

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 14, 1999

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Eastwood Year Round Modified Calendar: Year One Monitoring

ORIGINATOR: L. Love-Walsh, Principal Eastwood School

RESOURCE
STAFF: Gloria Chalmers

INFORMATION

Background: July 1999 marked the completion of the first full year of the Eastwood Year Round modified calendar. In accordance with the monitoring plan brought to board on June 9, 1998, the 1997-98 school year provided base line data. This baseline data and first-year results from 1998-99 are provided in Appendix I. Additional information has been collected at the school level and the intent is to continue doing this to enable the identification of significant trends.

Findings of note in the first year include:

- the high percentage of returns from the parent survey and their overwhelming support for the modified calendar. The survey had an 82 per cent rate of return and 99 per cent of the respondents showed support for the modified calendar
- the students' reflections on the modified calendar. In discussions with the students, they said that the modified calendar was allowing them to be more successful in their studies. They felt that the shorter, more frequent breaks reduced their stress and helped them stay more focused on their academics
- the profound effect that combined year round calendar and the implementation of character education has had on student conduct. The overall positive behaviour in the school showed tremendous growth. The number of out of school suspensions for negative behaviour was reduced by almost 70 per cent over the previous year

The plan is to continue to monitor the implementation of the modified school calendar over the next two years. At the end of the three-year pilot, a recommendation will be brought to board.

LLW:dh

APPENDIX I: Eastwood School Modified School Calendar Monitoring Plan
APPENDIX II: Sample of Modified School Year Calendar Surveys