

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 15, 2004

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Angus McBeath, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: 2004-2005 Non-Resident Fees

ORIGINATOR: A. Habinski, Executive Director

RESOURCE
STAFF: Ann Calverley, Dean Power, Eila Stenberg

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the following costs which form the basis for establishing the resources to be recovered as part of agreements entered into with other Alberta school jurisdictions to provide educational programs for their special needs resident students be approved:

Level	Category of Student	Total Cost
Level 5	Chimo, Communication, Gifted & Talented Extensions, Moderate Hearing Impaired, Strategies, Mild Cognitive Disability, Literacy, Moderate Multiple Visual Disability	10,421
Level 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical, or Medical Disability	11,614
Level 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Physical or Medical, Severe Emotional/ Behavioural Disability, Severe Cognitive or Multiple Disability	19,725
Level 8	Autistic, Blindness, Deafness, Multiple, Physical, Medical or Severe Mental Disability, Woodside	27,554
All	Transportation	Cost

- 2. That a Non-Alberta Student Fee based on the total cost per student, plus \$550 be approved.
- 3. That an International Student Tuition Fee of \$10,000 be approved for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years
- 4. That a Homestay Registration Fee of \$750 be approved.

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Special Needs Students

The Alberta Learning Funding Manual outlines the process for the funding of students with special needs who are directed by the resident school jurisdiction to another school jurisdiction. All related funding is provided by Alberta Learning to the resident school jurisdiction and payment for the student's program is the responsibility of the resident school jurisdiction. The calculated total program cost per student (Appendix I) is based on the 2004-2005 forecast resource allocations to schools, as well as amounts for administration and instructional support. Net costs (Appendix II) are still calculated as students who were sponsored prior to the current practise being implemented have been grandfathered. There were four students sponsored at net cost in 2003-04. The actual cost of the program for a student can vary due to the specific needs of each student. The final agreed upon cost will include the provision for additional charges that are unique to student programming, such as the need for additional aide time.

The total program costs that are being recommended to be recovered reflect an increase of 5.1 to 5.8 per cent. This reflects the change to the district's student allocation rates from 2003-2004 forecast to 2004-2005 forecast.

Fees are not recommended at levels 3 and 4 due to the pool of funding that the district receives for Mild or Moderate and Gifted and Talented programming through basic instruction funding. With the implementation of the renewed funding framework in September 2004, Alberta Learning will no longer designate that portion of basic instruction funding that is to be pooled for programming for Mild or Moderate and Gifted and Talented students. However, funding for programming at these levels remains part of basic instruction funding. There are not enough students from districts outside of Edmonton who are registered in regular programs to offset the total incremental costs of all out-of-district students in Mild or Moderate or Gifted and Talented programs (up to level 6). However, there are sufficient numbers to address the incremental costs at levels 3 and 4. Therefore, the district seeks sponsorship for levels 5 and 6. As well, the administration believes that it would be detrimental to our district if sponsorship were not required for levels 5 and 6 as the programs could be overloaded, making it necessary for the district to incur the cost of opening new sites.

Non-Alberta Student Fee

The district has received requests for programming from students who are residents of Canada but not resident in Alberta. The School Act states that these students are entitled to have access to an education. However, they are not residents of an Alberta school jurisdiction and the district can not access Alberta Learning funding. The district can recover the cost of programming from these students under the condition that the fees not exceed the cost to the board of having the individual enrolled in a school operated by the board. Currently there are eight students who fit into this category.

It is proposed that the average cost per student as shown in Appendix I be the basis for a non-Alberta student fee. It is further recommended that each fee charged be increased by \$550 per student to cover the debt service and capital building costs to the district. This cost is not part of the per student allocations, therefore, is excluded from the calculations in Appendix I.

International Student Fee

The International Student Program offers full time academic programming in Edmonton Public Schools to international students from around the world. Effective for 2003-2004, the board approved international student fee was increased to \$10,000 per 10-month school year. The administration is not recommending a further increase to this fee at this time. The international student fee reflects both the full cost of a senior high program including ESL instruction and support services, as well as discretionary funds beyond the costs of programming. The fee also covers expenses associated with developing and maintaining the International Student Program, for example, ongoing international student recruitment, processing applications, developing and communicating information in print, electronic and audiovisual formats, providing translations of district information, and providing ongoing advice and assistance to international students and parents as well as to district staff and the community.

The program in Edmonton Public Schools continues to grow and is the largest in Alberta. This year 500 student applications were processed and 350 international students from 18 different countries have attended 53 district schools. The revenues generated by the program in the 2003-2004 school year, while not yet finalized, are estimated to be approximately \$3 million dollars.

An increase in the international student fee for the 2005-2006 school year is not currently recommended. An increase in the fee at this time is likely to result in the loss of international students to other districts in or adjacent to Edmonton that offer lower, more attractive fees for the same or very similar programming. An international student program is market-driven, and because parents and students are 'shoppers' and compare program costs, it is likely that setting a higher international student fee than all other Alberta school jurisdictions would have the negative impact of a net loss of international students to other districts, particularly Edmonton Catholic Schools, Elk Island Public Schools and St. Albert Protestant School District. Ultimately, this would have a negative financial impact on district schools with a history of serving these students. A comparison of international student fees within Alberta, and in selected school districts in other Canadian provinces is attached in Appendix III.

International Student Application Fee

In May of 2003, a non-refundable international student application fee of \$250 effective 2004-2005 was approved by the board of trustees. This non-refundable application fee offsets costs associated with processing applications and utilizing courier services and is common practise in school districts offering international student programs. The fee for 2005-06 will be brought to the board in the spring of 2005.

Homestay Registration Fee

The Homestay Program is available to allow international students to reside with Edmonton families while studying in district schools. International students pay a one-time Homestay registration fee of \$750 to the district prior to placement, to initiate and complete the Homestay application and matching process. This includes screening and interviewing local families, reviewing student Homestay applications, matching students and families, monitoring placements, and liaising between students and families to address issues. Once placed, an international student or their family pays a monthly fee of \$700 directly to the Homestay family.

EES/ees

APPENDIX I - 2004-2005 Total Program Costs

APPENDIX II - 2004-2005 Net Program Costs

APPENDIX III - Comparison of International Student Fees