

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 16, 2003

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Focus on Supporting Teaching and Learning: Curriculum Programs

ORIGINATOR: Bob Holt, Executive Director, Instructional and Curricular Support Services

RESOURCE STAFF: Karen Bardy, Angelique Case, Gloria Chalmers, Donna Leask, Barbara Morgan McDermid, Edgar Schmidt

INFORMATION

Curriculum Programs, D.U. 304, is comprised of 17.67 FTE staff, including principals, teachers, consultants, exempt and support staff. The core work is to provide leadership and to work collaboratively with schools and other DUs to support students, school and district staff to assist schools to achieve superb results from all students.

The mission for Curriculum Programs is to assist schools in achieving superb results from all students by providing information about achievement in alternative programs and Aboriginal education and by sharing research and information on best practices in all areas of focus and in special education with district staff, including beginning and new teachers.

The work is focused in the following areas: Aboriginal education, Special education, alternative programs, research, beginning and new teacher support, provincial reporting and interagency collaboration and liaison. It involves:

- Timely provision of up-to-date information on Aboriginal education, alternative and special needs programs and pertinent research.
- Provision of access to research related to all areas of focus as well as to general areas of school organization and teaching strategies that impact achievement for all students, including those with special needs.
- Provision for the review and approval of formal and informal research requests of the district.
- Program advocacy on behalf of the district and district teachers.
- Support to schools related to the provision of programming for Aboriginal students, students with special needs and students in alternative programs.
- Support for beginning teachers and teachers new to the district.
- Liasing with external agencies, ministries, authorities and other school jurisdictions to access community resources and support for schools.
- Monitoring of programs and programming and reporting required.

The following sample results illustrate how the support is provided:

- Develop resources to support enhanced inclusion of Aboriginal content in curricula, including resources to support the Cree Language and Culture curriculum and report by June 2004
- Pilot the district's programming resources for intellectually and academically gifted students by June 2004
- Maintain and develop new partnerships for the provision of non-education services to enable our schools to focus on teaching and learning and report by June 2004
- Analyze and distribute monitoring information to alternative program schools by December 2003
- Provide research summaries of most promising teaching and organization practices and report by June 2004
- Provide ongoing support, with an initial response time of seventy-two hours, for beginning teachers and teachers and teachers new to the district and for their administrators

All of the results have a timeline to ensure that we have a means of monitoring our work and progress. The two SMARTe Targets identified for 2003-2004 are:

- Ninety percent or more of the respondents to the district survey will indicate satisfaction with services provided.
- Ninety-five percent of the deadlines indicated for DU 304 projects in 2003-2004 will be met by June 2004.

Our DU mission, our identified results and SMARTe Targets were developed within the context of Central Expectations regarding the work. All staff in the D.U were involved in the development of the mission and are committed to its implementation. The nature of our responsibilities and tasks require that we collaborate among our DU, with schools and other central services departments, particularly student assessment, consulting services leadership services, student achievement services and personnel. While we have system support responsibilities, we vet all budget results to ensure that they support schools and their efforts to achieve superb results from all students. We have developed SMARTe Targets and will post results.

GC:ee