

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 17, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: The Learning Stores

ORIGINATOR: S. Keith, Principal Kennedale School/Outreach Programs

RESOURCE
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INFORMATION

The Learning Store program provides high school outreach programming to students in Edmonton Public Schools. There are five learning store locations which include: The Learning Store at Blue Quill; The Learning Store at Londonderry; The Learning Store at Circle Square; The Learning Store at West Edmonton Mall and the Learning Store on Whyte. All of the Learning Stores are housed in leased premises and have been recently renovated. The Learning Store at West Edmonton Mall is a partnership, which includes the Boys and Girls Club, West Edmonton Mall and the Mayfield Rotary Club.

The goal of the Learning Store program is to provide individualized educational programming and academic assistance to students and to provide students with an opportunity to work at their own pace. Students are expected to accept responsibility for their own learning. Monthly student enrolment in the program ranges from 620 to 850 during the course of the year. There were a total of 1,806 student registrations during the 2001-2002 school year.

The Learning Store is focused on helping students who might not finish high school access the academic, employment, and personal support they need to succeed. The school is ideally suited for students between 16 and 19 who have previously attended high school and who enjoy working independently, who need to upgrade, or want flexibility in their schedules. Approximately 25 per cent of the students who attend the Learning Store are secondary students who are registered in a regular high school and take one or more courses with us.

The Learning Store's program allows students to begin high school courses at any time during the year, and to access programming at various mall and storefront locations throughout Edmonton. Students at the Learning Store typically receive only one module of course work at a time. As completed course work is submitted, additional course materials are distributed. Learning Store teachers mark modules and exams and provide feedback to students in a timely manner. Students can obtain interim marks from their teacher at any time.

The program has no attendance requirements and students work on one course at a time in an individualized manner. The only requirements are that students complete one module of work per week and write quizzes, midterms and final examinations at the Learning Store. There is a fifty-dollar fee for books and learning resources.

Students who attend the Learning Store Program have access to a variety of work experience options and to counseling services. A Youth Worker is associated with the program and he is able to assist students with social and other issues that may be interfering with their learning.

A wide range of courses are available to students with the majority of these courses being distance-learning materials. We have developed and are continuing to develop our own materials in the area of Mathematics, English, some Career and Technology Courses and Physical Education.

The Learning Store Program has proven to be a viable alternative for many students who wish to continue with their high school education and are unable to do so in a more traditional setting. The experience of the last three years has indicated that the number of students who attend the program has increased, that the number of successful course completions has increased, and the number of credits earned has increased.

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