

# Applicant Submission

2024 November 29



## Growth Strategy Almadina High School

PCL Building

2882 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street NE

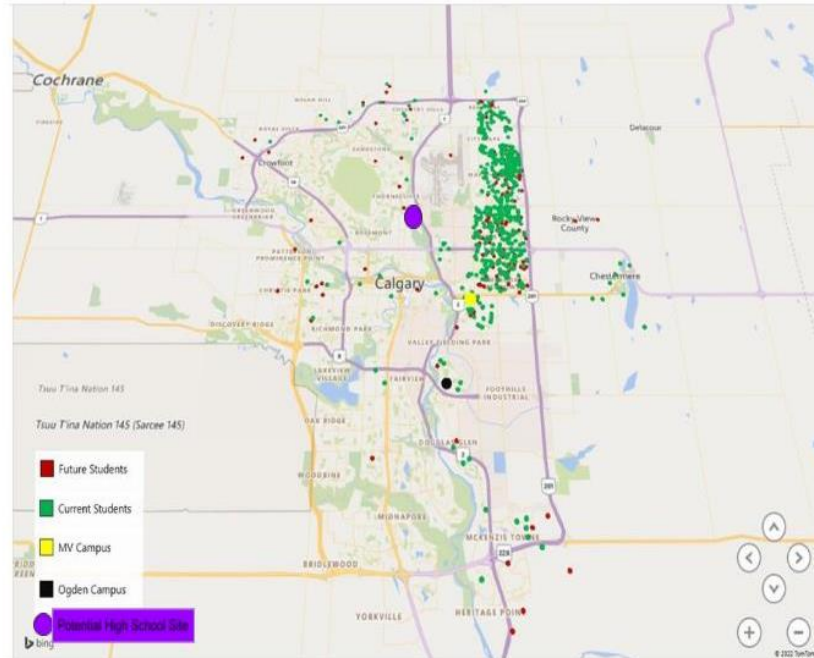
### Project Driver

The table below shows the anticipated distribution of population growth from 2022 - 2026 for new communities in Calgary by Planning Sector from the City's Suburban Residential Growth Report 2022-2026:

City Growth Trends New Communities by Planning Sector 2022-2026	
Planning Sector	Population Growth Forecast
Northwest	2,409
North	18,678
Northeast	19,850
East	5,324
Southeast	19,042
South	18,880
West	3,541

Source: Suburban Residential Growth Report 2022-2026

Most *Almadina Language Charter Academy (ALCA)* students reside in the **Northeast planning sector** of the city, which has the most significant projected population growth (see dot map below).



Despite the emergence of the new CBE school, North Trail, the needs remain high for the population of students with **English as an Additional Language (EAL)**. Specifically, Almadina’s charter is to serve students with English as an Additional Language.

**“Almadina Language Charter Academy (ALCA)** operates as a charter school with a unique emphasis on English Language Acquisition. This charter was granted in 1996 by the Alberta Minister of Education and is mandated to deliver the Alberta Program of Studies (ECS – Grade 12) with English language acquisition as a major outcome.” *Almadina Charter*

Notably, the EAL demographic continues to increase exceptionally, resulting in an extensive waiting list for grades K to 9 and an ever-increasing demand for grades 10 to 12.

### Conclusion

Adding the proposed NE Almadina High School site satisfies the need for high school **English as an additional language** service in the growing NE sector of the city.

### Actual/Projected Enrollment

The Almadina High School opened in September of 2024. It is located at the Charter Hub in the Research Park at the University of Calgary.

The address is:

Almadina High School  
Smart Technology Building  
University of Calgary  
3<sup>rd</sup>. Floor – East  
3636 Research Road NW  
Calgary T2L1Y1



Our access to the Hub was confirmed approximately ten weeks before the summer recess. As a result, the high school registration was very late.

Enrollment current and projected

- **September 2024:** Almadina High School currently houses 150 grade 9 and 10 students who utilize our allocated space at the Hub. We understand that additional space is not available at the Hub.
- **September 2025:** Almadina High School is projected to house 250 grade 9, 10, and 11.
- **September 2026:** Almadina High School is projected to house 350 students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.
- **September 2027:** Almadina High School is projected to house 400 to 450 students (expected enrollment moving forward).

### Conclusion

The **enrollment projection** data suggests that Almadina High School requires an alternative location. Following an extensive search of available buildings in Calgary, the PCL building was identified as a potential site. The building was inspected and remains a viable location.

### Meeting the Educational Purpose (PCL Building)

The considerations going forward include:

- Location
- Busing
- Access
- Refurbishment to Meet Educational Needs
- Physical Education Facilities



#### Location

A nearby High School that meets the needs of English as Additional Language learners will delight the NE community. In addition, student busing time would be significantly reduced. Assuming driver availability and suitable weather conditions, it currently takes some students 1 hour and 15 minutes to travel to school.

#### Busing/Access

Almadina currently has a contract with *First Student* for three buses based on the current enrollment. Working with the City of Calgary, the signage outside the building can be changed to allow students attending the high school to be dropped off and picked up. A **circular pathway** will enable parents to enter the loop, drop a student, and continue around the loop to exit the area. Access would be classified as safe and highly convenient.

#### Parking (Bicycle and Vehicle Stalls)

Generous parking exists behind the PCL building. After staff and students are allocated bicycle and vehicle parking stalls, significant space is left for visitor parking, and a bubble gymnasium structure is proposed at the far side of the property.

#### Amenities

As is customary, students will bring their lunch to school or purchase a snack from the cafeteria, which is located in the basement of the PCL building.



### Industrial Area

The PCL building is located on the industrial park's peripheral edge, enhanced by the city's panoramic vistas. Our bubble gym, likely built by the highly reputable SPRUNG company and planned for the rear of the generous car park, will serve Physical Education. In addition, 1.5 blocks from the building is the perfect site for any fall/spring outdoor activities. No other amenities are required.

### Access Loop

Busing access to the PCL building is from 32nd Avenue. As shown below, a **circular route** allows the three school buses to drop students off at the school and continue on the loop to exit. This route follows a continuous loop for entering and exiting the area.



### School Arrangement

Refurbishing the PCL building at 2882 11th Street NE will meet our students' educational needs.

- The **lower level** of the PCL building can house the robotics lab, the weight lifting/workout room, and the cafeteria. Other CTS courses will also be housed there. Currently, the cafeteria has an outdoor patio for student use. Also, offices exist that would be deployed as guidance/resource offices.
- The **main floor** of the PCL building can house the main reception area, administrative offices, technology lab, and English and Social Studies classrooms located on the window side of the building and in the interior. Break-out areas currently exist and will be retained for student use.
- The **upper floor** will house the conference room, the Art Studio, the Science lab, and Mathematics and Science classrooms. Again, break-out areas will be retained for student use.

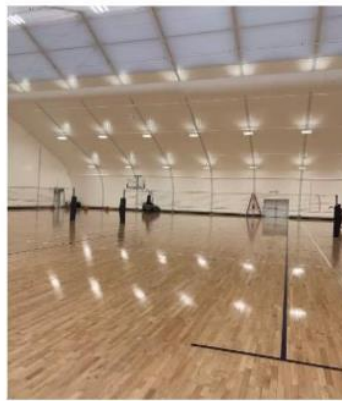
- Across the car park at the rear of the building will be a Physical Education “bubble” with changing rooms (see below).

**Changes are subject to architectural reports.**

#### **Physical Education Facilities**

We anticipate having a Physical Education facility on the far side of our car park. This will include a gymnasium, two student changing rooms, some bleacher seating to support fan engagement in the Athletics Program, storage, and heat. The structure would be similar to the “bubble” below.

In addition, the PCL building is located 1.5 blocks from Vista Heights athletic fields, which include diamonds and soccer fields. We anticipate using these fields in the fall and spring.



**Sprung, Calgary**

#### **Conclusion**

Refurbishing the PCL building as a high school will allow the local NE community to access a high school with a unique charter to support **English as an Additional Language**. Using the PCL building as a high school will bring much-needed service to the growing NE sector of Calgary. The location is critical as it enables easy access following a traffic loop to enter and exit the site (see map attached).