

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 10, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees
 FROM: E. Dodsall, Superintendent of Schools
 SUBJECT: 2001-2002 Non-Resident and International Students

ORIGINATOR: G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Ann Calverley, Mary-Ellen Deising, Dean Power, Eila Stenberg

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the following costs 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 resident students be approved:

Level	Category of Student	Total Cost*	Net Cost*
Level 4	Academic Transition, Mild Academic Disability, Terra	5,894	992
Level 5	Communication, Hearing, Learning, Mild Mental, Moderate Academic, Moderate Emotional/Behavioral, Multiple & Visual	9,151	4,249
Level 6	Physical, Medical, Moderate Mental Disability	10,216	5,314
Level 7	Severe Emotional/Behavioral Disability	17,453	1,281
Level 7	Blindness, Deafness, Multiple, Physical, Severe Mental Disability	17,453	0
Level 8	Autistic, Blindness, Deafness, Multiple, Physical or Medical, Severe Mental Disability, Woodside	24,441	6,355
All	Transportation	Cost	Cost

* These amounts reflect the average net cost and do not include the cost of additional services that are unique to individual student programming.

2. That a Non-Alberta Student Fee based on the total average cost per student, plus \$500 be approved.
3. That a Homestay Registration Fee of \$650 be approved.

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Net Program Costs

Historically, a non-resident fee was charged to sponsoring school jurisdictions or to parents as a significant amount of the funding for education was received from the supplementary requisition levied by the resident board. With the change in the School Act in 1994, grants are now paid on the basis of student served.

The School Act states that a student is a resident student of the board of the district or division in which the student's parents reside. Further, each board is charged with the responsibility to ensure that each of its resident students is provided with an education program consistent with the requirements of the Act and regulations. The district's obligation, with respect to requests to accommodate non-resident students, is set out in section 28(3), which states that, a board shall enrol a resident student of the board or of another board in the school operated by the board that is requested by the parent of the student 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 Learning for the district's resident students, the district is responsible for providing an appropriate program for these students. The program costs for students with mild, moderate and severe special needs exceed the grants that are received. Therefore, funds received for students in regular programs must be used to fund the special needs programs. Funds received for our 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 the district adopted an open door policy to all students.

Section 46(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 education programs. This authority enables the district to consider requests from other jurisdictions to provide programming for students resident in other jurisdictions, and recover appropriate resources in instances where the grants received from Alberta Learning are not sufficient to offset the costs of an appropriate educational program.

The average cost per student is based on the 2001-2002 resource allocation rates, as well as amounts for administration and instructional support. The per student grants from Alberta Learning have been recognized in determining the net cost for each level of program. The actual cost of the programs for students can vary due to the specific needs of each student. The agreed upon net cost should include the provision for additional charges that are unique to student programming, such as the need for additional aide time.

Beginning in the current school year, new non-resident severely disabled students are accepted only under agreements where the home jurisdiction purchases the entire program and is responsible for the full cost of the program. In doing so, the home jurisdiction is also responsible for ensuring that the student has been diagnosed and the documentation is in place to show the student requires the program that is being purchased. The home jurisdiction reports the student as part of their enrolment and claims all funding from Alberta Learning. This change was made to prevent circumstances where the district is placed in a position of

completing assessments and testing to ensure that the required diagnosis of disability is in place to meet funding criteria.

Funding received from Alberta Learning for students enrolled in programs at levels 1 and 2 provides sufficient resources to cover the costs of their programs (Appendix I). At the other levels, if an agreement is not in place to recover resources, the cost to the district of enrolling a student from another jurisdiction would require that these programs be subsidized by the funds received for our resident students.

An exception is again recommended for students enrolled in programs at level 3. A fee at this level serves as a disincentive for non-resident students to enrol in the gifted and talented and international baccalaureate programs. The administration believes that the additional cost to the district which would result from waiving the fee would be offset by the benefits of attracting students to the district who are high achievers. At September 30, 2000 there were only fifteen students that fell within this category. The small net cost for English as a Second Language program does not warrant establishing a fee. This exception was first approved for the 1996-97 school year.

The amounts that are being recommended to be recovered (Appendix I), reflect a small increase except at level seven for severe emotional/behavioral disability and at level eight. This results from the impact of allocation and grant rate changes.

Non-Alberta 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. However, they are not residents of an Alberta school jurisdiction and the district can not access Alberta Learning funding. The district can recover the cost of programming from these students under the condition that the fee not exceed the cost to the board of having the individual enrolled in a school operated by the board.

It is proposed that the average cost per student as shown in Appendix I be the basis for a non-Alberta student fee. It is further recommended that each fee charged be increased by \$500 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, is excluded from the expenditure and revenue figures in Appendix I.

International Student Fee

The International Student Program offers full time academic programming in Edmonton Public Schools to students from other countries. The program operates at no cost to the district, generating additional revenues to both the district and to schools serving international students.

In April 2000, the board approved the international student fee of \$9,000 for 2001-2002. The fee reflects the full cost of a senior high program including ESL instruction. Eighty per cent of the total tuition fee is allocated directly to schools, providing discretionary funds beyond the costs of programming. The remaining portion of the fee covers the costs of operating the

International Student Program including activities associated with student recruitment. Examples of these activities include meeting with students and processing student applications, the development and communication of information packages and brochures, translations, and ongoing advice and assistance to international students and parents as well as district staff and the community.

The administration is currently contemplating an increase in the international student tuition fee from \$9,000 to \$10,000 for the 2002-2003 school year. A future decision to increase fees will be based on current comparisons with fees charged in other Canadian school jurisdictions. If an increase is judged to be timely, a recommendation to that effect, as well as a rationale for the recommendation, will be communicated to trustees in the fall.

Homestay Registration Fee

The district offers a Homestay Program, enabling international student to reside with an Edmonton family while studying in district schools. International students pay a one time Homestay registration fee of \$650 to participate in the program. The Homestay registration fee is in place to ensure that costs associated with making the Homestay Program available are borne by students and families who request it. The registration fee also ensures that the Homestay Program operates at no cost to the district. The administration is recommending that for the 2001-2002 school year the Homestay registration fee will remain unchanged at \$650.

EES/ees

APPENDIX I - 2001-2002 Net Program Costs