

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 8, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dosdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Integrated Occupational Program

ORIGINATOR: A. McBeath, Department Head

RESOURCE
STAFF: Stuart Wachowicz, Stephen Wright

INFORMATION

This report is intended to provide an update on the current extent of the Integrated Occupational Program (IOP) availability in the district.

IOP is intended for students who require an integrated program that will boost their academic achievement and enhance occupational competency. Its aim is to assist students who fit the IOP profile to be better able to enter into employment and/or continue education and training. It is not intended for students whose poor performance is due to behavioral issues.

The Certificate of Achievement is awarded to students who successfully complete the requirements set out by Alberta Learning (Appendix I). Although the Certificate of Achievement is a recognized school-leaving credential, it does not provide entry into post-secondary training opportunities other than certain pre-employment programs. Aside from the requirements of the core, forty credits must be earned in the "Occupational Component". This is the part of the program designed to develop the occupational competencies through provision of opportunities for practical learning experience (Appendix II). This does not consist of Career Technology Studies (CTS) strands, but rather represents a component unique to IOP. The strands within the Occupational Component combine knowledge outcomes with a practical experience requirement. The latter is facilitated through school experience and community partnerships, with an expectation that school based programming be the largest component. Students in IOP can move from these occupational courses into CTS courses if and when appropriate, but CTS does not replace the Occupational Component if the student is seeking a Certificate of Achievement.

As of December 1999 a number of high schools were offering components of IOP, with one high school, M.E. LaZerte, offering the Occupational Component (Appendix III). In the 1998-99 school year four students received the Certificate of Achievement through the program at M.E. LaZerte. Some junior high IOP courses (grade 8 - 9) are also offered in the district, most notably through L.Y. Cairns School.

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APPENDIX I: Requirements For Certificate Of Achievement
APPENDIX II: Integrated Occupational Program Occupational Component Overview
APPENDIX III: Integrated Occupational Program