

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 9, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Board Determined Accountability Measure

ORIGINATOR: A. Habinski, Executive Director, School and District Services

RESOURCE
STAFF: Edgar Schmidt

INFORMATION

Alberta Learning has outlined principles and pillars of the Renewed Funding Framework (available at <http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca/funding/FundingManual/pdf/framework.pdf>). The renewed Funding Framework provides a means to allocate funding to school jurisdictions to provide a quality education, reflecting the needs of students and society. It is intended to be a funding system that distributes funds equitably, provides maximum flexibility to accommodate local decision-making, and is publicly accountable for the use of resources and the results achieved.

Alberta Learning has identified a set of principles related to the Funding Framework. They are accountability, consistency, equity, flexibility, predictability/stability, simplicity, transparency, and maintain provincial goals. As Alberta Learning establishes overarching goals and priorities, school jurisdictions develop local priorities, initiatives and directions to accomplish the provincial goals.

The renewed Funding Framework is based on the foundation of three pillars: flexibility, accountability, and funding. The flexibility and accountability pillars are being implemented in 2003-2004. The funding pillar is under development and is expected to be approved by April 1, 2004.

The flexibility pillar ensures that school jurisdictions have the maximum flexibility to decide how they will spend their allocated resources. Funding will be provided with minimal conditions and spending directions.

The accountability pillar places increased emphasis on outcome measures, rather than multiple input reports and expenditure directions. School jurisdiction performance will be measured and reported by assessing current results against targets. School jurisdictions will set targets for measures with historical data or benchmarks (e.g. achievement targets for Provincial Achievement Tests, high school completion). Targets for new measures will be set once baseline data are collected. Alberta Learning expects that school districts will achieve their targets and take necessary action if improvement is required. In addition to accountability

measures identified by Alberta Learning, school districts are required to identify a local accountability measure for which they will set targets.

Alberta Learning has requested that the board identify an internal accountability measure this school year in order to establish base line data. As a result a recommendation for a Board determined accountability measure will be brought forward to the Board for consideration and approval in February 2004.

ES:ee