

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 26, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: 2009-2010 Non-Resident Fees
ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant Superintendent
D. R. Power, Assistant Superintendent - Treasurer
RESOURCE
STAFF: Ann Calverley, Gloria Chalmers, 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	12,125
Level 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical, or Medical Disability	13,539
Level 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Emotional/Behavioural, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	23,572
Level 8	Autistic, Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	33,017
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:

<u>Allocation Level</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Level 1 Kindergarten	3,763
Level 1	6,977
Level 2	7,159
Level 3	8,563
Level 4	8,609
Level 5	12,675
Level 6	14,089
Level 7	24,122
Level 8	33,567
Transportation	Cost

* * * * *

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 fifteen special needs students being sponsored to the district.

The amounts that are being recommended to be recovered have increased by 0.50 to 2.4 per cent and reflect the change to the forecast resource allocations to schools from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010.

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 is only one student who fits 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

Through the International Student Program, the district offers full time academic programming to international students from various different countries. During the 2008-2009 school year, 33 district schools have served 340 students from 23 different countries. Revenues generated during this 2008-2009 school year are approximately \$3 million.

International student application and tuition fees are charged because the district may not claim education grants for international students. The fees reflect the cost of a senior high program including ESL instruction and support services, as well as discretionary funds to schools which are beyond the cost of programming. The fees cover staff salaries and expenses associated with operating the International Student Program, specifically international student recruitment, processing applications, providing ongoing advice and assistance to international students, parents, schools, and the community, and preparing and communicating information in English as well as other languages, in print, electronic and audiovisual formats. The fees also cover central administrative costs associated with financial aspects of the program.

The fees have been revisited each year, and brought forward for the consideration of the board. It has been the administration's practice to seek approval of these fees in advance, to allow adequate time to communicate all program fees to students and parents. 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. Last year, the board approved an \$11,000 tuition fee and a \$250 application fee for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year.

The administration is currently reviewing the subject and basis of international student fees. Several factors are being considered including current global economic conditions, the market-sensitive nature of the program, and both fee and allocation comparatives with other Alberta school jurisdictions. On May 1, 2009 the Alberta Education International Council conducted a provincial scan of international student programs which included current fees, as well as the plans of districts to reduce or increase them. There was unanimous agreement among council members that fees should not be increased at this time. The chart representing the provincial scan is attached in Appendix II.

It is envisaged that the review of international student fees will be concluded in the fall of 2009. The administration will inform trustees of the results of this review once it has been completed.

EES/AC/ees

APPENDIX I - 2009-2010 Amounts to be Included in Sponsorship Agreements

APPENDIX II - Scan of International Student Fees and Allocations to Schools

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AMOUNTS TO BE INCLUDED IN SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENTS

Level	Category	2009-2010	2008-2009
LEVEL 1	Kindergarten	3,213	3,050
LEVEL 1	Blended, Elementary, Gifted and Talented (Challenge), Junior High	6,427	6,101
LEVEL 2	Senior High (General)	6,609	6,284
LEVEL 3	ESL (Div II - IV), IB (Div IV), Senior High (Other)	8,013	7,697
LEVEL 4	Academic Transition, Amiskwaciy, Awasis, Rites of Passage, Terra, YMCA Program	8,059	7,745
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	12,125	11,838
LEVEL 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical or Medical Disability	13,539	13,259
LEVEL 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Emotional/Behavioral, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	23,572	23,356
LEVEL 8	Autistic, Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	33,017	32,863

* The final sponsorship amount should include the provision for additional charges such as aide time should it be deemed necessary.

SCAN OF ALBERTA SCHOOL DISTRICTS
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES AND ALLOCATIONS TO SCHOOLS

COMPARISON OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS IN ALBERTA	EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	CALGARY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	RED DEER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS	RED DEER PUBLIC SCHOOLS	EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	CALGARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Int'l Student Tuition Fee	*\$8,500returning **\$10,000 new	\$11,000	\$9,850	\$9,850	\$11,000	\$11,000
Allocation to School	\$6,000	N/A	\$4000	\$5500	\$8645	\$6500
% of Tuition Fee	70% returning 60% new	N/A	40.6%	55.8%	78.6%	59.1%
Number of fee paying International students FTE per year	60	23	28	50	350	500
Number of funded International students FTE per year	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Certificated staff	.5	1	.4	1	1	3
Support Staff	1.5	1	.15	2	2	4
Number of Recruitment trips annually	5	4-6	4-6	6+	8	12+

* \$8,500 returning fee is being grandfathered out, with the 09-10 year as the last year it will be available

** Proposed increase to \$11,000 for 09/10 withdrawn due to global recession

COMPARISON OF SIMILAR SIZE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS IN CANADA	EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, AB	VERNON SCHOOL BOARD, BC	SASKATOON CATHOLIC, SK	HASTINGS & PRINCE EDWARD, ON	NEW WESTMINSTER, BC	ST JAMES ASSINIBOIA, MB
Number of fee paying International students FTE per year (last year's number)		181 (239)	108 (112)	125 (170)	164 (216)	106 (126)
Full time staff	2	5	2	4	6	2
Part time Staff	1	1	3	2	1	4

Fees range \$9,000 to \$13,000 across Canada, with highest fees (\$13,000) in B.C.

Fees paid to schools from flat fee of \$500 per student to 78.6% (Edmonton Public Schools) of total tuition.