

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 24, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Ready for the Future: Portfolio and Transition Planner

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Joanne Aldridge, Jan Anderson, Mike Falk, Janet Hancock, Orest Soltykevych, Stuart Wachowicz, Stephen Wright

INFORMATION

Background: Edmonton Public Schools has made it a priority that students are prepared to demonstrate attributes of citizenship and preparedness enabling them to participate in a global society. This includes completing schooling and being able to successfully transition to post secondary study and the world of work. Trustees have thus requested that administration consider the development of an instrument which will readily convey the range of accomplishments of graduating students.

The Ready for the Future: Portfolio and Transition Planner is intended to provide the student with a recognizable record of all he/she has achieved, and is something that can be expanded beyond their time in school. The goal is to have a document that captures academic achievements as well as information relating to employability skills, attributes of citizenship, and unique student talents and interests. Currently there are a number of credentials, certificates and diplomas that a student may acquire through work in school (Appendix I). The intent of this initiative is not to duplicate existing certificates. Existing certification and school based tools would be enhanced by an instrument that can collect and display the sum of a student's achievements electronically and in print.

Ready for the Future Transition Tool: The Ready for the Future Transition Tool will be designed to be piloted as an electronic solution that can serve both as a collector of student achievements and as a planning tool, which can inform student decision making in partnership with teachers and parents. The instrument will assist and guide transitions from junior high to senior high and from school to post secondary enrollment and to employment.

Information about the student's achievement will be captured in one of several student files including:

- Academic Achievement
 - Courses completed (core and optional)
 - Progress toward high school completion:
 - Diploma
 - Post secondary study choices

- Credentials and Certificates
- Language Passport and Proficiency Credentials
- Readiness for Employment
 - Employability Skills
 - Safety Training and Credentials
 - Work Experience
- Community Involvement
 - Volunteer/Service Experience
- Unique Talents and Interests
 - Portfolio of Selected Work and/or Achievements/Awards
 - Interests/Extra-curricular
- Career Planning
 - Saved Career Searches (Employment, Apprenticeship, Post secondary)
 - References

The student planning component will have the capacity to show the student the impact of a particular course selection in the high school grades on potential university, technical school and employment options, helping the student make an informed decision about future education and career goals. Multiple plans are made by a student in grade nine which can be adapted through the course of his/her study. The tool will be inclusive of all students and will be interactive, engaging and personalized.

Timeline for Development: This is a large project which will require time to develop and perfect elements of the Profile.

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ● Initial Development | April to August 2009 |
| ● Piloting and Feedback | September 2009 to June 2010 |
| ● Revision | Summer 2010 |
| ● District Launch | September 2010 |
| ● Annual Review | |

The development will require input from post secondary institutions, business, industry, schools, central service staff and supplies, equipment and services (SES), and will cost approximately \$250,000. The project will require additional staff:

- Project Lead
- Support staff

SW:dh

APPENDIX I: Current Diplomas, Certificates and Credentials

CURRENT DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES, CREDENTIALS

I. Provincial Credentials:

1. High School Diploma
2. Certificate of High School Achievement
3. Certificate of School Completion

II. International Credentials:

1. Advanced Placement
2. International Baccalaureate

III. Language Passport and International Proficiency Credentials:

1. DELF/TCF – French
2. DELE – Spanish
3. Sprachdiplom – German
4. HSK/YCT - Chinese
5. Japanese Foundation Examination
6. Ukrainian Language Examination
7. Cambridge ESOL Assessments (English as a Second Language)

IV. Employability Skills Credentials:

1. Employability Skills Achievement Certificate - Conference Board of Canada
2. Skills Credentialing Tool - Conference Board of Canada
3. Test of Workplace Essential Skills (TOWES) – developed by Bow Valley College
4. Alberta Work Safe Passport – developed by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

V. Dual Credentialing:

1. Health Care Aide Professional – NorQuest College
2. Print Media Production Partnership Program – NorQuest College
3. Iverson Computing Science Exam – University of Alberta
4. A+ Certification – Computer Repair – CompTIA
5. Child Care Certification