

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

April 30, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to Trustee Request for Information

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head

RESOURCE
STAFF: Stuart Wachowicz

INFORMATION

TRUSTEE REQUEST #112, APRIL 16, 2002, (TRUSTEE HANSEN) PROVIDE AN INFORMATION REPORT ON WHETHER ALBERTA LEARNING HAS DISBANDED THE IOP CURRICULUM AND DEVELOPMENT AND IOP ACHIEVEMENT TEST PROJECTS AND WHAT THE IMPLICATIONS WOULD BE ON THE IOP PROGRAMS IN THE DISTRICT. Beginning in the spring of 2000 Alberta Learning began a process to significantly revise the provincial Integrated Occupational Program (IOP), which was developed as a result of an 1985 Alberta Education Policy statement, and was fully implemented by 1992. The revisions were designed to improve the program's ability to provide for the needs of students needing this educational approach.

The initiative included a complete redesign of the IOP curriculum, a change in the credit value of high school level IOP courses and the addition of an IOP Diploma, to replace the current Certificate of Achievement. Plans also called for the development of IOP level provincial achievement tests for grade 9. This would enable students who have taken an IOP course in grade 9 to be tested on content they have studied, rather than writing a test on material they have not covered.

Alberta Learning, in February 2002, made a decision to defer all work and changes to IOP indefinitely pending the results of work to develop a renewed vision for K-12 education in Alberta.

In the meantime the current IOP will remain in effect, as will the Certificate of Achievement as it is now constituted. IOP students will continue to write grade 9 provincial achievement tests. It should be noted that the district does not formally offer IOP at junior high, hence this is not an issue in the district.

Alberta Learning will continue to develop a new teacher support resource which will include suggested instructional and assessment strategies for IOP. (S. Wachowicz, 429-8186)

MdM:hc