

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 28, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Response to Trustee Request for Information

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Executive Director

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Deborah Brandell

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #160, JANUARY 31, 2006, DATE OF REQUEST (TRUSTEE GIBEAULT): PROVIDE INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE LEVEL OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES CHILDREN RECEIVED THROUGH ESHIP FULLY MET THEIR NEEDS.** The provision of speech language services and delivery falls within the mandate of Capital Health for regular students, including those with mild to moderate disabilities. Through ESHIP, the district and Capital Health work to maximize the impact of dollars available to provide speech services to students up to grade 6. The district is responsible for providing services for students with severe multiple disabilities.

While it is difficult to assess the extent to which services meet the needs of students, the following factors suggest there is a need beyond our current level of provision:

- most schools receive short “treatment blocks” on a schedule determined by Capital Health,
- funding shortfalls coupled with vacant Speech Language Pathologist positions impact the level of service that students receive
- students with special needs served through the Special Education Support Team (SEST) are seen in the same calendar year with an average wait time of two to three months.

DB:cg