

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 10, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

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

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Mike Falk, Don Ward

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #388, NOVEMBER 25, 2003, (TRUSTEE ODYNSKI) PROVIDE INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO THE DISTRICT'S POLICY AND PROCEDURES REGARDING LOCKDOWN DRILLS AND WHETHER THERE IS ANY SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. WHAT TRAINING AND SUPPORT IS PROVIDED TO STAFF AND PRINCIPALS AND ARE THE FREQUENCY OF DRILLS AND THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF LOCKDOWNS MONITORED?** The district emergency preparedness plan is designed to contemplate a number of risks that may present themselves to occupants of our schools and other facilities and to minimize or eliminate the potential harm to the occupants. A lockdown, or in-sheltering, is a common approach that is utilized within the context of emergency preparedness and in effect, entails securing individuals within a facility to protect them from a variety of external hazards. The level to which a lockdown might occur would be dependent on the identified threat. For example, a lockdown could simply mean locking all of the perimeter doors and this would then allow the school to carry on with its activities.

The district incorporates a comprehensive approach to emergency preparedness and the support mechanisms necessary to ensure success are provided to schools. Staff inservicing and incident support/debriefing are provided within the resources available and also in response to specific requests from schools.

The District emergency preparedness support team has formed a sub-committee to prepare inservices/materials for schools with emphasis being placed on the elementary schools. Emergency preparedness drills are monitored, as are situations where schools are required to carry out an actual lockdown or in-sheltering. District policy with respect to the safety of students and staff is captured under board policy GBE.BP and specifics regarding operational requirements such as practice drills are covered under administrative regulations, which are currently being updated. (D. Ward, 429-8294)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #404, JANUARY 13, 2004 (TRUSTEE BONKO) - PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE COMPLETION RATES FOR DISTRICT ESL STUDENTS OVER LAST THREE YEARS**

Alberta Learning has provided school districts with high school completion rates for students five years after starting grade ten. Currently there are rates for three Grade 10 cohorts, covering the years 1995-2000, 1996-2001 and 1997-2002. Data for the 1998-2003 cohort will be published by Alberta Learning later this year.

The completion rates for the district as a whole and for ESL students are reported in the table below.

Grade 10 Cohort	District* 5 Year Rate	ESL** 5 Year Rate
1995-2000	63%	50%
1996-2001	66%	50%
1997-2002	69%	55%

\*The District rates reported here are the attrition-adjusted, five year rates reported by Alberta Learning. The ESL rates are not adjusted for attrition.

\*\*ESL status is determined by the student's September 30 eligibility in Grade 10. The number of ESL students is small, representing about 1.5% of the total senior high school students included in the completion studies. (M. Falk, 429-8437)

BH:hc