

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

October 12, 1999

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Responses to Trustee Requests for Information

ORIGINATORS: A. McBeath, Department Head  
G. Reynolds, Department Head

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Robert Craig, Anne Mulgrew

INFORMATION

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #136, SEPTEMBER 14, 1999 (TRUSTEE GIBEAULT) PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE REASONS FOR THE ENROLMENT INCREASE IN FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.** The response to Trustee Request # 103, May 11, 1999 (Trustee Gibeault) provided information regarding enrolment trends in second language programs. The response showed a significant increase in enrolment in French as a Second Language (FSL) from 10,481 in 1997-98 to 14,146 in 1998-99. This increase can be explained by a change in the coding of these students into the Student Information System (SIS). Prior to the 1998-99 school year, program grants for French as a Second Language were obtained by submitting paper forms to Alberta Education. Because these paper forms were not related to SIS, a number of schools coded FSL students as regular students. For the 1998-99 school year, Alberta Education required the information to be submitted electronically instead of using paper forms. For this reason, schools were asked to ensure that FSL students were coded as such to ensure that the district would receive the appropriate FSL grant revenues for these students. (R. Craig, 429-8399)

**TRUSTEE REQUEST #145 SEPTEMBER 28, 1999 (TRUSTEE NICHOLSON) PROVIDE A COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS GRADUATING WITH INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMAS IN OTHER DISTRICTS.** For the 1999 International Baccalaureate (IB) examination administration, the following provincial, Canadian, and U.S. statistics were obtained from IB International.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage of Students Achieving a Grade of 4 or Higher</b>	<b>Percentage Diploma Candidates</b>	<b>Percentage Diploma Pass Rate</b>
Edmonton Public Schools	480	95.6	21.0	98.0
Alberta	1386	94.9	13.1	97.3
British Columbia	842	89.1	35.3	88.2
Manitoba	240	91.2	16.7	95.0
New Brunswick	115	91.2	16.5	89.5
Nova Scotia	229	81.9	15.3	97.1
Ontario	527	86.3	49.1	96.5
Quebec	372	97.3	91.4	96.8
Saskatchewan	207	83.3	6.8	71.4
<b>Canada Total</b>	<b>3918</b>	<b>93.0</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>94.2</b>
<b>USA Total</b>	<b>16,080</b>	<b>81.2</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>75.3</b>

The per course pass rate was higher for Edmonton Public Schools students than for any of the provincial statistics provided except for Quebec. The percentage of candidates who take a full diploma program is lower for Edmonton Public Schools than for British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Canada Total and U.S. Total. It should be noted however, that Ontario and Quebec have substantially fewer students enrolled in IB than is true for Alberta. Edmonton Public Schools students had the highest diploma pass rate of all the areas compared.

Calgary Board of Education does not compile an annual report on IB results and were unable to provide comparative information. (A. Mulgrew, 429-8351)