

School Opening Report

September 23, 2026
Board of Education Public Meeting

Presented by Superintendent of Schools
Jon Rever

Together We Learn



A positive beginning, grounded in care and connection

Every school has opened with students at the centre.



Our opening focus

School teams have welcomed students, re-established routines, and responded quickly to the practical needs that come with a new school year.

The work of our staff and partners helps each student begin the year feeling known, supported, and ready to learn.

People make a strong opening possible

Professional care, shared problem-solving, and local knowledge are visible in every school.



A shared commitment

Principals, vice-principals, teachers, support staff, operations teams, families, and community partners have worked together to prepare learning spaces and welcome students.

Opening-week adjustments continue as schools confirm enrolment, balance classes, and respond to students and families.

Enrolment across Central Okanagan Public Schools

September 23 headcount. Figures continue to adjust as registrations and September reporting are finalized.

25,161

students in the District headcount

10,730

students in elementary schools

6,039

students in middle schools

7,373

students in secondary schools

561

students in other programs (school aged + adults)

458

Students in international education

Each number represents a student who has a place in a school community, ready to learn and belong.

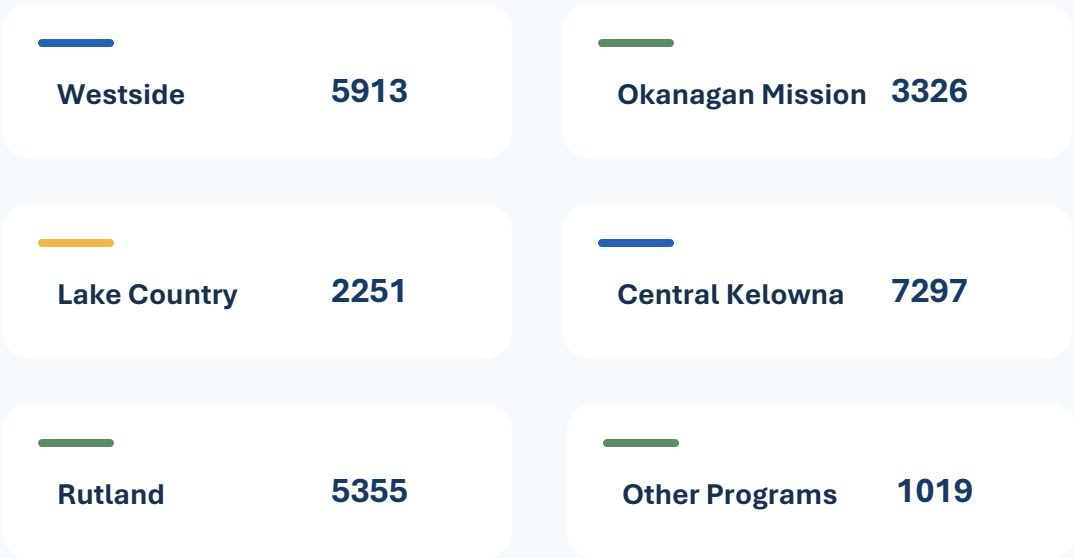
Early enrolment

Course schedules, registrations, and withdrawals continue to refine the September count.



Enrolment by family of schools

September 23 headcount. Serving 25,161 students.



Providing educational programs for 25,161 Students

Headcount vs FTE

Headcount (HC)

Counts each student enrolled in the District.

Full-time equivalent (FTE)

For students in Grades 10–12, 1.0 FTE equals 8 courses. A student scheduled in 6 courses represents 0.75 FTE.

Why the September estimate changes

Secondary schools continue to complete student schedules, course changes, programs, registrations, and withdrawals. FTE becomes more precise as this work is completed.

The 2026–27 budget protects learning and school services

Annual Budget Bylaw materials presented to the Board in June 2026.

\$397.25M

total annual budget bylaw

\$317.54M

operating expense



90.2%
staff costs

\$286.41M
salaries and
benefits

9.8%

operating costs

\$31.13M
services and
supplies

Staffing represents the largest operating investment because people create the learning, care, and support students experience each day.

Projected school-age operating grant-funded enrolment: 24,546.563 FTE

Major capital projects update

Capital projects are expanding learning environments across the District.

École Dr. Knox Middle

\$23.3M | 300-seat expansion

New addition occupied this fall

École George Pringle Secondary

\$123M | 1,200 students

Targeted opening: 2027/28

Webber Road Elementary

\$12M | 200-seat expansion

Forecast occupancy: Winter 2026/27

École Hudson Road Elementary

\$23M | 265-seat addition

Expected use: Fall 2027

Burtch Road Middle

\$101M | 800 seats

Earthworks begin Sept. 2026; opening Sept. 2029

Black Mountain Elementary

\$12M | 200-seat expansion

Design underway; occupancy Winter 2027/28

Additional capital renewal

Roofing, photovoltaic, and energy projects continue across District schools, alongside replacement buses for Transportation Services.

These projects respond to growth while creating safer, more sustainable places for students to learn.

Preparing the Westside for École George Pringle Secondary School

A new secondary school will open in September 2027.



Planning for a smooth transition

The school will open with Grade 9 and 10 English and French programs, adding a grade each year until it serves Grades 9–12.

Capacity: 1,200 students

Projected enrolment: 1,000–1,100 students by 2032

The District will continue to communicate clearly with families and monitor enrolment as catchment decisions move forward.

Summer investments prepared safer, more reliable learning environments

Operations and facilities teams completed extensive work while schools were closed.

\$8.2M

facility
upgrades and
maintenance

24

major projects
completed

25

schools
impacted

50

rooftop HVAC
units replaced

3

Solar panel rooftop
added



Examples of work completed:

New solar installations at three schools. Mechanical upgrades to improve heating and cooling reliability. Renovations, safety systems, accessibility improvements, site work, and refreshed high-use learning spaces.

These investments reflect responsible stewardship of public facilities and a commitment to student well-being.

Transportation readiness supports reliable access to school

Efficient routing helps sustain service for students and families



A more efficient schedule

The 15-minute secondary bell-time adjustment supports a three-tier routing model in more areas.

More room for students

Improved route use can create additional capacity for students who would otherwise face a waitlist.

Approximately \$479,574

Estimated recurring annual savings identified through the secondary schedule adjustment and additional Westside route consolidation.

Transportation staff have also completed fall readiness work, including applications, routing, driver information, safety inspections, and maintenance.

The 2026–2031 Strategic Plan keeps students at the centre

School opening work provides an early expression of the plan in action.



Student experience and outcomes

Strong foundations, inclusive learning, student voice, and belonging.

Family and community connections

Families and community as partners in learning.

Responsible stewardship

Responsive and sustainable leadership that supports students today and into the future.

The Plan gives the District a shared direction for learning, relationships, and responsible decisions.

Priority #1: The experience of each student

The Strategic Plan describes the conditions we are working on to strengthen across the District.

Known and connected

Students feel welcome, safe, supported, and respected.

Learning with meaning

Students experience relevant learning that reflects their strengths, identities, and needs.

Ready for the future

Students build strong skills, develop competencies, and pursue meaningful pathways.

Together We Learn

Thank you to the people who make schools work

A strong opening reflects care, effort, and partnership across the Central Okanagan.



COPVPA • COTA • CUPE • COPAC • DSC • COSBO • families • Indigenous Education Council • community partners

Opening work continues in the weeks ahead

Staff will keep learning from the first weeks of school and responding with care.

Monitor enrolment

Refine school staffing, class organization, and supports as the September count is completed.

Review operations

Monitor transportation routes, facilities readiness, and the practical impacts of changes.

Support schools

Continue to resolve opening issues and respond to families, staff, and student needs.

Share progress

Bring a more complete school-opening update as information is confirmed.



Our shared purpose remains clear: create the conditions for each student to learn, belong, and thrive.