



Three Year Capital Plan 2022/23 to 2025/26

Priority 1:

New Horizons High School: The New Horizons Charter School Society requests that the Ministry approve expansion of New Horizons School to include a high school. The New Horizons School is ready to expand to include high school programming in the 2024-25 school year with additional classroom capacity. New Horizons Charter School has two classrooms of all Kindergarten through grade 9 students. The Board has received support from its student and parent community to include a high school that addresses the vision of enabling gifted students to strive for excellence in a positive academic learning environment that fosters social and emotional support for each student. Furthermore, since the inception of New Horizons Charter School, its Charter has included the high school concept.

Rationale:

New Horizons Charter School has celebrated 26 years and is Alberta's first charter school. The school has grown significantly over the past 26 years. Key to its success is the provision of excellent programming and teaching to the entire population of gifted students.

NHS currently shares its campus with Ecole Claudette-et Denis-Tardif which is part of Greater North Central Francophone Education Region No. 2. Although the Francophone Board will be receiving a new facility from Alberta Education in the new few years, it is unlikely that New Horizons School can expand on its campus due to anticipated NHS enrollments.

Figure 3 illustrates the projected enrollment of the high school for the period 2024/25 through 2027/28.

Class/Grade	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Grade 10	40	40	40	40
Grade 11	0	40	40	40
Grade 12	0	0	40	40
Total Head Count	40	80	120	120

Figure 3: Four-Year High School Enrolment Projection at New Horizons School

Option 1: High School Campus (Stand Alone Campus)

This option requires the Ministry to identify surplus school space that exists in Strathcona County or the east Edmonton area that enables New Horizons School to build its high school program. It is

anticipated that any site considered for the NHS high school would need to house approximately 150 – 180 students. There would need to be a gymnasium and classroom space for core and option programming.

Option 2: Acquisition of Property

The other option is for the Government of Alberta to support the acquisition of property for a school campus and support building a new high school that would support 150 students and expandable to 180 to 200 students.

This option would address the immediate space needs for a high school programming required to deliver instruction to 120 high school students.

If a second campus was opened for the New Horizons High School, the Board would determine if it was in the best interests of students to also locate grades 7 to 9 students or just grade 9 students with the grade 10 – 12 students. Moving grade 9 students into the high school campus would provide for increased programming opportunities for students.

There are limited interim options available to the board to begin a high school program without the new campus. Without a new campus there is currently insufficient space in the existing NHS to provide high school options and an additional gymnasium would be required. Further enlargement of the school building is unlikely.

High School Organization

New Horizons Charter School currently provides gifted education to over 400 kindergarten through grade 9 students. With enrollment projections of 40 students per grade determining ways to expand our ability to offer a broad range of courses will be essential.

To enable a broad range of programming the board may consider various organizational methods.

Grade 9 – 12 High School

Shifting the existing New Horizons School to a kindergarten to grade 8 school and making the new high school grades 9 – 12 would provide opportunity to offer a wider range of courses given the increase in enrollment (including grade 9 students) and the additional professional staff available to offer additional programming.

Partner with an existing Charter School or Public/Separate School

Consider forming a high school with an existing school. Although the NHS Charter defines our student population, there is potential to team with an accompanying school for delivery of non-core programming and shared use of the school facility.

Partner with a Post-Secondary School

This model may support our student population given their unique learning needs best, as we currently provide for accelerated learning in mathematics and are considering this approach in other courses. By locating and working closely with a post-secondary school may enable our students to receive a wider variety of programming through dual credit courses and perhaps, other offerings.