

Agriculture Charter School Society
o/a Rural Route Agriculture Academy
Three-Year Capital Plan (2027-2030)
September 15, 2026

Introduction

Agriculture Charter School Society submits an annual capital plan to secure funding for priority capital projects which will support the demand for its hands-on, project-based agriculture program and ensure adequate physical facilities for its delivery. The following plan accounts for immediate facility needs and growth plans over the next three years, considering drivers such as student health and safety, building condition, functionality and programming, and enrolment pressures.

The Agriculture Charter School Society has transformed its leased facilities to accommodate the needs of our students, demonstrating ingenuity and fiscal responsibility. However, the current leased property is being marketed for sale by its current owner; consequently, the school faces the possibility of having to vacate the facility with no viable lease alternatives in the area. Rural Route Agriculture Academy continues to work closely with the Alberta government and its Capital Planning division by identifying this threat and advancing the project as a capital priority.

Background

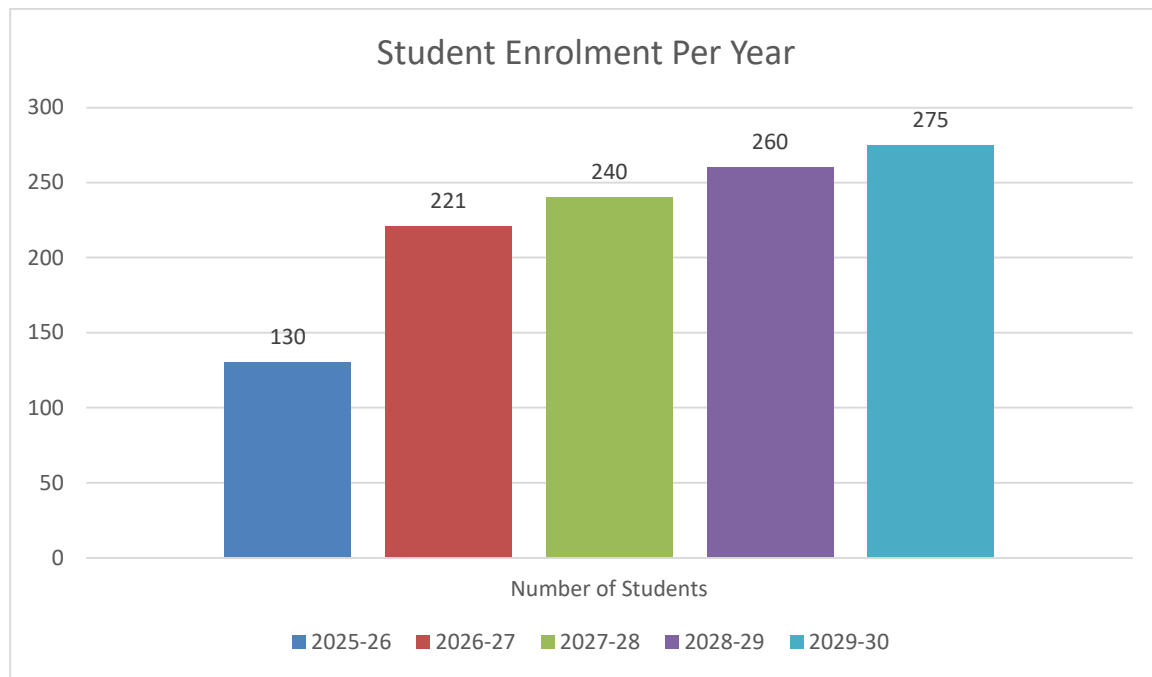
Established in 2025, Agriculture Charter School Society operates one school campus, Rural Route Agriculture Academy and serves a growing student population in Wheatland County near the town of Strathmore. Today, RRAA serves 221 students and employs 20 FTE.

As a unique agriculture focused public charter school in the province and in Canada, Rural Route Agriculture Academy serves as a strategic partner with Alberta Education, advancing key government priorities and ministerial mandates. This includes the support and expansion of school choice, the promotion of parental involvement in education, and the enhancement of system capacity and infrastructure to address the needs of Alberta's growing and increasingly diverse student population.

Enrollment Demand

The academy's agriculture programming centers around hands-on project-based learning for students from kindergarten through grade 12. Students learn to do by doing. The demand for our school continues to grow. Of the 221 current students, 125 are returning students and 96 are new students representing a year-over-year growth of seventy percent.

The demand and support from the surrounding communities is strong and evidenced by the fact that parents provide their own transportation from Wheatland County, Newell County, Rocky View County, Foothills and Vulcan County.



Notes:

Student enrolment for 2025-26 school year are actual figures in the first year of operations.

Student enrolment for the 2026-27 school year are actual figures as of September 4, 2026.

Student enrolment for the 2027-28 school year and onwards are projected enrolment figures

The school is expected reach full capacity in 2028-29 and slightly above capacity in future years

Safety and Space Pressures

Although the facility offers suitable space, classroom sizes are small for our junior and high school students, with little space for lunch programs and socializing space. This is particularly a concern as student enrolment grows in the next 2 to 3 years.

Facility Needs & Functional Issues

Facility limitations, including a lack of a gym, CTS and science labs, and green spaces, impede the consistent delivery of certain Alberta curriculum and agriculture-based programs. These constraints contribute to student safety risks, operational inefficiencies, and stakeholder dissatisfaction.

Capital Priorities

Priority 1 – Existing School Building Purchase & Upgrades

Agriculture Charter School Society is requesting capital funding for the purchase of the existing school property plus upgrades to its current facility. Purchasing the entire property will provide additional

space, which is not part of the current lease, that will be converted into a gymnasium, CTS/Trades programming space, science labs, a cafeteria/large gathering space, and the opportunity to expand into related collegiate programming.

The importance of retaining this facility is deeply tied to the land it operates on, which serves as a core learning asset. Above and beyond the physical buildings the campus includes a natural pond and a nearby canal system with their surrounding ecosystems, a treed area that is home to many birds and insects and provides shelter for our farm animals. This environment enables real-world programming in biodiversity, environmental science, agronomy, and food sustainability without the huge financial investment and time constraints of new construction.

The school is directly embedded in an active farming community surrounded by multigenerational family farms. RRAA has established relationships and partnerships with neighboring producers, local stockyards and feedlots plus numerous agriculture related businesses. These partnerships allow for student-led farming projects, animal husbandry studies with livestock, and understanding the interconnectedness and importance of agriculture to the Province's overall economy. RRAA aligns with rural economic priorities supported by partners such as the Wheatland County and local farm/ranch collaborators.

Retaining this facility, by purchasing the property, supports the Government of Alberta's objectives by preserving an existing infrastructure asset with very functional buildings surrounded by natural learning resources. This purchase would give Rural Route Agriculture Academy the security and ability to continue the operation a very successful, highly sought-after, unique educational opportunity that builds rural capacity. Rural Route students will graduate not only with a high school diploma but will be a future workforce that will have excellent communication skills, confidence in their abilities, strong work ethics and leaders within their communities

Total Investment = \$9.5 million (purchase) + \$1.5 million (upgrades) = \$11 million

Priority 2 – Purchase of Adjacent Farmland Parcel

Purchase of adjacent farmland parcel consisting of 54 acres of bare agricultural land. This parcel will enable full-scale agricultural production, crop development, and animal science programming.

Total investment = \$1.5 million

Summary

The growth and existence of Rural Route Agriculture Academy is constrained by its ability to secure the purchase of the current site which undermines the promise of school choice. Capital funding for the purchase of property and building upgrades will enable full delivery of its agriculture curriculum and programs, advancing key provincial education objectives.