

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 11, 2010

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2010-2011 Non-Resident Fees

ORIGINATOR: S. Ibrahim, Acting Assistant Superintendent-Treasurer

RESOURCE

STAFF: Ann Calverley, Gloria Chalmers, Jamie Pallett, Eila Stenberg

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the following amounts 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	Amount
Level 5	Communication, ELL Foreign Born Refugee, Gifted & Talented Extensions, Learning Disability, Literacy, Mild Cognitive Disability, Moderate Emotional/Behavioral, Hearing, Multiple, Visual Disability, Non-verbal Learning Disability, Strategies	12,329
Level 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical, or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	13,766
Level 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Emotional/Behavioural, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	23,967
Level 8	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	33,571
All	Transportation	Cost

2. That the following amounts which form the basis for establishing the resources to be recovered as part of agreements entered into to provide programming for students who are Canadian citizens who are not residents of Alberta be approved:

Allocation Level	Amount
Level 1 Kindergarten	3,817
Level 1	7,084
Level 2	7,270
Level 3	8,697
Level 4	8,745
Level 5	12,879
Level 6	14,316
Level 7	24,517
Level 8	34,121
Transportation	Cost

3. That an International Student Tuition Fee of \$11,000 be approved for the 2010-2011 school year.
4. That the International Student Application Fee of \$250 be approved.

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Non-Resident Special Needs Students

The School Act states that a student is a resident student of the board of the District or division in which the student's parents reside. Further, each board is charged with the responsibility to ensure that each of its resident students is provided with an education program consistent with the requirements of the Act and regulations. The district's obligation, with respect to requests to accommodate non-resident students, is set out in section 45(3), which states that, a board shall enrol a resident student of the board or of another board in the school operated by the board that is requested by the parent of the student if, in the opinion of the board asked to enrol the student, there are sufficient resources and facilities available to accommodate the students.

Within the funding received from Alberta Education for the district's resident students, the District is responsible for providing an appropriate program for our resident students. In most cases the resources allocated to schools for students with mild, moderate and severe special needs exceed the grants that are received. Therefore, it is anticipated that part of the funding received for students in regular programs will be used to help fund special needs programs.

Funds received for the district's resident students should not be used to subsidize the programs for special needs students who are residents of another board, as would be the case if sponsorship was not required for non resident special needs students.

Section 62(1) (b) of the School Act states that a board may, with respect to its resident students enter into an agreement with another board or person to provide an education program. This authority enables the district to consider requests from other jurisdictions to provide programming for students resident in other jurisdictions, and recover appropriate resources to offset the cost of providing the programming.

The Alberta Education 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 Education to the resident school jurisdiction and payment for the student's program is the responsibility of the resident school jurisdiction. The district's resource allocations are the basis for determining the funds to be recovered in sponsorship agreements. The amounts shown in Appendix I take into consideration the per student allocation, other allocation categories such as consulting/in-service, early reading incentive, multiple programs and plant operations and maintenance, as well as amounts for administration and instructional support. The actual cost of the program for a student can vary due to the specific needs of each student. The final agreed upon amount may include incremental costs that are unique to a student's programming, such as the need for additional aide time. There are currently fourteen special needs students being sponsored to the District.

The amounts that are being recommended to be recovered have increased by 1.7 per cent and reflect the change to the forecast resource allocations to schools from 2009-10 to 2010-11.

Sponsorship is not recommended for non resident students who are being programmed for at allocation levels 3 and 4. Included in the basic instruction grant are funds that are to be pooled and used to cover the incremental costs of mild or moderate and gifted and talented programming. There are a sufficient number of students registered in regular programs who are residents of districts outside of Edmonton to generate a pool of funds to offset the resource allocations for non resident students in programs at levels 3 and 4. However, there are not enough students to generate a pool of funds large enough to offset the allocations in levels 5 and 6 as well. In addition, 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 Education 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 two student who fit into this category.

It is proposed that the amounts 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.

Fees Associated with the International Student Program

Annually, the district provides full time academic programming to international students from many different countries. This school year, 29 district schools served 271 students from 23 different countries. The program generated international student fees of approximately \$2.5 million.

International student fees are charged because the District may not claim education grants for international students. Several factors are considered in determining the international student tuition fee, including the cost of a senior high program including ESL instruction and support services, district operational costs including staff salaries and expenses associated with managing the program, and the current market conditions for similar programs of this nature in Alberta and across Canada. The fees are revisited each year and brought forward for the consideration of the board. At the May 24, 2005 board meeting a recommendation was approved to increase the international student tuition fee from \$10,000 to \$11,000 for the 2006-2007 school year.

Since then, the administration has annually sought the board's approval to maintain the tuition fee at \$11,000. This year, the board is again being asked to approve recommendations for an application fee of \$250 and a tuition fee of \$11,000 for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year.

In last year's report, trustees were advised that the administration intended to review the manner in which international student fees are allocated, in order to ensure that tuition fees continue to cover all expenses associated with operating the program. This winter, a committee including central services staff and principals representing the district's Basis of Allocation Committee completed this review. As a result of their work, a recommendation was made that international student fees should be allocated in a manner that continues to maximize revenues available to schools but at the same time, ensures sufficient financial resources are available to offset district operational costs.

EES/AC/ees

APPENDIX I - 2010-2011 Amounts to be Included in Sponsorship Agreements

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2010-2011 TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS

Level	Category	2010-2011 Total Program Costs *	2009-2010 Total Program Costs
LEVEL 1	Kindergarten	3,267	3,213
LEVEL 1	Blended, Elementary, Gifted and Talented (Challenge), Junior High	6,534	6,427
LEVEL 2	Senior High (General)	6,720	6,609
LEVEL 3	ESL (Div II - IV), IB (Div IV), Senior High (Other)	8,147	8,013
LEVEL 4	Academic Transition, Amiskwaciy, Awasis, Rites of Passage, Terra, YMCA Program	8,195	8,059
LEVEL 5	Communication, ELL Foreign Born Refugee, Gifted & Talented Extensions, Learning Disability, Literacy, Mild Cognitive Disability, Moderate Emotional/Behavioral, Hearing, Multiple, Visual Disability, Non-verbal Learning Disability, Strategies	12,329	12,125
LEVEL 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	13,766	13,539
LEVEL 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Emotional/Behavioral, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	23,967	23,572
LEVEL 8	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder	33,571	33,017

* The agreed upon net cost at this level should include the provision for additional charges such as aide time should it be deemed necessary.