



EDUCATION PLAN

2022-2025

Accountability Statement

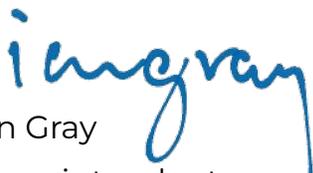
The Education Plan commencing September 1, 2022 for Aurora School Ltd. was prepared under the direction of the Board in accordance with its responsibilities under the *Education Act* and the *Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act*. This document was developed in the context of the provincial government's business and fiscal plans. The Board has used the results reported in the document, to the best of its abilities, to develop the education plan and is committed to implementing the strategies contained within the plan to improve student learning and results.

The Board approved this Education Plan for 2022/ 2025 on March 16, 2022.



Arlene Huhn, Chair

Aurora School Ltd. Board of Directors



Ian Gray

Superintendent

A Profile of School Authority

The Charter for Aurora School Ltd. was granted on March 8, 1996. Our school first opened on September 9, 1996 serving 280 students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. The original school location was the former Misericordia Hospital Nurses' Residences located in West Edmonton. In September 1997, Aurora School Ltd. extended the educational program to Grade 9. Our Charter was successfully renewed in 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016. This school year, 2020/21, Aurora is excited to apply for a 15-year charter renewal.

In 2007, Aurora Academic Charter School moved to its current kindergarten through grade eight location, at 12245 - 131 Street in the Sherbrooke community in Edmonton. The Sherbrooke school building is leased from Edmonton Public School Division. Commencing in the fall of 2022, we will be opening a high school program, to be located at 14904 123 Avenue in Edmonton, demarcated as our Parkwest Campus. The first year of operation will see our grade nine students moving there along with our new grade ten cohort. There are plans to open the high school to grade eleven and twelve students in subsequent years.

Our school employs 55 certificated teachers, three principals, two assistant principals, a superintendent, twelve support staff, a contracted custodial team, a contracted student health support team, and a contracted student school bus service.

The Sherbrooke Campus includes two gymnasiums, one wellness physical training centre (with both cardiovascular and strength training equipment), an Elementary multi-purpose wellness activity centre (Cub Corner), a Foods Lab, a Learning Commons/Library (completed 2016) with state-of-the-art instructional technology, two experimental science learning laboratories, art facility, and 38 classrooms, all of which contain SMART boards and one-to-one technology devices.

The Parkwest Campus includes 14 classrooms. Physical Education classes will be run at our Sherbrooke Campus as well as at partner facilities.

Our Elementary school was recently renovated to include an Elementary entrance area (northwest corner). This renovation design includes a large foyer area for improved parental access and engagement along with upgraded Elementary administration and support team facilities. This addition also includes a flex staff/conference room to allow for increased collaboration and consultation with students, parents, staff, and stakeholders. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the grand opening of the Elementary entrance was postponed, but is now set to proceed in June of 2022.

Our Aurora programming is in high demand with just over 3000 Edmonton and area students on the waitlist. The large number of applicants share the Edmonton regional area demand for our unique, innovative, and highly successful academic-focused teaching and learning community at Aurora.

Vision

The best choice for highly structured and enhanced academics.

Mission

Empower learning excellence through sequenced instruction in a student-centred environment, supported by families. Instruction is informed by research and delivered in a whole group setting with a focus on academic rigour and mastery.



Results Analysis

On previous Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Surveys, Aurora School Ltd. has consistently been classified as having *high* or *very high* results in the areas of:

- Student Growth & Achievement
- Teaching & Leading
- Learning Supports
- Governance

From the data garnered from the Accountability Pillar Survey, as well as feedback from internal school surveys and parent and community stakeholder engagement sessions, Aurora is moving forward on changes to policy, school documents, and supports, including:

- Improving our Safe and Caring Schools directive by adding a leadership program for students and staff
- Changing our Charter Document to be more inclusive
- Increasing parental participation by hosting more parent engagement sessions

Outcomes

- To have an enhanced language arts program
- To have an enhanced mathematics program
- Students are supported in their academic, behavioural, and emotional well-being and have access to the supports and services they need to achieve success.
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit student have success and ensure all students, teachers and school leaders learn about First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences, treaties, agreements, and the history and legacy of residential schools

Student Growth & Achievement

Processes & Strategies

- Student as Researcher program in high school.
- Curriculum Leads/coaches established among teaching staff to assist teacher collaboration and reflection/input on pedagogy and student achievement;
- Middle school sets SMART (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-based) goals each reporting term;
- Student involvement in rubric creation for learning objectives and student competencies;
- Provide more teacher collaboration time for curriculum alignment across grades to reduce barriers for students;
- Examine assessment practices among grade groups and review reporting structures to accurately communicate student learning;
- Integrate enhanced technology into classrooms to further engage students and enhance instruction through programs such as Razkids Reading Comprehension, which has been expanded across K-4 from a pilot project in grade 2. These technological supports are especially useful for students and teachers to continue learning at home during isolation and quarantine periods;
- As the school adds new staff members, curriculum meetings are becoming more valuable . Teachers are increasingly clarifying issues of curriculum and assessment and discussing student learning needs;
- Elementary staff are aligning instruction around the Empowering Writers model through all grades to improve students' achievement across all facets of English Language Arts.

- The Elementary and Middle School continue to infuse First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives and content into multiple facets of the curriculum;
- Purposeful selection of teaching and Learning Commons materials to showcase and represent First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives and experience;
- The Professional Growth Plan for teachers was updated to include development of competencies for acquisition and application of foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit for the benefit of all students;
- Elementary and Middle School staff have attended numerous PD sessions on the Indigenous perspective, reconciliation, and specific lessons and units honouring our Indigenous partnerships in learning;
- Community Métis and Indigenous events are publicized through the newsletter and posters to provide all parents and students with the opportunity to engage in learning and the celebration of Indigenous culture outside the school, as well as within it;
- The Elementary focused on Elders and Indigenous authors for virtual readers for Read-In Week. One of our Elders also shared personal stories and the Indigenous meaning of the name “Aurora”, which is now posted outside the Elementary office;
- Our annual Elementary Winter Fun Day has been changed to a Winter Heritage Day theme that celebrates the First Nations, Métis, Inuit and French Canadian experience in Canada. Students learned about FNMI symbols and history through crafts, traditional games, cooking, and a presentation from the students and teachers at Enoch Nation;
- New Indigenous Resource Kits were created by a teacher to provide all students in Kindergarten to grade 2 with age-appropriate stories, activities, and resources that can be used by all teachers in their classrooms;
- An Indigenous Learning Day in Middle School actively engaged students and staff in the recognition and celebration of indigenous perspectives and appreciation of cultural diversity;
- Aurora School ensures Land Acknowledgements are made at all student assemblies and School Council meetings;
- Aurora Middle School established a learning relationship with neighboring Prince Charles School;
- We have established a school partnership with amiskwacyi Academy and Mother Earth’s Charter School to expose our students to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit history and culture.



- The continuation of the Elementary School Special Project program, where all teachers can apply for micro-grants to target specific areas of school improvement. This use of resources has been incredibly successful and has engaged teachers - both experienced and new - as leaders in improving school outcomes in a team-based approach. Projects completed to date include:
 - Vertically integrating the mathematics program across grades 1-6 with a new program in grades 2 and 3
 - Creating student-centred assessment rubrics in partnership with the Alberta Assessment Consortium
 - Adding research-based Mindfulness resources to the grade 3 and 4 Health resources to improve student mental health
 - Updating the reading program in grade 1
 - Creating and implementing cohesive, student-centred, experiential learning programs for Music and Health across grade 4
 - Updating a cohesive literature program across grade 4
 - Creating concept-based math review sheets for grade 2
 - Mentorship of new staff to provide a highly cohesive program to all students
 - School beautification through a generative literacy-based art project to inspire students' love of reading
- The development and integration by our Aurora teaching and learning team of leading-edge instructional technologies to complement our whole group instructional, student-focused approach. Ongoing professional development includes the employment of a collegial coaching model to build our capacity to employ computer applications such as G Suite Enterprise for Education and similar programs to enhance the learning experience for every student. Moreover, we are extending the envelope of access to teaching and learning resources toward a 24/7 accessible model that optimizes access and use by all stakeholders via PowerSchool and Family Zone online supports. COVID-19 has accelerated our implementation of many technologies as necessitated by changes to instruction both for at-school and at-home learners.

Measures

Results from the Provincial Achievement Tests are normally required for reporting, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, results for last year were not included in the Authority Report.

Provincial

- Though Provincial Achievement Tests were not mandatory, Grade 6 and 9 Aurora students who were not online still wrote the exams.
- Citizenship - Alberta Education Assurance Measures Survey
- Academic Engagement - Alberta Education Assurance Measures Survey

Local

- Attendance data
- Canadian Achievement Test 4 (CAT4)
- Piloting Canadian Achievement Test 5 (CAT5)
- Aurora Annual Survey Results
- End of Year Class and Grade Averaging

Teaching & Leading

Processes & Strategies

- Research partnership with Edmonton Public Schools, the University of Alberta, Simon Fraser University on *The Importance and Practice of Parental Engagement in Schools*.
- Creation of a research coordinator position to bridge all three schools (elementary, middle, and high).
- Staff and administration positions on the Alberta Research Network
- Action Research Group
- Leadership program for students and staff
- Additional leadership positions in assessment, evaluation, and reporting, innovation and research, leadership development, curriculum, and supporting students' health and well-being
- Additional principal
- Focus on new curriculum development and implementation
- Focus on numeracy and literacy
- Teacher-led professional development on gap learning for early elementary students.
- Leadership program for students and staff
- Additional leadership positions in assessment, evaluation, and reporting, innovation and research, leadership development, curriculum, and supporting students' health and well-being
- Additional principal
- Focus on new curriculum development and implementation
- Focus on numeracy and literacy
- Teacher-led professional development on gap learning for early elementary students.

Measures

- Education Quality - Alberta Education Assurance Measures Survey
- School Improvement - Alberta Education Assurance Measures Survey

Learning Supports

Processes & Strategies

- Increased supports in counseling, career-counseling, speech and language supports, and occupational therapy.
- Social-emotional learning program in high school.
- The Middle School continues to focus on safe and caring presentations for students and all staff have completed the “Respect in School” program; the Middle School also hosted parent evenings on “cyber bullying” as well as whole school presentations on Internet Safety from the Saffron Centre including an evening presentation for parents;
- The Saffron Centre does a yearly presentation to grade three and four students about cyberbullying and online safety, including their roles as responsible citizens;
- Active engagement of psychologists and counselors to improve teacher knowledge and efficacy to meet the needs of students and provide optimal supports for successful learning and wellness for our entire Aurora team of stakeholders as well as support for specific students; and
- The building of a Specialized Learning Support Team. This team includes a Speech Language Pathologist, an Occupational Therapist, and a Psychologist. COVID-19 has the potential to increase the needs of our school community for additional mental health support, and we have the supports in place to be responsive.
- Continuation and growth with our successful Riggs phonics/spelling program and our phonics pull-out reading support in the Elementary School and Middle School with new teachers provided mentoring support and the opportunity for PD and training.
- Continue to provide ESL support for students and ESL instruction professional development through school-based funding. ESL pull-out time continues to be an important part of the Aurora program.

Measures

Provincial

- Safe & Caring - Alberta Education Assurance Measures Survey
- Student Inclusion and Access to Supports & Services - Alberta Education Assurance Measures Survey

Local

- Attendance data for all students
- Ratio of student to support services
- Aurora Annual Survey Results

Governance

Processes & Strategies

- Regular and special stakeholder meetings.
- The addition of September 30th as a learning day to recognize and celebrate Truth & Reconciliation.
- A review and overhaul of the Aurora Board of Directors Policy Manual and Aurora Articles of Association to provide clarity, strengthen communication, and ensure coherence for all stakeholders. This process has included:
 - Extensive analysis and refinement of Board Policies in alignment with the Alberta Education charter evaluation recommendations, the *Education Act*, and current Alberta Education legislation, regulations, and in alignment with our recent charter evaluation recommendations and requirements.
 - Review and update of Administrative Regulations to clearly define administrative operational procedures and to build clarity and consistency in the roles of governance and administration.
 - Review and amendments to the current Charter to reflect a more student-centred approach within the direct instruction model of teaching and learning.
- The Aurora Board currently is comprised of parents of Aurora children. The Aurora Board and the Aurora School Council have open communication. Parent attendance at the annual AGM is highly encouraged, advertised, supported and improving with dedicated childcare during the AGM to decrease barriers to parent attendance. The November 2020 Annual General Meeting was held virtually;
- The Board of Directors maintains regular communication with the School Council through administration;
- The recently updated school website: www.auroraschool.ca contains information on how to contact the Board of Directors, School Council, senior administration, school administration, staff, current newsletter, and other pertinent school information. The website also contains a dedicated research and innovation section to share with stakeholders from local to international. A Board Highlights section on the website keeps stakeholders informed of Board decisions.

Measures

Provincial:

- Parental Involvement - Alberta Education Assurance Measures Survey
- School Improvement - Alberta Education Assurance Measures Survey

Local:

- Number of organizations and partners engaged
- Quantity and quality of the engagements (survey)
- Feedback from partner organizations regarding the effectiveness of the partnership (survey).

Stakeholder Engagement

Processes & Strategies

- communicate regularly through its website.
- vision and mission will be prominently displayed in the school. All visitors will be able to see immediately the core values of our school.
- produce two monthly newsletters (Elementary and Middle School) on the website that informs the public of school news and activities including updates from the principal(s), student activities, and upcoming events.
- Aurora's Annual Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report will be posted on the school's website.
- hosts several evening information sessions for parents/guardians such as: Kindergarten Orientation, Phonics Night, Grade 5/6 orientation, PAT information nights, Town Halls, stress management and study skills night.
- take part in activities and events along with other schools. This will enable students and staff from other schools to have direct contact with our own students and staff. Understanding, awareness, and acceptance of charter schools in the public school realm will be fostered through these activities (i.e. Science Fair, extracurricular sport teams).
- foster a relationship with post-secondary institutions by accepting student teachers. Aurora will collaborate on research projects with post secondary institutions and other school authorities.
- participate in events with other educational organizations such as The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools (TAAPCS), the Alberta School Councils' Association, Edmonton Regional Science Fair, College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and other schools.
- engage research and inquiry about Aurora as a charter school and the educational successes we are enjoying.
- communicate our successful educational practices of our school to teacher organizations.
- foster relationships with local community stakeholders and encourage participation in school activities, use of our facility, and cooperation in areas of joint interest.

Budget

Aurora Budget Summary Highlights for 2022-23

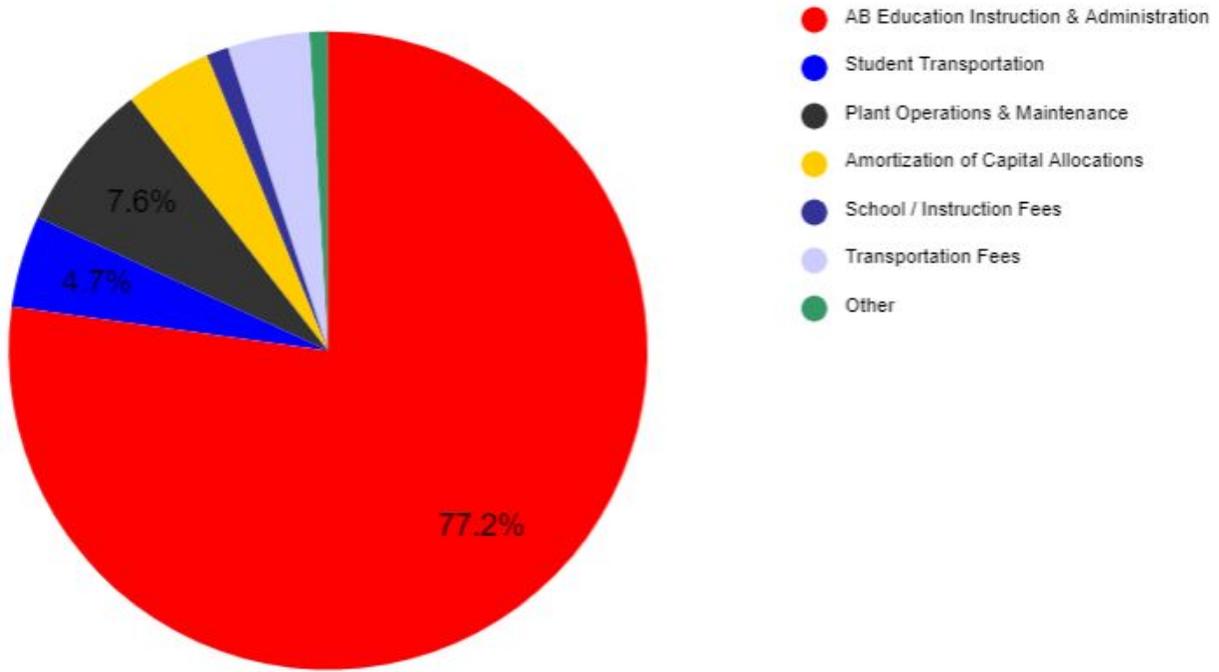
REVENUE SUMMARY

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
	(\$000)	
Alberta Education Funding		
Instruction & Administration	8,361	77.21
Student Transportation	504	4.65
Plant Operations & Maintenance	819	7.56
Amortization of Capital Allocations	475	4.38
	\$ 10,158	93.81
Other Revenue		
School / Instruction Fees	119	1.10
Transportation Fees	450	4.16
Other	101	0.93
TOTAL	\$ 10,829	100.00

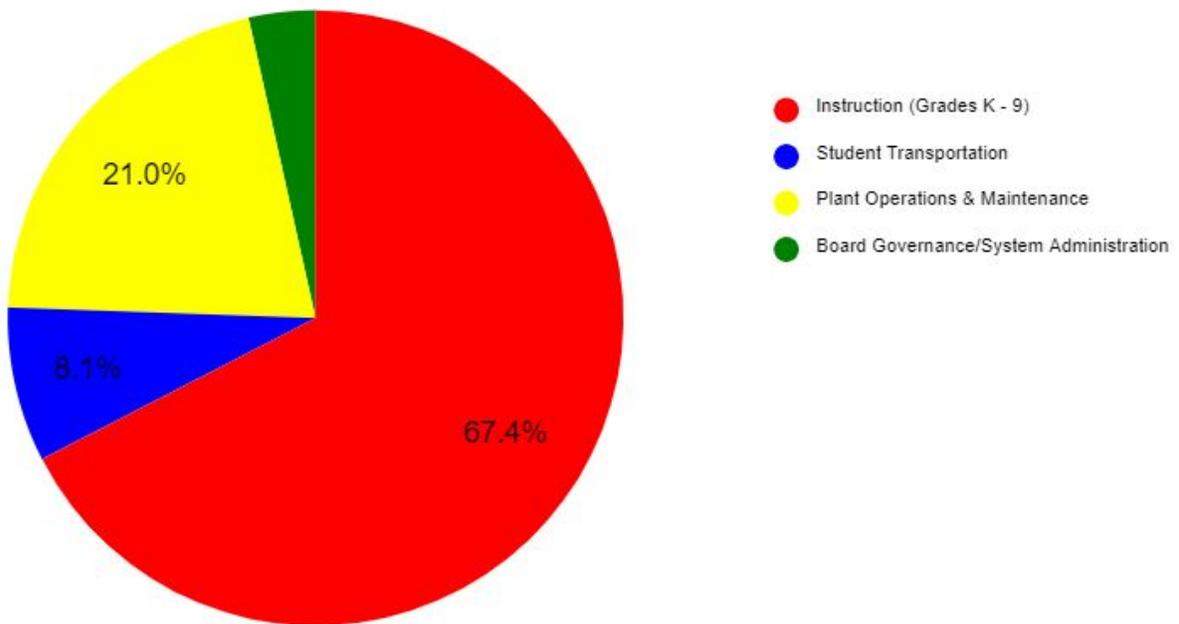
EXPENSE SUMMARY

Instruction (Grades K - 9)	8,020	67.43
Student Transportation	966	8.12
Plant Operations & Maintenance	2,492	20.95
Board Governance/System Administration	416	3.50
TOTAL	\$ 11,894	100.00
Surplus/Deficit	<u><u>-\$ 1,065</u></u>	

REVENUE SUMMARY
BUDGET 2022-23



EXPENSE SUMMARY
BUDGET 2022-23



REVENUE SUMMARY	2022-23
AB Education Instruction & Administration	8,361
Student Transportation	504
Plant Operations & Maintenance	819
Amortization of Capital Allocations	475
School / Instruction Fees	119
Transportation Fees	450
Other	101

EXPENSE SUMMARY	
Instruction (Grades K - 9)	8,020
Student Transportation	966
Plant Operations & Maintenance	2,492
Board Governance/System Administration	416

REVENUE SUMMARY	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	
AB Education Instruction & Administration	8,361	6,383	6,324	77.2%
Student Transportation	504	482	482	4.7%
Plant Operations & Maintenance	819	1,270	1,118	7.6%
Amortization of Capital Allocations	475	435	439	4.4%
School / Instruction Fees	119	205	205	1.1%
Transportation Fees	450	287	297	4.2%
Other	101	61	92	0.9%
	10,829	9,122	8,956	100.0%
EXPENSE SUMMARY				
Instruction (Grades K - 9)	8,020	6,551	6,311	67.4%
Student Transportation	966	768	772	8.1%
Plant Operations & Maintenance	2,492	1,831	1,775	21.0%
Board Governance/System Administration	416	435	424	3.5%
	11,894	9,584	9,282	100.0%



Capital Plan

The Aurora Academic Charter School (AACCS) Capital Plan 2022-2028 illustrates capital authority facility priorities over the next six years. This plan is based on feedback garnered from stakeholders and is informed by the Education Plan and the Assurance Framework, and is intended to support students enrolled at, and wishing to attend, AACCS by providing appropriate and adequate resources necessary for student success and well-being.

Considerations regarding capital planning decisions include, but are not limited to:

- The number of current students enrolled
- The number of students on the waiting list
- Available instructional space
- Growth potential

Years 1 & 2 (2022-2024)

	Estimated Costs
Priority #1 - AACCS High School (Development & Planning)	
Priority #2 - AACCS Elementary School Improvements	200,000
Priority #3 - AACCS Middle School Improvements	100,000

Years 3 & 4 (2024-2026)

Priority #1 - AACCS High School (Planning & Construction)	15,000,000
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Years 5 & 6 (2026-2028)

Priority #1 - AACCS High School
(Construction, Completion, & Operation)

Rationale:

With over **1000 students on our kindergarten through grade nine waitlist** and a **utilization rate of 100%** at our Sherbrooke Campus, the need for facility support has been evident for many years.

Our *Strategic Plan Report (2018-2023)*, created with stakeholder input, listed the need for a high school as our first priority. With three-year lease support for the Parkwest location, Aurora has a temporary solution for high school students.

This six-year plan, supporting placement for approximately 2000 students, allows for the growth of our elementary and middle school programs as well as for a fully-formed high school of 300 students.

