

Independent School Capital (ISC) program

Fact sheet

Overview

The Independent School Capital (ISC) program will provide capital funding support to eligible independent schools in Alberta. It enables approved school authorities to construct, expand, or modernize facilities to accommodate growing enrolment and improve learning environments.

The ISC was established in response to identified capacity pressures for Alberta's independent school authorities. The program provides targeted capital funding to support infrastructure development while ensuring accountability, cost efficiency, and alignment with government priorities.

Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants must:

- be a non-profit organization registered under applicable Alberta legislation (*Societies Act, Companies Act Part 9*, etc.);
- operate an accredited funded private school in Alberta;
- demonstrate financial capacity to meet the requirements of the matching grant ratio;
- meet all eligibility requirements as outlined in the program guidelines.

Funding model

Grant funding is provided on a cost-matching basis:

- 2:1 (applicant: government) for existing independent schools with more than three years of consecutive operations;
- 4:1 (applicant: government) for new independent schools with less than three years of consecutive operations.
- The **maximum funding per authority is \$10 million.**

Eligible projects

Eligible projects must:

- address capacity needs and support increased student enrolment;
- demonstrate readiness to proceed within a reasonable timeframe, with priority given to projects that can begin construction during the program period;
- comply with applicable building codes, zoning requirements, and Alberta Infrastructure standards;
- include eligible scope items directly related to educational delivery, such as classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and other core facilities, as well as essential supporting infrastructure.

Ineligible costs

Ineligible costs include (but are not limited to):

- land acquisition;
- operational expenses;
- non-capital project costs (e.g., marketing, administrative salaries unrelated to the project).

Application process

Please visit [Independent School Capital | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/independent-school-capital) for more information about the application process.

Applications for 2026 are due by May 31, 2026. Additional application windows are planned for early 2027 and early 2028.

Evaluation

Proposals undergo a two-stage review:

1. **Eligibility Review** – Pass/Fail based on program requirements.
2. **Assessment** – Evaluated using program criteria such as project need, readiness, cost efficiency, and alignment with educational priorities.

Payments

Approved applicants must submit a Payment Request Form along with all required documentation. Payments will be released upon verification of eligible expenditures and compliance with funding agreement terms.

Reporting requirements

Recipients must provide:

- quarterly project progress reports;
- quarterly financial reports;
- final project completion report detailing scope, cost, and outcomes.

Delayed or cancelled projects

Any significant change in project scope, schedule, or budget must be reported immediately. The Ministry reserves the right to amend, reduce, or cancel funding if the project no longer meets program requirements.

Building Ownership

Successful applicants retain ownership of their schools, but funding agreements include safeguards such as a right of first refusal if a funded property is sold in the first ten years after project completion.

Future funding

The total program budget is \$90 million over three years.

Contact

For more information, contact:

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