

EIPS Frequently Asked Questions

ANDREW SCHOOL | FACILITY CONDITIONS

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FAQS: ANDREW SCHOOL FACILITY CONDITIONS

General

Q: What are the issues with the building housing Andrew School and the Andrew Village offices?

A: There are two major issues that have been identified to this point:

- *Fire Suppression System:* The sprinkler system piping is deteriorating because of standing water. The system was not installed correctly, and this has caused condensation, low points and sags in the piping. While temporary repairs over the years mean the system still works and keeps occupants safe, that is not a sustainable solution. The sprinkler system must be replaced entirely to avoid a system failure that would result in the building being closed.
- *Roof:* Because of the roof's original design, leaks and ice damming issues are persistent. Water seeping into the facility has caused damage to the building over the years. The damming also results in ice falling from the roof, causing health-and-safety issues for occupants. The steel roof must be replaced entirely, including ventilation and membrane upgrades, to avoid future damage to the structure.

Q: Why are families just hearing about this issue now? Didn't EIPS know there was a problem before it reached this point?

A: The Division has been aware of the issue for several years. Between 2015 and 2021, it has invested \$633,780 in maintenance and repairs to ensure a safe learning and working environment. However, the systems have reached a point where temporary repairs aren't enough to address the problems.

Q: Is there a safety risk to students and other occupants of the building?

A: No. Ongoing maintenance and repairs have kept current systems in place, and the building is safe for everyone who learns and works there. The replacement of the sprinkler system and the roof, though, is needed to ensure the building remains safe in the future.

Q: How much will it cost to fix the sprinkler system and the roof?

A: It's estimated it will cost \$346,250 to replace the sprinkler system in its entirety. Replacing the steel roof with ventilation and membrane upgrades will cost between \$900,000 to \$1.1 million.

It's important to note, though, these are just estimates. When major repairs are undertaken on an aged building, additional damage or issues are frequently uncovered, which increases the overall cost. For that reason, EIPS Facility Services has set a budget estimate of approximately \$3 million.

Q: Who is responsible for paying the costs of the sprinkler and roof replacements?

A: EIPS and the Village of Andrew share financial responsibility for repairs and upkeep of the facility. However, projected costs may mean the needed system replacements are cost-prohibitive for both organizations.

Q: You've already closed the junior high and senior high programs at Andrew School. Is this an excuse to close the school entirely?

A: There has been no discussion at either the administrative or board level about closing Andrew School. As long as the building is viable, the community supports the elementary program and sufficient enrolment, the elementary program will remain operational.

Q: How many elementary-aged students in the Andrew boundary area are going to other schools?

A: To accurately determine how many school-aged children live within the Andrew School attendance boundary, EIPS uses Baragar Systems, a planning software used by school divisions nationwide. Using Baragar, EIPS can accurately develop enrolment projections and comprehensively analyze all demographic data within a school boundary.

According to Baragar, approximately 95 elementary-aged students, between the ages of five and 12, live within the Andrew School attendance boundary. Below is a breakdown of where those 95 students attend school, as of Sept 14, 2022:

- 72 are enrolled in an EIPS school or use EIPS Student Transportation
- 59 attend Andrew School
- 13 attend a different school
 - Bruderheim School – 1
 - Lamont Elementary – 7
 - Mundare School – 2
- St. Martin Catholic School – 3
- 23 are either in Grade 7 *OR* attend another school division and don't access EIPS Student Transportation

NOTE: Canadian Revenue Agency data shows 170 children live within the Andrew School attendance area between the ages of one and 16.

Q: How does busing work for students requiring transportation services?

A: EIPS provides an enhanced transportation service for both eligible and ineligible riders. So, anyone who wants to access Student Transportation using existing bus routes and bus route locations, can do so. Registration takes place during the returning student registration process in February. Families simply indicate on the online form busing is required for their child. Before the end of the school year, the family will receive their child's busing information, including any associated fees.

Q: How are families charged for busing?

A: EIPS offers enhanced transportation services for students, using the below fee structure.

- Eligible Fee: Riders who attend their designated school, or division system program, and live more than 2.39 kilometres from that school. For 2022-23, the eligible fee is \$121 per year.
- Ineligible Fee: Students who attend a non-designated school or live less than 2.4 kilometres from their designated school. For 2022-23, the ineligible fee is \$346 per year.

NOTE: Kindergarten riders, only, are charged an eligible fee, regardless of where they live.