

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 14, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2011-2012 Non-Resident Fees

ORIGINATOR: B.J. Smith, Executive Director Finance and Infrastructure

RESOURCE

STAFF: Sandra Bassett, Ann Calverley, Cheryl Hagen, Madonna Proulx

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the following amounts which form the basis for establishing the resources to be recovered as part of agreements entered into with other Alberta school jurisdictions to provide educational programs for their special needs resident students be approved:

Level	Category of Student	Amount
Level 5	Communication Disability, ECS Mild Moderate, ELL Foreign Born Refugee, Gifted & Talented Extensions, Learning Disability, Literacy, Mild Cognitive Disability, Moderate Emotional/Behavioral, Hearing, Multiple, Visual Disability, Non-verbal Learning Disability, Strategies	12,762
Level 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical, or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	14,253
Level 7	Blindness, Deafness, ECS Severe Special Needs, Severe Cognitive, Emotional/Behavioural, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	24,838
Level 8	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	34,809
All	Transportation	Cost

2. That the following amounts which form the basis for establishing the resources to be recovered as part of agreements entered into to provide programming for students who are Canadian citizens and whose parents are not residents of Canada be approved:

<u>Allocation Level</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Level 1 Kindergarten	4,015
Level 1	7,479
Level 2	7,499
Level 3	8,229
Level 4	8,892
Level 5	13,312
Level 6	14,803
Level 7	25,388
Level 8	35,359
Transportation	Cost

3. That an International Student Tuition Fee of \$11,000 be approved for the 2011-2012 school year.
4. That the International Student Application Fee of \$250 be approved.

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Non-Resident Special Needs Students

The district's obligation, with respect to requests to accommodate non-resident students, is set out in section 45(3) of the School Act. In summary the Act states that if requested by a parent, a board shall enrol a resident of another board, if in the opinion of the board asked to enrol the student, there are sufficient resources and facilities available to accommodate the students.

Within the funding received from Alberta Education for the district's resident students, the district is responsible for providing an appropriate program for our resident students. In most cases the resources allocated to schools for students with mild, moderate and severe special needs exceed the grants that are received. Therefore, it is anticipated that part of the funding received for students in regular programs will be used to help fund special needs programs.

Funds received for the district's resident students should not be used to subsidize the programs for special needs students who are residents of another board, as would be the case if sponsorship was not required for non-resident special needs students.

Section 62(1) (b) of the School Act states that a board may, with respect to its resident students, enter into an agreement with another board or person to provide an education program. This Authority enables the district to consider student programming requests from other jurisdictions, and recover appropriate resources to offset the cost of providing the programming.

The Alberta Education Funding Manual outlines the process for the funding of students with special needs who are directed by the resident school jurisdiction to another school jurisdiction. All related funding is provided by Alberta Education to the resident school jurisdiction and payment for the student's program is the responsibility of the resident school jurisdiction. The district's resource allocations are the basis for determining the funds to be recovered in sponsorship agreements. The amounts shown in Appendix I take into consideration the per student allocation, other allocation categories such as consulting/in-service, early reading incentive, multiple programs and plant operations and maintenance, as well as amounts for administration and instructional support. The actual cost of the program for a student can vary due to the specific needs of each student. The final agreed upon amount may include incremental costs that are unique to a student's programming, such as the need for additional educational assistant time. This school year, five schools are serving thirty-four special needs students sponsored to the District; twenty-two of these students are attending Alberta School for the Deaf.

The recommended amounts to be recovered have increased to reflect changes to the forecast resource allocations to schools from 2010-11 to 2011-12.

Sponsorship is not recommended for non-resident students who are being programmed at allocation levels 3 and 4. There are a sufficient number of students registered in regular programs who are residents of districts outside of Edmonton to generate a pool of funds to offset the resource allocations for non-resident students in programs at levels 3 and 4. However, there are not enough students to generate a pool of funds large enough to offset the allocations in levels 5 and 6. In addition, the administration believes that it would be detrimental to our district if sponsorship were not required for levels 5 and 6 as the programs could be overloaded, making it necessary for the district to incur the cost of opening new sites.

Non-Resident Student Fee

The district has received requests for programming from students who are residents of Canada but not resident in Alberta. The School Act states that these students are entitled to have access to an education. Prior to 2011-12 because these students were not residents of an Alberta school jurisdiction Alberta Education funding was not available. In efforts to align with the School Act beginning 2011-12 the Alberta Education Funding Manual has broadened its definition of a Funded Student. The definition now includes funding for students whose parents reside outside Alberta but within Canada. There is no provincial funding available for Canadian resident students whose parents reside internationally. The District can recover the cost of programming from these students under the condition that the fees not exceed the cost to the board of having the individual enrolled in a school operated by the board.

It is proposed that the amounts shown in Appendix I be the basis for a Non-Resident Student fee. It is further recommended that each fee charged be increased by \$550 per student to cover the debt service and capital building costs to the district. This cost is not part of the per student allocations, therefore it is excluded from the calculations in Appendix I.

Fees Associated with the International Student Program

Annually, the district provides full time academic programming to international students from many different countries. This school year, 29 district schools served 271 students from 23 different countries. The program generated international student fees of approximately \$2.5 million.

International student fees are charged because the district cannot claim education grants for international students. Several factors are considered in determining the international student tuition fee, including the cost of a senior high program including English Language Learner (ELL) instruction and support services, district operational costs including staff salaries and expenses associated with managing the program, and the current market conditions for similar programs of this nature in Alberta and across Canada. The fees are revisited each year and brought forward for the consideration of the board. In order to remain competitive with other school jurisdictions the administration is recommending to maintain the tuition fee at \$11,000. This year, the board is again being asked to approve recommendations for an application fee of \$250 and a tuition fee of \$11,000 for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year.

International student fees will continue to be allocated in a manner that maximizes revenues available to schools but at the same time, ensure sufficient financial resources are available to offset district operational costs.

MP/mp

APPENDIX I - 2011-2012 Total Program Costs

**EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2011-2012 TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS**

Level	Category	2011-2012 Total Program Costs *	2010-2011 Total Program Costs
LEVEL 1	Kindergarten	3,465	3,267
LEVEL 1	Blended, Elementary, Gifted and Talented (Challenge), Junior High	6,929	6,534
LEVEL 2	Senior High (General)	6,949	6,720
LEVEL 3	ELL (Div II - IV), IB (Div IV), Senior High (Other)	7,679	8,147
LEVEL 4	Academic Transition, Amiskwaciy, Awasis, Rites of Passage, Terra, YMCA Program	8,342	8,195
LEVEL 5	Communication, ELL Foreign Born Refugee, Gifted & Talented Extensions, Learning Disability, Literacy, Mild Cognitive Disability, Moderate Emotional/Behavioral, Hearing, Multiple, Visual	12,762	12,329
LEVEL 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	14,253	13,766
LEVEL 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Emotional/Behavioral, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	24,838	23,967
LEVEL 8	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	34,809	33,571

* **The agreed upon net cost at this level should include the provision for additional charges such as educational assistant time should it be deemed necessary.**