

WORK CENTRAL AB

School Registration

Enrolling Your Child in a Central Alberta School Division

A Career Resource from Work Central AB

Registering Your Child for School in Central Alberta

Central Alberta is served by several school divisions, including public, Catholic, and francophone options, each with its own registration process. This guide walks through what to expect when enrolling a child in school after your move.

1. Choosing a School Division

- **Public school divisions** - such as Red Deer Public Schools, Chinook's Edge School Division, and Wolf Creek Public Schools, serve students across the region regardless of religious background.
- **Catholic school divisions** - such as Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, serve students in Red Deer, Sylvan Lake, Blackfalds, and other communities.
- **Francophone and specialized programs** - French immersion and francophone schooling options are available in parts of the region for eligible families.
- Most families are assigned a designated school based on their home address (attendance boundary), though many divisions also allow "school of choice" requests, subject to space availability.

2. Age Requirements

- Children must generally be at least 5 years old by December 31 of the school year to begin Kindergarten.
- Children must generally be at least 6 years old by December 31 of the school year to begin Grade 1.
- Requirements can vary slightly by division, so confirm exact cutoff dates with your chosen school division.

3. Documents You'll Need

Typical Registration Documents

- Proof of the child's identity and citizenship or immigration status (birth certificate, passport, permanent resident documentation, or study permit).
- Proof of the child's current Alberta address, matching the parent or guardian's address (a lease agreement, utility bill, or similar document, usually dated within the last 90 days).
- Proof of the parent or guardian's citizenship or immigration status.
- Previous school records or transcripts, if transferring from another school.
- Immunization records, where requested.

4. How to Register

- Most Central Alberta school divisions use online registration systems (such as SchoolEngage) for both new and returning students.
- New families typically complete an online form, then finalize registration once the school confirms placement and reviews supporting documents.

- Registration is generally required every school year, even for returning students, through a re-enrollment process.
- If you're relocating outside of a school's regular attendance boundary or requesting a specific program (French immersion, a particular school), contact the division directly, as space may be limited.

5. Registering Mid-Year

If you're moving partway through the school year, contact your target school division as soon as possible - most divisions accept registrations year-round and can help arrange the transfer of records from your child's previous school.

6. Supporting Your Child's Transition

- Reach out to the school ahead of the first day to ask about orientation options, especially for children transferring mid-year.
- Connect with the school's family liaison or newcomer support staff, if available, particularly for families new to the Canadian school system.
- Ask about extracurricular activities, clubs, and sports as an easy way for your child to build friendships early.

7. Common School Registration Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I choose any school in the division? Families are typically assigned a designated school by address, though "school of choice" requests are often possible depending on space.

Is registration required every year? Yes - most divisions require an annual re-enrollment or confirmation, even for returning students.

What if my child doesn't speak English fluently? Many divisions offer English language learner (ELL) support - ask about available programs during registration.

School Registration Checklist

- ✓ Identified your designated school division based on your address
- ✓ Confirmed your child meets age requirements for their grade
- ✓ Gathered identity, residency, and immigration documents
- ✓ Requested previous school records, if transferring
- ✓ Completed online registration and confirmed placement with the school

Keep Planning Your Move With Work Central AB

See our Childcare Resources guide for younger children, and our full Newcomer Resources section at workcentralab.ca/resources.