Month XX, 2023

Cut and paste MLA/Minister name

Cut and paste MLA email address

*Delivered by email*

**Re: School Capacity and Usage**

Dear Honourable insert MLA/Minister Name,

My name is <insert name here> and as a resident of <insert Town/Municipality here>, I am writing to you today advocating for a review of how school capacity and usage is calculated within our public schools. The current calculation is a true disadvantage to our students because utilization rates are unable to tell the full story when it comes to uniquely designed schools.

From what I have learned, the usage or capacity of a school is calculated based on instructional areas only. School utilization on the other hand considers the overall square meters of a school and number of students. In this current model, schools with larger spaces, such as expanded gymnasiums, are penalized as these spaces are added to the total instructional capacity but cannot always be used as traditional classroom spaces. What this can look like is a school that is under-capacity but in reality, has very little if any room to accept more students because of the school’s layout.

Accurately calculating school capacity ensures every student has access to well maintained and cleaned community schools. Receiving adequate and fair funding is a priority for me and the Foothills School Division as it helps eliminate barriers to learning, such as overcrowding, allowing students to reach their full potential. I believe that through a review of the current utilization rate criterion, you can better serve students by providing learning spaces that are suited to the populations and provide better tools for school divisions to plan for growing communities.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of a review of the current utilization rate criterion for the betterment of all students across Alberta.

Respectfully,

Insert Name