

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 14, 1999

T0: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dosedall, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Programming for Senior High School Students with Special Needs and Students at Risk, 1999-2000

ORIGINATOR: Rick Anderson, Wilma Bayko, Susan Burghardt, Bruce Coggles, Mike Demaine, Ron Fortin, Mack Fysh, Al Jamieson, Shirley Keith, Jennifer Lawley, Ken Marshall, Bob Maskell, Brian McWilliam, Louise Osland, El Probert, Tony Rankel, George Rice, Rosalind Smith, Hans Van Ginhoven

RESOURCE
STAFF: Sheri-Lee Langlois, Brad Mamchur

INFORMATION

A presentation will be made to inform the board about recent initiatives that senior high schools have undertaken to improve the opportunities for success of students at risk of not completing grade 12, and students with special needs. Rosalind Smith, Principal of M.E. LaZerte School, will explain the objectives of this initiative. The initiative supports the board priority "to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged students at risk of not completing their schooling".

Each high school principal has identified a special needs coordinator who takes the lead role in ensuring that students are provided with appropriate programming and ongoing support. Brad Mamchur, who is chairing meetings of the coordinators this year, will describe the roles and responsibilities of the coordinators. Ryan Coules is a grade 11 student of Mr. Mamchur's at Jasper Place High School. Ryan will describe the benefits that he received from the P.A.S.S. program last year in making a supported transition to regular programming this year.

The coordinators, with assistance from central services, have focussed on:

- Making available information about their programs for these students
- Increasing the range of programming they offer
- Modifying instructional strategies
- Modifying timetable scheduling to support students' individual program plans
- Simplifying the spring enrolment process for incoming grade 10 students with special needs

By working together and sharing their expertise, the high schools have been able to make significant progress in these areas.

Background

The initiatives being undertaken by the high schools are driven by a need to reduce the early school leaver rate, and increase student achievement. The overall intent is that each high school offer programming for students in its attendance area whose educational needs can be met, immediately or potentially, in high school credit courses. This includes students with behaviour difficulties, poor attendance, lack of English language fluency, academic delays, and curricular gaps.

District centres will continue to provide life-skills programming for students with more severe special needs and who are not on the graded curriculum

SLL/mdr