

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 26, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Alternative Programs Administrator's Handbook

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head

RESOURCE
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INFORMATION

Background: Edmonton Public Schools acknowledges support for choice in its mission statement and exemplifies it in its practice. It is recognized throughout North America as well as abroad as a district of choice. This district attracts educators from around the world because of its experience with site-based decision-making and its 25-year experience offering a broad range of alternative programs. The district receives requests, on an ongoing basis, for information about the district philosophy and about the process for developing and implementing alternative programs.

Purpose and Rationale for Alternative Programs Administrator's Handbook: District practice related to the development and implementation of alternative programs has evolved since the introduction of the first three alternative programs in 1974. Changes to the School Act in 1988 resulted in further refinement of practices and procedures. The district now has a clear position on choice, a process for considering new alternatives and clarity on the role of school and district staff in the process. In the spring of 2000, the *Alternative Programs Administrator's Handbook* (Attachment I) was developed with input from principals, parent and community support groups and staff in central services. The administrator's handbook was updated in the fall of 2001 to incorporate information about Blueprints for Teaching and Learning and the introduction of the International Spanish Academy.

The administrator's handbook brings together in one succinct document information about the district's rationale and process for offering such programs, the history of alternative programs, the roles various staff play and the policies and regulations that support the approach. This document has proven to be an invaluable resource in district leadership training programs, in inservicing principals who will be administering an alternative program for the first time, in working with current parent and community support groups or new groups approaching the district and in the provision of information to visitors and requests by phone and e-mail. The intent is to update the document as required to keep it current.

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ATTACHMENT I: Alternative Programs Administrator's Handbook