

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 13, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Distribution of Additional Revenues to Schools for 2004-2005

ORIGINATOR: A. Habinski, Executive Director, School and District Services

RESOURCE
STAFF: Mary-Ellen Deising

INFORMATION

The basis of allocation is a transparent system, unique to Edmonton Public Schools, that provides an equitable distribution of resources to schools. The basis is not intended to identify specific costs for the delivery of programming in schools. It is the means by which available resources are distributed among all schools in the district. Principals, in consultation with staff, students, parents, and community members plan the deployment of these resources to achieve the school's planned results.

The annual review of how the district will use the basis of allocation to distribute the district's resources is a key element in the district's budget planning process. The purpose for the review is to improve the extent to which the basis provides for an equitable distribution of resources. The principles of the basis of allocation are:

- all resources available for allocation to schools are distributed equitably in accordance with responsibility for results; and
- allocations are student driven; and
- the number of allocation categories is minimized; and
- the basis of allocation is accepted, understood, and supported by all concerned; and
- the information on which allocations are based is clear, consistent, and easily obtainable; and
- the administrative cost of allocating resources is minimized.

The basis of allocation is comprised of a weighted student formula and 22 additional student-driven allocation categories. The weighted student formula allocates resources through eight levels to recognize the differentiated resources needed to deliver programming to district students. A level 1 represents the allocation for a "regular" student, while level 8 represents the allocation for a severely disabled student, e.g., Autistic.

The 22 additional student-driven allocations include categories such as multiple program, high needs, consulting services, mild disability, and Aboriginal support. The formulas used to distribute these resources through these other categories are also student driven.

The basis of allocation will not change for 2004-05. The additional revenues will be distributed as follows, using the existing basis:

1. Additional support for schools, e.g., School Based Aboriginal Support, School Based ESL Support.
2. Increase block funding for mild at risk students, grades 1-12.
3. Increase Aboriginal Funds for schools with self-identified population >15%.
4. Expand high needs schools to 75 from 50 and increase amount available.
5. Increase Consulting Services allocation to schools.
6. Increase per pupil amount for levels 5 to 8.
7. Increase per pupil allocation using weighted formulas.

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