

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 13, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2002-2003 Non-Resident and International Students

ORIGINATOR: G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Ann Calverley, Mary-Ellen Deising, 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*	Net Cost*
Level 4	Academic Transition, Mild Academic Disability, Terra	6,314	1,086
Level 5	Communication, Hearing, Learning, Mild Mental, Moderate Academic, Moderate Emotional/Behavioral, Multiple & Visual	9,772	4,450
Level 6	Physical, Medical, Moderate Mental Disability	10,902	5,550
Level 7	Severe Emotional/Behavioral Disability	18,585	1,088
Level 7	Blindness, Deafness, Multiple, Physical, Severe Mental Disability	18,585	0
Level 8	Autistic, Blindness, Deafness, Multiple, Physical or Medical, Severe Mental Disability, Woodside	26,004	6,601
All	Transportation	Cost	Cost

* These amounts reflect the average net cost and do not include the cost of additional services that are unique to individual student programming.

2. That a Non-Alberta Student Fee based on the total cost per student, plus \$500 be approved.

3. That an International Student Tuition Fee of \$9,000 be approved for the 2002-2003 school year.
4. That an International Student Tuition Fee of \$10,000 be approved for the 2003-2004 school year.
3. That a Homestay Registration Fee of \$650 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 Learning for the district's resident students, the district is responsible for providing an appropriate program for these students. In most cases the program costs for students with mild, moderate and severe special needs exceed the grants that are received. Therefore, funds received for students in regular programs must be used to help fund the special needs programs. Funds received for our 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 the district adopted an open door policy to all 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 education programs. 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.

Historically the district recovered the average net cost of programming at each of the allocation levels. Over the past several years we have moved to the position where the district recovers the full cost of programming for non-resident students. Under arrangement with Alberta Learning, the funding applicable to the identified non-resident students is redirected back to the student's home jurisdiction. The calculated total program cost per student (Appendix I) is based on the 2002-2003 resource allocation rates, as well as amounts for administration and instructional support and the teacher salary enhancement envelope. Net costs (Appendix II) are still being calculated as students who were being sponsored prior to the change have been grandfathered. The actual cost of the programs for students can vary due to the specific needs of each student. The agreed upon cost should 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 between three and four per cent. This results from the impact of allocation and grant rate changes.

An exception is again recommended for students enrolled in programs at level 3. A fee at this level serves as a disincentive for non-resident students to enrol in the gifted and talented and international baccalaureate programs. The administration believes that avoiding possible negative public reaction would offset the additional cost to the district from waiving the fee. In order that non-resident students be allowed to attend, parents would have to appeal to their home jurisdictions for sponsorship. Since sponsorship of the gifted and talented students is unlikely, our charging a fee would force parents to enrol their children in their home jurisdictions and would leave parents with a negative impression about both jurisdictions. At September 30, 2001, there were 39 students that fell within this category. The small net cost for English as a Second Language program does not warrant establishing a fee. This exception was first approved for the 1996-97 school year.

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 fee not exceed the cost to the board of having the individual enrolled in a school operated by the board.

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 \$500 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 students from other countries. The program operates at no cost to the district, generating additional revenues to both the district and to schools serving international students.

It is recommended that the international student fee remain unchanged for the 2002-2003 school year. In April 2001, the board was advised that the administration was contemplating an increase in the international student tuition fee for 2002-2003, and if it was felt to be timely, a recommendation to that effect would be brought forward for the consideration of trustees in the fall of 2001. Because the administration felt that parents and schools would require greater lead-time to accommodate such an increase, the recommendation was deferred. At this time, however, the administration is recommending an increase to the international student fee from \$9,000 to \$10,000 for 2003-2004. The fee increase will provide enhanced resources to schools serving international students and will better reflect the full cost of a senior high program including ESL instruction and support services for international students. Eighty per cent of the total tuition fee is allocated directly to schools, providing discretionary funds beyond the costs of programming. The remaining portion of the fee covers the costs of operating the International Student Program. Examples of these activities include student recruitment, meeting with students and processing student applications, the development and communication of information packages and brochures,

translations, and ongoing advice and assistance to international students and parents as well as district staff and the community.

The recommendation to increase the fees is also based on current comparisons with fees charged in other Canadian school jurisdictions. Currently the district's fee of \$9,000 is competitive within the province of Alberta. However, it falls well below the international student fees charged by many other public school jurisdictions across Canada. As the district's international student enrolments continue to increase, an increase in the district's fee from \$9,000 to \$10,000 per year, while still below other Canadian school jurisdictions, will generate additional revenues to schools to accommodate for higher staff and programming costs incurred in serving these students. Should the recommendation be approved now, for the 2003-2004 school year, the administration will have ample opportunity in the year ahead to communicate this increase to parents and students.

Homestay Registration Fee

The district offers a Homestay Program, enabling international student to reside with an Edmonton family while studying in district schools. International students pay a one time Homestay registration fee of \$650 to participate in the program. The Homestay registration fee is in place to ensure that costs associated with making the Homestay Program available are borne by students and families who request it. The registration fee also ensures that the Homestay Program operates at no cost to the district. The administration is recommending that for the 2002-2003 school year the Homestay registration fee will remain unchanged at \$650.

EES/ees

APPENDIX I - 2002-2003 Total Program Costs

APPENDIX II - 2002-2003 Net Program Costs