

Managing rising student enrolment

Parts of Surrey and White Rock are seeing explosive population growth as development creates more homes for people to live in. The Surrey School District has to manage the effects of that growth, which include overcrowded schools in the neighbourhoods affected.

Building new schools

One solution is to build new schools, but the Surrey School District can only do this if it receives provincial government funding to do so. Each year, the district asks the province for funding to build new schools through its Capital Plan, which identifies the most urgent building investment needs.

The province will only consider providing funding for new schools when there is clear and sustained demand, such as a neighbourhood where all the schools are running well over capacity.



Did you know?

Even if government approvals happen as quickly as possible, which is rare, it can take **five years** for a new school to be built. A new school site has to be purchased, the building needs to be planned, designed and approved, and contractors hired to build it. Further information on approved and future project is available [here](#).

Alternative ways to manage rising student enrolment

The Surrey School District has other ways to manage rising student enrolment, including:

Additions

Sometimes expanding an existing school will be enough to cope with the increased demand. New additions also need government funding so they are not a quick solution.



Portables

The district deploys portables to add capacity to schools until funding is secured to build a new school or addition. Portables cost more to use than regular school space but the district receives no extra funding for using them, so it prefers to add new building space when possible.

Boundary changes

Rising student enrolment can be managed by changing school catchments to distribute new student numbers more evenly among area schools. This can work well, but may only be a temporary solution in areas where growth is so extreme that a new school is needed.