

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 25, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) Update

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE  
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### INFORMATION

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide information with respect to the district's two Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) projects: full day kindergarten in high needs schools and the Supporting Teaching and Learning project.

Alberta Initiative for School Improvement is a three year, targeted government grant to support specific projects that show potential for improvement of student learning. Edmonton Public Schools was involved in the first cycle of AISI (2000 to 2003) and is currently in year two of a second, three-year cycle (2003 to 2006). Projects are approved and funded for one cycle with the expectation that after three years districts will incorporate successful projects through regular funding mechanisms.

#### **Full Day Kindergarten in High Needs Schools**

The goals for full day kindergarten for high needs students are:

- to develop and improve early literacy skills, and
- to develop positive attitudes toward learning.

These goals are measured through Marie Clay's Observation of Early Literacy Achievement. The Marie Clay Observation of Early Literacy Achievement examines six early literacy tasks: concepts about print, hearing and decoding sounds in words, letter identification, reading, word test and writing vocabulary.

Full-day kindergarten projects are being implemented in the following high needs schools: Abbott, Belvedere, Delton, Eastwood, Evansdale, Glendale, Inglewood, John A. McDougall, McCauley, North Edmonton, Norwood, Parkdale, Prince Charles, R.J. Scott, Rundle, Sherwood, Sifton and Spruce Avenue. Each of these full-day kindergartens offers literacy based programming and teachers are trained in Balanced Literacy or Meaningfully Applied Phonics (MAP) teaching strategies.

Results of Marie Clay's assessment tool are reported Appendix I and indicate a significant improvement in early literacy skills.

### **Supporting Teaching and Learning**

The goals for Supporting Teaching and Learning are:

- to improve achievement of all students, and
- to improve course retention, high school completion and graduation rates.

These goals are measured by the Highest Level of Achievement Tests (HLAT), Provincial Achievement Tests, diploma exam results, course completion rates and high school graduations rates.

The Supporting Teaching and Learning initiative has been implemented in all district schools and central services decision units. It is based on eight expectations for schools and five expectations for central services. Principals, lead teachers and central services leadership staff attend monthly professional development sessions to assist them with this initiative. In addition, principals receive professional development on effective coaching and instructional leadership. The principal, with the support of the school's instructional leadership team, guides the implementation of the eight expectations at the school level. Leadership staff in each central services decision unit follow a similar process related to the five expectations for central services.

Student Achievement Services provides district professional development sessions, coaching support to schools and central decision units.

Consulting Services provides a series of AISI Best Practices Modules based on the needs identified by schools. Each of the modules includes a presentation with built in coaching and teacher collaboration opportunities. Consulting Services also offers the opportunity for schools to contract for targeted ongoing professional development services customized to meet the specific needs of the school.

### **Funding AISI Projects**

AISI funds are tightly targeted by Alberta Education and must be spent on projects that are both sustainable and lead to continuous improvement. Each school receives an AISI allocation based on enrollment. Schools spend these funds in the following areas:

- attending monthly professional development sessions
- participating in AISI Best Practices Modules offered through Consulting Services
- providing time for teacher collaboration sessions at the school site.

Principals are required to indicate the expenditure of AISI dollars as part of the school plan, (Sample school plans are included in Appendix II.) Principals reported on the success of the initiative at the results review in the fall of 2004.

APPENDIX I      Full Day Kindergarten Project 2003-2004 Results  
APPENDIX II     Sample School AISI Plans

CZ:gj

### Full-Day Kindergarten Project 2003- 2004 Results

Early Literacy Concept	Baseline*	Target*	Actual*
Concepts about Print	7.9	75	54
Hearing and Recording sounds in words.	10.8	50	48
Letter identification	25	75	64
Reading	5.4	50	48
Word Test	12	50	48
Writing Vocabulary	6	50	36

\* Percentage of students reaching the age appropriate stanine or better in each of the categories.

Using Marie Clay's Observation Survey, data was collected from all full day kindergarten children by district reading specialists. A pretest was administered in October of the 2003-2004 school year and a post test in June. This test is appropriate for assessing emergent readers' reading skills. The test is administered individually.

**Harry Ainlay**

**AISI Allocation Amount For 2004-2005 \$230741**

**CATEGORY 1: Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning (minimum of 20% of AISI allocation)**

**Plan Details**

- All members of the Instructional Leadership Team (18) will attend the complete series of district training sessions. \$4,660
- All members of the Instructional Leadership Team will be provided with professional reading material, which will include Getting Started (Dufour), Professional Learning Communities (Dufour) and How To Grade For Learning (O'Connor) in addition to other resource material. \$2,000
- All members of the Instructional Leadership Team will receive program needs time to facilitate departmental and interdepartmental collaboration. 1 FTE \$72,046

**Total: \$78706 34.11 % of AISI Allocation**

**CATEGORY 2: Best Practices Training (minimum of 20% of AISI allocation)**

**Plan Details**

- Staff will utilize AISI Professional Development inservices. \$2,000
- Supply teacher time will be purchased to facilitate training and collaborative visits. (40 half days) \$4,840
- School Professional Development Days will focus on collaboration, LASW and assessment practices. \$7,104
- The District Consulting Team will continue to work with the Instructional Leadership Team and school staff on collaboration, LASW and Assessment Of and For Learning. \$10,000
- Instructional Leadership Team core training. .357 FTE \$25,731

**Total: \$54675 23.70% of AISI Allocation**

**CATEGORY 3: Teacher Collaboration (minimum of 20% of AISI allocation)**

**Plan Details**

- Supply time for inter and intra school visitations. (classroom visitations within the school and between schools) (110 half days) \$13,310
- Instructional Leadership Team to work with staff and provide coverage within the school. .286 FTE \$20,584
- Collaborative time to be set aside for small teacher groups to engage in action research or reflective practice guided through professional reading. .857 FTE \$61,753.
- Research materials and supplies. \$1,713.

**Total: \$97360 42.19% of AISI Allocation**

**Plans and budget must total 100% of AISI allocation.**

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**John D. Bracco**

**AISI Allocation Amount For 2004-2005 \$51285**

**CATEGORY 1: Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning (minimum of 20% of AISI allocation)**

**Plan Details**

Principal and 2 representatives of ILT to attend monthly district wide Focus training and guided school visits  
Supply Teacher Costs 7 x \$121 x 2 = \$1694

August Training Costs (Lieu time or 1/400x2) \$242

EPSB Consultant (October 18/19, December 10/13, January 28, February 11/14, April 8/11) \$117/hr for 70 hours \$8190

**Total: \$17582 34.28% of AISI Allocation**

**CATEGORY 2: Best Practices Training (minimum of 20% of AISI allocation)**

**Plan Details**

AISI Training Modules - registration of one teacher and supply teacher costs:

Literary Supports for the Secondary Student at Risk \$1484

Building Assessment Tools for the New Junior High Science Curriculum 7/8/9 \$3774

Literacy Strategies for the ESL Student Gr. 4-10 \$ 550

Effective Mathematics Instruction Practices in Numeracy Level I Div III \$984

Effective Mathematics Instruction Practices in Numeracy Level 2 Div III \$1134

Assessment for Learning in Mathematics Div III \$984

Appivingq Metacoqnitve Strategies in Div III \$1134

**Total: \$16228 31.64% of AISI Allocation**

**CATEGORY 3: Teacher Collaboration (minimum of 20% of AM. allocation)**

**Plan Details**

Collaborative Curriculum Meetings, Inter-School Collaboration, Peer Coaching 3 days per teacher x 25 x \$233 = \$17 475

**Total: \$17475 34.07% of AISI Allocation**

**Plans and budget must total 100% of AISI allocation.**

**Brightview**

**AISI Allocation Amount For 2004-2005 \$23803**

**CATEGORY 1: Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning (minimum of 20% of AISI allocation)**

**Plan Details**

- Summer training 4 x \$121: \$484
- Centre training 1 x 3 sessions x \$121: \$363
- IWT Training 1 x 4 sessions x \$121: \$484
- Support Resource Material = \$50
- Target Professional Development Plan with consultant 20 hrs. x \$115 = \$2,300
- Supply teachers ILT meetings 4 x 2 x \$121 = \$968

**Total: \$4649      19.53% of AISI Allocation**

**CATEGORY 2: Best Practices Training (minimum of 20% of AISI allocation)**

**Plan Details**

- Balanced Literacy Kindergarten Year 2 = \$885
- Balanced Literacy Div. 1 Year 2 = 8 x \$1,355 = \$10,840
- Balanced Literacy Div. 2 Year 2 = 2 x \$1,355 = \$2,710

**Total: \$14435      60.64% of AISI Allocation**

**CATEGORY 3: Teacher Collaboration (minimum of 20% of AISI allocation)**

**Plan Details**

- Coverage for collaboration meetings, 10 supply teachers x 2 meetings @ \$121 = \$2,420
- ILT Team Meetings, 4 supply teachers x 2 meetings @ \$121 = \$968
- Intervisitations, 11 supply teachers x 1 visits @ \$121 = \$1,331

**Total: \$4719      19.83% of AISI Allocation**

**Plans and budget must total 100% of AISI allocation.**