, including Special Education (12 per cent) and English Language Learning (28 per cent). CCSD provides more than 120 programs and one-on-one support from counsellors, psychologists, therapy teams, support and social workers, specialized teachers and many more specialists. These supports extend well beyond the current government funding we receive. As students' complex needs, including mental health, continue to increase, we rely on the government to make a long-term commitment to equitable funding and ensuring our autonomy to meet these needs.

## Sustainable funding

From 2017–2018, enrolment grew by 2.6 per cent. We currently serve 57,000 students and we anticipate that by 2024, we will serve over 60,000 students. Continual growth shows a public confidence in our services demonstrating the need and value for Catholic education. Currently, CCSD spends nearly 89 per cent of its budget on people and building operations and maintenance. With stable funding, CCSD can invest in more supports for diverse learners and the needs of our current, and growing student population.

## Infrastructure

Overall, our schools are at 86.1 per cent utilization, yet many of them are above 100 per cent, well above the province's full utilization rate of 85 per cent. CCSD identifies the need for 11 modernizations and 13 new schools in its 2020–2023 capital plan. Our plan takes into consideration future population and enrolment growth, community development and investment into aging facilities. Roughly one-third of our teaching spaces are modularity (portables) and more than 65 per cent of those are nearly double the government's life expectancy of 15 years. We need fair and proportional funding to the number of future students to build and maintain schools.

# Your help is needed



## Recognize and advocate for choice in education

We advocate to ensure the government continues to support parents and their choice of publicly-funded education in Alberta. Parents can choose an education system that supports faith, values and the individual learning needs of their children.



## Provide equitable, publicly-funded Catholic education

The Canadian Constitution, The Alberta Act and The Alberta School Act guarantee our right and responsibility to provide and govern publicly-funded Catholic education to families who choose it.



## Support locally-elected trustees

Trustees make decisions at the local level that best support our students, communities and faith. We set priorities for the district, approve an annual budget, develop policies to guide administration and ensure education remains a top priority of government for Alberta families.

## The demand for Catholic education

The demand for publicly-funded and locally-governed Catholic education is clearly on the rise. Since 2014, there has been an increase of more than 17,000 Catholic students in Alberta and 26 new Catholic schools. Within the mandate of The Alberta School Act, we welcome students of all beliefs to our schools. Catholic schools nurture the spiritual, academic and physical needs of all students through Alberta Education's curriculum and our values.

## Our Mission

*Living and Learning in our Catholic Faith*

[www.cssd.ab.ca/  
BoardofTrustees](http://www.cssd.ab.ca/BoardofTrustees)

**Trustee's Office**  
Phone: 403-500-2761



**Mary Martin**

# Contact

**Mary Martin**  
Chair, wards 13 and 14  
Phone: 403-650-4656  
Email: [Mary.Martin@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:Mary.Martin@cssd.ab.ca)



**Myra D'Souza**

**Myra D'Souza**  
Vice Chair, wards 1, 2 and Cochrane  
Phone: 403-612-4639  
Email: [Myra.Dsouza@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:Myra.Dsouza@cssd.ab.ca)



**Lory Iovinelli**

**Lory Iovinelli**  
wards 6 and 8  
Phone: 403-614-0497  
Email: [Lory.Iovinelli@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:Lory.Iovinelli@cssd.ab.ca)



**Cheryl Low**

**Cheryl Low**  
wards 9, 10 and Chestermere  
Phone: 403-815-4225  
Email: [Cheryl.Low@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:Cheryl.Low@cssd.ab.ca)



**Pamela Rath**

**Pamela Rath**  
wards 4 and 7  
Phone: 403-612-4370  
Email: [Pamela.Rath@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:Pamela.Rath@cssd.ab.ca)



**Linda Wellman**

**Linda Wellman**  
wards 3, 5 and Airdrie  
Phone: 403-669-8644  
Email: [Linda.Wellman@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:Linda.Wellman@cssd.ab.ca)



**Cathie Williams**

**Cathie Williams**  
wards 11 and 12  
Phone: 403-271-3990  
Email: [cathie.williams@cssd.ab.ca](mailto:cathie.williams@cssd.ab.ca)