

DATE: May 8, 2012

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Allocations for Students with Moderate and Severe Educational Needs
(Trustee Request #176)

ORIGINATOR: Brian J. Smith, Executive Director, Finance & Infrastructure

RESOURCE STAFF: Carolyn Baker, Sandra Bassett, Cheryl Hagen, Madonna Proulx

REFERENCE: February 28, 2012 Board Meeting (Trustee Hoffman)

ISSUE

The following information was requested: Provide a five-year breakdown showing the number of students, provincial allocation, and district allocation for students with moderate and severe educational needs.

BACKGROUND

Alberta Education provides funding to school boards so that they can deliver programs and services for students and children identified with special education needs. School authorities allocate the funding to support the local programs and services they choose to offer.

For students identified with mild/moderate disabilities or as gifted and talented, funding is included in the base instructional funding. Funding to meet the special education needs of students identified with severe disabilities is provided to school jurisdictions based on a jurisdiction profile.

CURRENT SITUATION

With the release of the February 2012 Funding Framework, Alberta Education rolled out a new inclusive education funding model, in addition to increasing the funding provided. This was the first increase in funding in several years as the number of funded severe needs students has been frozen. The chart below shows the number of students (in Grades 1 to 12) who were identified with moderate or severe disabilities over the past five years.

MODERATE	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
No. of Students *	5,218	5,260	5,425	5,424	5,509
SEVERE DISABILITIES					
No. of Students *	2,027	2,239	2,310	2,276	2,240
TOTAL STUDENTS	7,245	7,499	7,735	7,700	7,749
TOTAL DISTRICT FUNDING ALLOCATION	\$69,299,010	\$83,481,674	\$82,347,975	\$87,245,596	\$91,138,686

* Based on September 30 student count submission to Alberta Education

The chart below shows the funding dollars received from Alberta Education for the past five years for students identified with severe disabilities. It should be noted that Edmonton Public Schools' severe disabilities profile has remained constant since 2006-2007 at 2,059.4 students.

SEVERE DISABILITIES	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Provincial Allocation Per Student (based on severe profile)	\$15,751	\$16,465	\$16,465	\$16,465	\$16,465
PROVINCIAL FUNDING RECEIVED	\$32,437,609	\$33,908,021	\$33,908,021	\$33,908,021	\$33,908,021

KEY POINTS

- Funding for students identified with mild/moderate disabilities or as gifted and talented is included in the base instructional funding.
- Funding to meet the special education needs of students identified with severe disabilities is provided to school jurisdictions based on a jurisdiction profile.
- Edmonton Public Schools' severe disabilities profile has remained constant since 2006-2007 at 2,059.4 students, whereas the five-year average severe special education students are at 2,218.4.
- Alberta Education's Severe Disabilities funding rate has remain unchanged for the past 4 years at \$16,465 per student.
- EPSB funding allocations to meet moderate and severe student needs has increased by 504 students and \$21.8 million or 31.5% over the five year period.

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