

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 26, 2009

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) Information Update

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE
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INFORMATION

On April 29, 2008, the administration provided, at the request of a Trustee, information about the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP). The administration advised that KIPP schools are:

- Placed strategically to serve high needs areas.
- Serve students that are 80 per cent from low income communities and more than 90 per cent African American or Latino.
- Built around five pillars: high expectations, choice and commitment, more time, power to lead, and focus on results.

The administration concluded that the District is closely aligned to all of these pillars with the exception of more time. This pillar refers to an extended school day, week, and year so that students have more time to acquire academic knowledge and participate in diverse extracurricular experiences.

This report provides information on work undertaken by the District in the area of providing more time for students and identifies the successes that have been achieved as well as challenges that are being addressed in order to sustain these opportunities for students. Information is also provided regarding how this work requires ongoing collaboration with community partners and how these opportunities for students often cannot be created without the combined effort of multiple partners.

Successes Achieved: The District works on an ongoing basis with community partners in order to provide needed supports for students and families. One area of concentration in the past year with community partners has been to create after school programs and summer programs in schools that have complex student populations and are located in communities that are identified as socially vulnerable by city demographic data. These schools serve a significant number of students who are affected by poverty or are from culturally diverse backgrounds, and therefore, have higher proportions of students who could benefit from these extended learning and extracurricular opportunities. The City Centre Education Partnership (CCEP) has effectively offered after school and summer programming for a number of years.

The District is now focusing on how supports can be provided to other schools that have needs for such supports.

Programs created during the past year: After school and summer programs have been created in a number of elementary, junior high, and high schools and focus on extended learning and/or extracurricular activities. The after school programs usually operate one or two days a week. Community partners contribute staff for collaborative planning, youth facilitators, and program resources. Significant partners in this work have been Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Family Centre, Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, Edmonton Immigrant Services Association, Catholic Social Services, Bent Arrow, and the YMCA. Schools contribute time for collaborative planning, as well as space, supervision, and some resources for these programs. The Programs unit contributes collaborative planning time and overall coordination, as well as funds for resources because of one time grants. In the work concerning after school and summer programs, it is clear that a combined effort of several partners is needed to create these programs. Appendix I provides more detailed information regarding the programs offered and partners involved.

Challenges and future directions: The District is committed to continuing to work with community partners to find ways to make extended time opportunities in terms of after school and summer programs available to students who could benefit from them. In undertaking this work, there are some challenges and these are described below.

- **Limited duration of programs:** Most programs run once a week. Research indicates that the more frequent a student attends an after the school program, the greater the positive impact and risk factors decrease. However, there are limited staff resources within community agencies to operate more than once or twice a week.
- **Lack of funding to maintain and create programs:** Community partners provide resources as do schools through donations and grants; however, these resources are often offered on a one-time basis. In addition, there are not sufficient resources available to offer these programs in the schools that need them.
- **Limited access to space:** Finding access to school space for a community partner to operate a program can be challenging. Schools often do not have the funding to pay for extra custodial staff to be at school after hours. Often a recreation after school program is needed but there is no gym space available because of other school uses.
- **Lack of a mechanism to share responsibility:** Currently, there is no mechanism to share responsibility for these programs which can create lack of clarity regarding roles and which can then make it difficult to implement the program.

As a result of the need for and positive impact of after school and summer programs, the District will continue to work closely with community partners to find ways to maintain the current programs offered and to extend these supports to other schools.

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AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS 2008-2009

The after school and summer programs listed in these charts represent partnerships that were initiated this year and that involve the schools and community partners mentioned, as well as the Programs unit. The community partners listed in these charts may be working collaboratively with other partners to provide supports for one or more programs at a specific school site.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS		
Community Partner	Location	Program
Actions for Healthy Communities	Victoria M.E. LaZerte Queen Elizabeth J. Percy Page Jasper Place	After School Recreation Programs Health Literacy Programs
City of Edmonton	Tipaskan Hillview Montrose Highlands	Recreation Programs
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Montrose African Centre (Wellington)	Recreation Programs Homework Club
Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers	McCauley Dickinsfield Balwin Queen Elizabeth	Homework Clubs Youth in Two Cultures Club Health Literacy Program
YWCA	Highlands Montrose	Girl Space
Public Health Agency of Canada	M.E. LaZerte Queen Elizabeth	Health Literacy Program
Multicultural Health Brokers, Kurdish Association, Canadian Heritage	Bannerman	Homework Club
University of Alberta, Big Brothers Big Sisters, United Way, The Family Centre, Edmonton Immigrant Services Association, Butler Foundation	John A. McDougall Kirkness African Centre (Wellington)	Computer enhanced literacy and numeracy activities with mentorship
Rotary Club	Delton	Magic Mondays
Edmonton Immigrant Services Association	Rundle Dickinsfield Balwin Belvedere	Homework Club
YMCA	Queen Elizabeth Rundle Glendale Evansdale Abbott	Kids Club Health Literacy Program
Frontier College	Calder	Homework Help

Family Centre	Glendale Inglewood Evansdale Sifton Rundle Balwin	Homework Club Cultural Awareness Recreation Programs
Catholic Social Services, Settlement Services	J. Percy Page M.E. LaZerte John A. McDougall Kirkness	Homework Club Health Literacy Program
Ben Calf Robe Society	R.J. Scott	Youth Intervention Program
SUMMER PROGRAMS		
Community Partner	Location	Program
Family Centre Métis Child and Family Services Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society Apple Study Project	Jasper Place	Summer Learning, Recreation, and Healthy Eating Program (Athlone, Belmead, Brightview, Glendale, Inglewood, Prince Charles, Sherwood, Youngstown - students from this cluster of schools have access to this program)
Kidsport	Sifton Evansdale Princeton (for Balwin students – location change due to renovations)	Sport focused camp
Actions for Healthy Communities	Victoria J. Percy Page Queen Elizabeth Jasper Place M.E. LaZerte	Combination of recreation and credit for a high school course
Edmonton Immigrant Services Association	Three sites to be determined	Recreation and learning about community resources
Islamic Family Social Services Association and Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers	Princeton (for Balwin students – location due to renovations)	Recreation and wellness
African Centre	African Centre (Wellington)	3 weeks of recreation support
Mill Woods Welcome Centre	Site to be determined	Academic and recreation camp
Family Centre Apple Study Project	Evansdale	Balwin, Homesteader, Sifton, Horse Hill, Evansdale