

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

October 14, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Alberta Initiative for School Improvement Update

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant to the Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Kathy McCabe

INFORMATION

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to outline the two projects Edmonton Public Schools has had approved by Alberta Learning for the second phase of Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) funding.

Background

In the spring of 2003 Alberta Learning announced that there would be a new three-year cycle of AISI funding to support in-school action research projects throughout the province. Alberta Learning stipulated that the majority of these projects were to be new projects and that very few existing projects would be allowed to continue for one more year. In addition, these projects needed to address the priority areas for improvement from the Board's Three Year Education Plan.

In June of 2002 a principal steering committee was struck to consider projects for the new cycle of AISI funding. Our first cycle of AISI projects demonstrated the importance of on-going professional development combined with teacher collaboration, as well as the success of early intervention strategies. The principals indicated that for this round of AISI funding, they would like the funding to reach all schools.

Using what had been learned, and following subsequent consultation with teachers, parents and central staff, the two new projects were identified. Edmonton Public Schools submitted project proposals for Full-day Kindergarten in High Needs Schools and Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning to Alberta Learning for consideration beginning in the 2003-2004 school year.

Full-day Kindergarten

Evidence from our first round of AISI projects and other research has indicated the value of full-day kindergarten in high needs schools particularly when combined with a focus on early intervention in literacy strategies. For these reasons the full-day kindergarten project is being implemented in the following schools: Abbott, Belvedere, Delton, Eastwood, Evansdale, Glendale, Inglewood, John A.

McDougall, McCauley, North Edmonton, Norwood, Parkdale, Prince Charles, R. J. Scott, Rundle, Sherwood, Sifton and Spruce Avenue. Each of these full-day kindergartens is literacy based and teachers must be trained in Balanced Literacy or Literacy Meaningfully Applied Phonics (MAP). In addition to monthly training in literacy, the teachers will have regular collaborative meetings. Each school is required to provide the necessary materials to operate the literacy program. The AISI funding for this project is \$637 500 which represents the approximate cost of the additional teacher time.

Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning

The Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning project is being implemented in all district schools. It is a district-wide initiative to improve student achievement. Through looking at data, schools identify an instructional focus for their school and students. Principals and lead teachers receive monthly training from Student Achievement Services. The school's instructional leadership team guides this initiative at the school level. Through this distributed leadership, a structured plan for improvement, assessment and follow-up is developed. Teachers work in collaborative teams, sharing student work and visiting each other's classrooms. There is on-going review of student achievement data which leads to the revision of teaching practices.

Each school has received an AISI allocation based on their enrolment. AISI funds are tightly targeted and must be spent on projects that are both sustainable and lead to continuous improvement. The principals have been directed to spend these funds in three areas:

- Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning Training
- Best Practices Training
- Teacher Collaboration

Consulting Services gathered input on school and teacher needs for best practices training. Based on this information Consulting Services developed a series of AISI modules which focus on literacy, numeracy and thinking skills. Each of these modules includes extensive coaching and teacher collaboration. Principals submit their AISI plans to Student Achievement Services (sample template Appendix I) and register for the selected modules or professional development. Currently, approximately 2000 staff are registered in modules or professional development days. In addition 95 schools have purchased consultant time for targeted professional development in their schools (sample school plan Appendix II). The AISI funding for this project is \$8 900 000.

Measurement of Results

AISI projects require improvement goals that are measurable and results must be reported annually. The improvement goals for the Full-day Kindergarten project are to develop and improve early literacy skills and to develop positive attitudes towards learning. These goals will be measured through Marie Clay's Observation of Early Literacy and through a teacher and parent survey.

The goals for the Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning project are to improve the language arts and mathematics achievement of all students and to improve retention rates and graduation rates. These goals will be measured through Highest Level of Achievement Tests (HLAT), provincial achievement tests, diploma exam results, course completion rates, and high school graduation rates.

Alberta Learning Support

Alberta Learning has been very supportive of Edmonton Public Schools second cycle plans. We shared our plans at an Alberta Learning AISI coordinator meeting as well as at the AISI conference. We have met with staff of the Student Improvement Branch to discuss the proposal and the projects have been given final approval.

Appendix I:	Sample Template
Appendix II:	Sample School Plan
Appendix III:	Sample School Plan
Appendix IV:	Sample School Plan

KM/rl



SCHOOL PLAN FOR AISI FUNDING

SCHOOL : _____

AISI Allocation Amount for 2003-2004 : \$ _____

CATEGORY 1: Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning (minimum of 25% of AISI allocation)

	Plan Details	
	Amount	
•		\$

Category 1 Total: \$ (% of AISI Allocation)

CATEGORY 2: Best Practices Training (minimum of 25% of AISI allocation)

	Plan Details	
	Amount	
•		\$

Category 2 Total: \$ (% of AISI Allocation)

CATEGORY 3: Collaborative Training (minimum of 25% of AISI allocation)

	Plan Details	
	Amount	
•		\$

Category 3 Total: \$ (% of AISI Allocation)

Note: Remaining allocation should be reflected in the percentages in the above categories.

Total: \$ _____



SCHOOL PLAN FOR AISI FUNDING

SCHOOL :

AISI Allocation Amount for 2003-2004 : \$20868.00

CATEGORY 1: Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning (minimum of 25% of AISI allocation)

- Principal and 1 ILT member(s) attending monthly district wide Focus training & guided school visits supply teacher costs (14 x \$121) **\$1694.00**
- EPS Consultant costs (20 hr. contract) for support in targeted PD (HLAT, LASW, M.A.P) (\$115/hour x 20) **\$2300.00**
- Management for Success materials (\$850.00) and Supply teacher costs (4 x \$121.00) **\$1334.00**

Category 1 Total: \$5,328.00 (26 % of AISI Allocation)

CATEGORY 2: Best Practices Training (minimum of 25% of AISI allocation)

- Six Kindergarten inservices for full day program Supply teacher costs (6 x \$121) **\$ 726.00**
- M.A.P. training and materials (5 x \$240.00) and Supply teacher costs (5 x \$233.00) **\$2365.00**
- Assessment Module - \$400.00 (1 teacher) and supply teacher costs (6 x \$121.00) **\$1126.00**
- Supporting Struggling Readers and Writers – 3 teachers - \$1800.00 and Supply teacher costs – (12 x \$121.00) \$1452.00 **\$3252.00**
- Art & Craft of Writing (wait-list) – 4 teachers
Or March Literacy session - \$540.00
Supply teacher costs (3 x \$233.00) **\$1239.00**

Category 2 Total: \$8,709.00 (41% of AISI Allocation)

CATEGORY 3: Collaborative Training (minimum of 25% of AISI allocation)

- Examining Achievement Results Supply teacher costs (3 x \$121.00) **\$ 363.00**
- Divisional meetings (9 teachers) - .5 teacher for 5 times/year for Supply teacher costs (45 x \$121.00) **\$5445.00**
- 2 collaborative meetings for ILT for Focus work supply teacher costs (8 x \$121.00) **\$968.00**
- Supplies **\$ 56.00**

Category 3 Total: \$ 6,832.00 (33 % of AISI Allocation)

Note: Remaining allocation should be reflected in the percentages in the above categories.

Total: \$20868.00

ALBERTA INITIATIVE FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT
INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS (A.I.S.I.) SPENDING PLAN

Principal:**Total Amount Allocated: \$46,760.00****1. Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning**

Guided Visits & Training (supply coverage)	\$1,936.00
Consultant Time	\$3,500.00
Materials	\$5,129.00
Professional Reading/Research Materials	\$1,360.00
Total	\$11,925.00

2. Best Practices Training

Teacher/Staff expertise will be gained through professional development in the following areas:

Professional Development	# of staff
Balanced Literacy – K – Y1	1
Balanced Literacy – K – Y2	1
Balanced Literacy – Div. 1 – Y3	1
Balanced Literacy – Div. 2 – Y1	1
Balanced Literacy – Div. 2 – Y 2	1
Reading Intervention Strategies	1
Supporting Struggling Readers and Writers	5
Balanced Literacy for Principals (Division 1 & 2)	1
Effective Reading Instruction	1
Strategies to Help Struggling Readers and Writers	1
Literacy Skills and Strategies	1
Reading and Writing in Mathematics	2

Training Cost	\$12,338.00
Supply Teacher Cost	\$9,415.00
Total	\$21,724.00

26. Staff Collaboration

ILT Collaboration (supply teacher time)	\$2,796.00
Instructional Focus Team Meetings (supply teacher time)	\$5,825.00
Inter/Intra School Visits	\$1,344.00
26 half day supply teachers for intervisitation	\$3,146.00
Total	\$13,111.00

AISI

School: \$53, 790

Category 1: Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning

Plan Details	Amount
• August training (5 Staff * ½ day * 121)	\$ 605
• Ongoing training during the year (2 Teachers * ½ day * 8 times * ½ day)	\$ 1936
• Professional teacher resources/ Professional Library	\$ 3149
• 4 Early Thursday sessions presented by consultant (s)	\$ 1725
• 32 hours consulting services support: coaching& mentoring	\$3680
• 1 Professional Development Day with Vernon Barford on Thinking Maps: Friday, September 19, 2004 (25 Staff * 125)	\$3125
• 1 Professional Development Day District Wide on Thinking Skills: Friday, February 6, 2004 (25 Staff * 125)	\$3125
TOTAL:	\$17 345

Category 2: Best Practices Training

Plan Details	Amount
• 4 teachers attending 4 ½ day AISI modules and 4 * 1.5 coaching sessions (estimated cost \$1200 per AISI module per teacher)	\$ 4800
• Coaching visits for above modules (4 full days of supply time: 4 *233	\$ 932
• Supply Time for above modules: (4 * ½ day * 121 = \$ 484 * 4 teachers)	\$1936
• School- Wide Implementation of Thinking Maps (a total of 8 days of inservices, coaching and school visits)	\$6000
TOTAL:	\$ 13 668

Category 3: Collaborative Planning

Plan Details	Amount
• Coordination of Focus work, coaching and mentoring, providing leadership support	\$13447
• ILT ½ day planning sessions (6 sessions * 5 Staff * 121)	\$3630
• Core Lead Teachers Planning Sessions (6 sessions * 4 teachers * 121)	\$2904
• Teacher Intervisitations (12 days of supply time * 121 for 2 times a year per teacher)	\$2796
TOTAL:	\$ 22 777

Total \$53 790