

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 14, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Changes to the Basis of Allocation for 2006-2007

ORIGINATOR: C. McCabe, Executive Director

RESOURCE
STAFF: Jamie Pallett

INFORMATION

The basis of allocation is the mechanism used to allocate financial resources to schools to accommodate school based decision making and to provide quality programming. The basis of allocation is not intended to identify specific costs for the delivery of such programming. Principals, in consultation with staff, students, parents, and community members plan the deployment of these resources to achieve the school's planned outcomes.

To improve the extent to which the 2006-2007 school allocations will be equitable and fair, over the past ten months, advice and counsel was sought from a variety of district stakeholders. Stakeholders included the basis of allocation committee, fourteen principal support groups, parent groups and the district's senior administration.

Based on the advice and council received, four changes to the basis of allocation have been approved by the superintendent for 2006-2007. One change to the basis of allocation for 2007-2008 was also approved by the superintendent so that district staff would have time to plan and prepare. Background information on all these changes is provided in Appendix I.

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Appendix I - Approved Changes to the Basis of Allocation for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008

Approved Changes to the Basis of Allocation for 2006-2007

1. Reinstatement of level four per pupil allocation of 1.27 of the level one rate: In 2005-2006 the level four per pupil weighted allocation dropped from a ratio of 1.27 of the level one allocation to 1.25. To ensure allocations accurately reflect the programming needs of students at this level, the level four ratio of 1.27 has been reinstated.
2. Resources for Security Services (\$175 K) will be removed from the “Other Services” allocation and will be incorporated into the Plant Operations and Maintenance (PO&M) allocation: For the past 10 years the resources designated for the purposes of purchasing Security Services has been blended in with the line item “Other Services”. Since security services now falls under Plant Operations and Maintenance category, \$175,000 will be removed from the “Other Services” and will be redistributed to schools under the line item PO&M.
3. New Class Size funding (\$4.2 M) will be allocated as follows: \$3.2 M to Division I (K-3), \$1 M will be held in reserve to be allocated in September 2006 to schools that are having difficulty meeting class size targets because of extenuating circumstances: This proposal is consistent with practice followed in previous years. Table I outlines class size data since 2003-2004.

Table I

	2003-04 District Class Size Average	2004-05 District Class Size Average	2005-06 District Class Size Average	2006-07 District Targets	2006-2007 Commission Guidelines
K-3	22.0	19.2	18.9	17.0	17.0
Grades 4-6	22.9	21.5	21.3	23.0	23.0
Grades 7-9	27.2	23.3	23.7	25.0	25.0
Grades 10-12	28.5	25.0	25.4	27.0	27.0

Note: 2005-2006 Class Size Extenuating Circumstance funding (\$1.12 M) will be added to the 2006-2007 resources held in reserve. The total amount of resources available to be allocated in September 2006 for schools having difficulty in meeting class size targets will be \$2.12 M.

4. The High School Adaptation Block Grant will be discontinued and Students coded 30 (Adaptation) will be allocated based on credit completion and a new Intervention grant will be adopted:

The High School Adaptation Block Grant was established in 2001-2002 as a district initiative to support the programming for high school students who were below the 10th %ile in two or more academic areas or were deemed to be at risk because they were two or more years behind in reading or writing (Code 30 Adaptation). At that time, the district reported all students coded 30 (Adaptation) to Alberta Education in the category called 'learning disabilities'. Since students coded 30 (Adaptation) were identified in this category the district received funding for these students via the block funding method, and were funded at 36.5 credits irrespective of how many credits they completed. Since the district received this guaranteed funding it was allocated to all high schools as a line item.

In June 2005, as a result of the Standards Review conducted by Alberta Education, the district was directed to only report to Alberta Education those students who met the Alberta Education criteria for the designation of special education codes. Since the district category of Adaptation did not align with Alberta Education criteria, students coded 30 (Adaptation) were reported as regular. This change in reporting meant that students coded 30 (Adaptation) were no longer "block funded" and instead were funded based on credit completion. At that time, it was deemed too late to change the basis of allocation. Therefore, the Superintendent decided to continue to fund the Adaptation Block Grant as in previous years with the understanding that revisions would be made in 2006-2007.

For 2006-2007:

1. The high school Adaptation Grant will be discontinued.
2. High School students coded 30 (Adaptation) will be allocated based upon credit completion.
3. The district will allocate \$2 M to high schools under the new title "Intervention Grant" to support school based interventions that are intended to support those students who are deemed to be at risk.
4. The Intervention Grant allocation will be based on the following formula.

$$\text{Intervention Grant} = \frac{\# \text{ students coded adaptation at school}}{\# \text{ of students (H.S) coded adaptation in district}} \times \$ 2 M$$

Approved Changes to the Basis of Allocation for 2007-2008

To ensure district staff have time to plan and prepare, the following change to the basis of allocation for September 2007 has been approved.

1. Commencing September 2007 Literacy and Strategies allocation will be provided to all schools that are programming for students who meet the Literacy and Strategies criteria (funded at level 5). Currently only schools designated as Literacy or Strategies sites receive a weighted allocation for students who meet the Literacy and Strategies criteria. A number of non-site schools, however, are currently providing programming for students who choose not to attend district sites and meet the Literacy and Strategies criteria. Removing the site restriction on this allocation will ensure all schools receive the same amount of resources to provide the same programming.