

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 27, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2008-2009 Non-Resident Fees

ORIGINATOR: B. Tams, Assistant Superintendent

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, 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	11,838
Level 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical, or Medical Disability	13,259
Level 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Emotional/Behavioural, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	23,356
Level 8	Autistic, Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	32,863
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:

Allocation Level	Total Cost
Level 1 Kindergarten	3,600
Level 1	6,651
Level 2	6,834
Level 3	8,247
Level 4	8,295
Level 5	12,388
Level 6	13,809
Level 7	23,906
Level 8	33,413
Transportation	Cost

3. That an International Student Tuition Fee of \$11,000 be approved for the 2009-2010 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 fees for non resident special needs students were not charged.

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 calculated total program cost per student (Appendix I) is based on the 2008-2009 forecast resource allocations to schools, including the per student allocation and other allocation categories such as consulting services, multiple programs and plant operations and maintenance, as well as amounts for administration and instructional support. There are currently twenty-one 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 have increased by 3.6 per cent and reflect the change to the forecast resource allocations to schools from 2007-08 to 2008-09.

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 is only one student who fits 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 attracts many students from a variety of countries; the revenues generated by the program during this 2007-2008 school year are approximately \$3.5 million.

An international student tuition fee is charged because the district may not claim education grants for international students. The tuition fee established by the district each year reflects both the 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. Since then, the administration has annually sought the board's approval to maintain the tuition fee at this level. The district fee of \$11,000 per year continues to be fair and competitive. As well, an increase at this time would make the district's program more costly than in many other districts across Canada. Finally, in the last few years many Alberta school districts have initiated international student programs, and charge lower annual tuition rates than those of the district, including Edmonton Catholic Schools (ECS). The only exception is the Calgary Board of Education (CBE), which charges the same \$11,000 annual tuition fee as Edmonton Public. The CBE has been contacted regarding anticipated fee increases, and we are advised that no fee increases are planned for at least the next two years. For these reasons, the administration is not currently recommending a tuition fee increase for the 2009-2010 school year. It has been a practice to approve the tuition in advance to allow the administration time to adequately communicate the fees to students and parents.

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 recommended that this fee remain at \$250 for the 2008-2009 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 recommended that it remain at \$750 for the 2008-2009 school year. Once placed, an international student or their family pays a monthly fee of \$700 directly to the Homestay family

EES/AC/ees

APPENDIX I - 2008-2009 Total Program Costs

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2008-2009 TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS

Level	Category	2008-2009 Total Program Costs *	2007-2008 Total Program Costs
LEVEL 1	Kindergarten	3,050	2,827
LEVEL 1	Blended, Elementary, Gifted and Talented (Challenge), Junior High	6,101	5,653
LEVEL 2	Senior High (General)	6,284	5,824
LEVEL 3	ESL (Div II - IV)	7,697	7,133
LEVEL 3	ESL (Div II - IV), IB (Div IV), Senior High (Other)	7,697	7,133
LEVEL 4	Academic Transition, Amiskwaciy, Awasis, Rites of Passage, Terra	7,745	7,176
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	11,838	11,426
LEVEL 6	Moderate Cognitive, Physical or Medical Disability	13,259	12,799
LEVEL 7	Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Emotional/Behavioral, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	23,356	22,544
LEVEL 8	Autistic, Blindness, Deafness, Severe Cognitive, Multiple, Physical or Medical Disability	32,863	31,721

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