

DATE: March 13, 2012
TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Federal and Provincial Funding for ELL (Response to Trustee Request #164)
ORIGINATOR: Brian J. Smith, Executive Director, Finance & Infrastructure
RESOURCE STAFF: Sandra Bassett, Cheryl Hagen, Madonna Proulx
REFERENCE: January 31, 2012 Board Meeting (Trustee Colburn)

ISSUE

The following information was requested: Provide information on any federal and provincial funding the district receives for ELL (English Language Learning) resources and staff supports and what opportunities might exist for further government funding in this area.

BACKGROUND

Alberta Education's *Funding Manual for School Authorities* states that English as a Second Language (ESL) funding may be claimed for funding children/students who require additional English language supports and instruction to achieve grade level expectations in English and other subject areas. Annual assessment documentation must be kept on file at the school that supports the coding and funding of these students. Funded children/students eligible for ESL funding must be coded either foreign or Canadian born. Funding is provided for a maximum of 7 years for eligible ESL funded children/students.

The provincial funding manual also states that Enhanced ESL/Enhanced Francisation is funding for funded children/students who are functionally illiterate in their language of origin, have little or no exposure to English or French, or formal schooling, have significant challenges to successful enculturation, and have been exposed to traumatic events in their country arising from political or civil unrest.

CURRENT SITUATION

According to the provincial funding manual, two enrollment counts are taken for ESL funding for eligible funded children/students – one on the September count date and another on the March count date. The charts below show funding received from the provincial government for ESL students in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012:

2011 – 2012 School Year

Total Number of ESL Students	12,770.50
Funding Rate per Student	\$1,155
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$14,749,928</i>
Enhanced ESL	
Enhanced ESL Funding (One Time Provincial Funding) *	\$1,305,557
TOTAL ESL FUNDING	\$16,055,485

2010 – 2011 School Year

Total Number of ESL Students	11,726.25 **
Funding Rate per Student	\$1,155
Total Number of Enhanced ESL Students	6,116
Funding Rate per Student	\$404
Enhanced ESL Funding *	\$2,470,864
TOTAL ESL FUNDING	\$16,014,683

**Beginning in 2011-2012, the province discontinued Enhanced ESL funding; however, as part of the additional funding announcement in 2011-2012, one-time funding, in the amount of \$1,305,557, for Enhanced ESL was allocated.*

***Average number of students between September and March counts*

The chart below shows the ESL and Enhanced ESL provincial funding rates from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012:

YEAR	ESL FUNDED RATE PER STUDENT	% INCREASE TO ESL FUNDED RATE	ENHANCED ESL FUNDED RATE PER STUDENT	% INCREASE TO ESL ENHANCED FUNDED RATE
2011-2012	\$1,155	0%	N/A	0%
2010-2011	\$1,155	0%	\$404	0%
2009-2010	\$1,155	1.1%	\$404	1.0%
2008-2009	\$1,143	4.6%	\$400	4.7%
2007-2008	\$1,093	3.0%	\$382	3.0%
2006-2007	\$1,061	N/A	\$371	N/A

The district does not receive federal funding to support ESL students, and we are not presently aware of any opportunities for additional government funding in this area.

In the 2011-2012 school year, the District has provided a Level 3 allocation (English Language Learner – Divisions II-IV) of \$5,702 per student, an additional \$557 per student above the base regular student funding to support ELL students. As well, a Level 5 allocation (ELL Foreign Born Refugee Background) of \$9,476, an additional \$4,331 above the base regular student funding to support ELL refugee students, has been provided. In some cases, ELL students with multiple needs will benefit from additional supports over and above that provided specifically for ELL.

KEY POINTS

- Enrollment counts for ESL funding for eligible funded children/students are taken twice each year.
- In 2011-2012, \$1,155 was received from the provincial government for each ESL funded student/child.
- Beginning in 2011-2012, the province discontinued Enhanced ESL funding; however, as part of the additional funding announcement in 2011-2012, one-time funding, in the amount of \$1,305,557, for Enhanced ESL was allocated.

- The provincial funded rate for ESL students/children has remain unchanged for the past 3 years.
- Total ESL funding support received from the provincial government in 2011-2012 was \$16,055,485.
- In 2011-2012, the District has provided a Level 3 allocation of \$5,702 per student to support ELL students, and a Level 5 allocation of \$9,476 to support ELL refugee students.
- Students with multiple needs will benefit from additional supports over and above that specifically provided for ELL.

ATTACHMENT

N/A

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