

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 23, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: Edgar Schmidt, Acting Superintendent of Schools  
SUBJECT: 2006-2007 Non-Resident Fees  
ORIGINATOR: Bob Holt, Executive Director  
RESOURCE  
STAFF: Ann Calverley, 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
Level 5	Communication, Gifted & Talented Extensions, Literacy, Mild Cognitive Disability, Moderate Emotional/Behavioral, Hearing, Multiple, Visual Disability, Strategies	10,915
Level 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical, or Medical Disability	12,225
Level 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Emotional/Behavioural, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	21,126
Level 8	Autistic, Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	29,719
All	Transportation	Cost

2. That the following costs 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:

<u>Allocation Level</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Level 1 Kindergarten	3,251
Level 1	5,953
Level 2	6,120
Level 3	7,371
Level 4	7,410
Level 5	11,465
Level 6	12,775
Level 7	21,676
Level 8	30,269
Transportation	Cost

3. That an International Student Tuition Fee of \$11,000 be approved for the 2007-2008 school year
4. That the International Student Application Fee of \$250 be approved
5. That the Homestay Registration Fee of \$750 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 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 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 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.

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 calculated total program cost per student (Appendix I) is based on the 2006-2007 forecast resource allocations to schools, as well as amounts for administration and instructional support. There are currently nineteen students being sponsored at total program cost. The actual cost of the program for a student can vary due to the specific needs of each student. The final agreed upon cost will 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 a change of less than one per cent. The calculation of the costs takes into consideration the forecast student resource allocation rates, the other allocation categories such as consulting services, multiple programs and plant operation and maintenance, as well as four per cent to cover central administration.

Fees are not recommended 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 incremental cost of programs at levels 3 and 4. However, there are not enough students to generate a pool of funds large enough to offset the incremental costs 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 six students who fit into this category.

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 \$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.

### International Student Fee

Edmonton Public Schools' International Student Program offers full time academic programming to international students from many different countries. The district's program continues to grow and is the largest in Alberta. This year, approximately 500 student applications were processed and over 400 international students from 21 different countries attend 57 district schools. The revenues generated by the program in the 2005-2006 school year are estimated to be approximately \$3.5 million.

An international student tuition fee is charged because the district may not claim education grants for schooling, for international students. The tuition fee reflects both the full cost of a senior high program including ESL instruction and support services, as well as discretionary funds beyond the costs of programming. The fee also covers expenses associated with operating the International Student Program, for example ongoing international student recruitment, processing applications, providing ongoing advice and assistance to international students and parents, school staff and community members and preparing and communicating information in English as well as in a variety of other languages in print, electronic and audiovisual formats. The district's international student fee is revisited each year, and is brought forward for the consideration of the board.

At the May 24, 2005 board meeting a recommendation to increase the international student fee from \$10,000 to \$11,000 for the 2006-2007 school year was approved. The administration is not recommending a further tuition fee increase for 2007-2008.

### International Student Application Fee

In May of 2003, a non-refundable international student application fee of \$250 effective 2004-2005 was approved by the board of trustees. This non-refundable application fee offsets costs associated with processing applications and utilizing courier services and is common practise in school districts offering international student programs. It is being recommended that this fee be held at \$250 for the 2006-2007 school year.

### Homestay Registration Fee

The Homestay Program is available to allow international students to reside with Edmonton families while studying in district schools. International students pay a one-time Homestay registration fee of \$750 to the district prior to placement, to initiate and complete the Homestay application and matching process. This includes screening and interviewing local families, reviewing student Homestay applications, matching students and families, monitoring placements, and liaising between students and families to address issues. This fee was increased from \$650 to \$750 in 2003-2004 and it is being recommended that it be held at \$750 for the 2006-2007 school year. Once placed, an international student or their family pays a monthly fee of \$700 directly to the Homestay family

EES/ees

APPENDIX I - 2006-2007 Total Program Costs

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2006-2007 TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS

Level	Category	2006-2007 Total Program Costs *	2005-2006 Total Program Costs
LEVEL 1	Kindergarten	2,701	2,684
LEVEL 1	Blended, Elementary, and Junior High Gifted & Talented (Challenge & Academic Challenge)	5,403	5,369
LEVEL 2	Senior High (General)	5,570	5,535
LEVEL 3	ESL (Div II - IV), IB, Senior High (Other)	6,821	6,767
LEVEL 4	Academic Transition, Amiskwaciy, Rites of Passage, Terra	6,860	6,858
LEVEL 5	Communication, Gifted & Talented Extensions, Moderate Hearing, Moderate Visual, Literacy Mild Cognitive, Moderate Multiple, Strategies	10,915	10,956
LEVEL 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical or Medical Disability	12,225	12,249
LEVEL 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Physical or Medical, Severe Emotional/Behavioral Disability, Severe Cognitive or Multiple Disabilities	21,126	21,033
LEVEL 8	Autistic, Blindness, Deafness, Multiple, Physical, Medical, Cognitive Disability	29,719	29,512

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

The recommended fees at levels 5 and 6 have decreased marginally because of changes that have been made to the allocation rates between 2005-06 forecast and 2006-07 forecast. In September 2005 the allocations rates for levels 1 through 3 were reduced by \$30.00 and by \$136.00 for levels 4 through 8. For levels 5 and 6 the percentage decrease was more than the 1.4% average increase applied to the September 2005 allocation rates to arrive at the 2006-07 forecast allocation rates.