

Frequently Asked Questions

About the School Site and Planning Process

Where is the new school site located?

The school site is located in Richmond city centre at 8671 Odlin Crescent.



Why was this site chosen?

The district's [Long-Range Facilities Plan](#) (LRFP), developed with input from the community and partner groups, identified city centre as a critical area for future enrolment growth. This determination was based on a transparent, district-wide review process that measured growth pressures, facility utilization, and projected student enrolment.

Richmond's City Centre has experienced a 42 per cent growth in student enrolment over the past four years, adding more than 600 students to just four schools. As of September 2024, these schools, which were built to accommodate 1,641 students, are now serving over 2,000 students. This dramatic increase has pushed schools well beyond their intended capacity and has created an urgent need for additional school space in city centre.

When the Odlin Crescent site became available, it met several key criteria: it was centrally located, included an existing school facility, and could be brought into service relatively quickly. Finding suitable

land in the city centre has been particularly challenging due to limited availability and high land costs, which made the Odlin Crescent site a rare and timely opportunity.

Why did the district choose to purchase a site with an existing school facility rather than pursue new construction?

The LRFP recognizes the value of flexible, cost-effective approaches to delivering new school capacity — especially in high-growth, land-constrained areas like city centre. This site aligns with that approach by enabling a quicker response to community needs while making strategic use of existing assets.

How does this purchase fit into the district's broader long-term planning?

The purchase of this school site is part of the Richmond School District's broader commitment to long-term infrastructure planning across the city. Through the development of the LRFP, the district has identified priority areas for investment, modernization, and future growth — with city centre identified as a critical pressure point. This plan was developed with input from community members and partner groups and guides the district's efforts to ensure accessible, sustainable, and neighbourhood-based schools across Richmond.

How the Project Is Funded

What is the total cost, and how is it being paid for?

The total purchase cost is \$60 million. The provincial government contributed \$6 million, and the remainder was funded by the Richmond School District using capital funds from the Steveston Secondary sale and school site acquisition charges. The purchase cost reflects current market conditions, given the limited availability of land suitable for schools in Richmond City Centre.

Was operational funding used for this purchase?

No. Only capital funds were used. Capital funds are designated for projects like site acquisition and school construction. They cannot be used for day-to-day operations, salaries, or classroom supplies.

What to Expect with the New School

When will the new school open?

While the target is September 2026, the timeline depends on key milestones such as public consultation on boundary review, design finalization, and required upgrades. The district will provide transparent updates at each stage.

What grade levels and how many students will the new school serve?

The new school will be a Kindergarten to Grade 7 (K–7) elementary school and is expected to accommodate approximately 350 students.

What is the plan for upgrading or modernizing the school?

Improvements will focus on safety, accessibility and ensuring the facility meets current public school standards. To meet ministry standards for K-12 public schools, the district will complete a reconfiguration of classrooms, new paint, flooring and ceiling throughout the building, installation of

ethernet, public address system, and classroom technology and mechanical ventilation retrofit where required.

What will the school be called?

A name has not yet been chosen. The Richmond School District follows a formal naming policy when establishing new school names. This process includes opportunities for public input and considers a variety of factors such as cultural significance, historical relevance and connection to the local community. Further details will be shared when the naming process begins.

Key Dates:

- **Fall 2025**
 - Boundary review and community consultation begins
 - Facility upgrades begin
 - School naming process begins
- **September 2026** – School planned to open to students

What This Means for Students and the Community

What is a boundary review and will my child have to switch schools?

A boundary review is a process that examines which neighbourhoods are assigned to which schools. It helps ensure enrolment is balanced and that students can attend schools close to home. The Richmond School District will begin a boundary review in Fall 2025 to determine which areas will be served by the new school. The review will focus on nearby neighbourhoods and is not expected to impact most students across the district. Students in the immediate area may be reassigned to the new school starting in the 2026/27 school year. Families will have opportunities to provide input through a public consultation process before any decisions are made.

What if my child has to switch schools?

If your child is affected by the boundary review, the district will provide advance notice, clear communication and support to help make the transition as smooth as possible. We are committed to maintaining strong educational programming, supportive staff and welcoming school communities across the district. Our goal is to ensure every student feels safe, included and supported — no matter which school they attend.

How will the community be consulted?

The district will provide opportunities to participate through public meetings, online surveys and feedback opportunities shared on the district's website and through school communication channels.