

DATE: March 1, 2016

TO: Caucus Committee

FROM: Trustee Adams and Trustee Draper

SUBJECT: End Poverty Edmonton: The Edmonton Public School Board Submission

ORIGINATOR: Trustee Draper

RESOURCE STAFF: Jennifer Allen, Janice Aubry, Nancy Petersen, Heather Raymond

REFERENCE: [End Poverty Edmonton](#)

ISSUE

The Board has been asked to complete a template from the City of Edmonton providing current work in the District that aligns with or supports the direction of the City's End Poverty Edmonton's 28 identified priorities.

BACKGROUND

City Council approved the *End Poverty In A Generation* strategy report in December 2015. This report reflects months of research, consultation and engagement by the EndPovertyEdmonton Task Force and contains the 28 priorities foundational to the strategy. The next step in this work is the development of a 10 year implementation road map that will establish the steps needed to implement and evaluate the 28 priorities. Key stakeholders in the community have been asked to complete a common template to inform the development of the road map. This template attempts to capture work that is already happening in the City that will support the 28 priorities.

CURRENT SITUATION

Trustees Draper and Adams and administration met with City of Edmonton staff to review the template and discuss the nature of feedback required from the Board regarding the work of Edmonton Public Schools. The template has been completed reflecting the following:

- Alignment within the 28 *EndPovertyEdmonton* Priorities
- Alignment to the direction of Alberta Education
- Alignment to the District's Strategic Plan, with a focus on literacy, Career Pathways, early learning programming, and schools as wrap around models of community supports

The template asks the District to identify its core mandate and to respond to two questions:

1. *"Which, if any, of the 28 priorities relate directly to initiatives/projects that your organization is currently working on or in the process of developing?"*
2. *"What are the specific resources that your organization can contribute to the EndPovertyEdmonton Priorities that you are involved with?"*

The District's response to these questions is provided in Attachment I.



KEY POINTS

- The City of Edmonton has requested the District to complete a template to inform the implementation of the 10 year plan to support the End Poverty Edmonton initiative.
- The template has been completed through the perspective of the 28 End Poverty priorities and is being shared with Trustees prior to submission to the City.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I *endpoverty Edmonton: EndPovertyEdmonton Strategy and Strategic alignment with your organization completed template*

NP:np



EndPovertyEdmonton Strategy and strategic alignment with your organization

EndPovertyEdmonton is currently creating a 10 year implementation road map that establishes the steps we need to take to implement and evaluate the 28 priorities. We know that collaborative leadership will be essential to ending poverty in Edmonton, which is why we are asking organizations to provide some detail in how their organization's purpose and actions align with the priorities. This information will help us identify potential partnerships, create an inventory of current initiatives and allow us to connect with you in the future.

Please visit <http://www.endpovertyedmonton.ca/new-page-1/> for a copy of the Strategy.

What is your organization's name and overall purpose?

Edmonton Public Schools oversees the operations and delivery of a publicly funded K to 12 education to over 90,000 children and youth in the Edmonton area. This works aligns with Alberta Education's Programs of Study, the Ministerial Order on Student Learning and the overarching vision of developing students who are engaged thinkers and ethical citizens with an entrepreneurial spirit. The District carries out these responsibilities through the perspective of its Vision, Mission, Values and Priorities. There is an overarching District Strategic Plan that sets direction and enables the District to measure its overall progress towards achieving success for all students.

Which, if any, of the 28 priorities relate directly to initiatives/ projects that your organization is currently working on or in the process of developing? (Please list each specific initiative/ project as it relates to each individual priority)

Priority area - MOVE PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY:

- **#16 Improve Literacy:** The District engages all students in their development of life literacy skills as part of the mandated Alberta curriculum. Beyond the teaching of literacy related outcomes within the curriculum, this work includes:
 - a. assessment of reading readiness when children first come to school;
 - b. assessment and targeted programming for students not reading at or above grade level; and
 - c. intervention strategies for children at risk to not developing fluent, functional life literacy skills.

- **#15 Improve skills training to help people gain sustainable employment:** Through the Alberta curriculum K to 12 students are exposed to a variety of concepts, skills, core competencies and areas of interest that may inform their future life work, interests and aspirations. Through the District's Career Pathways initiative, the District is developing a model of student engagement related to life beyond grade 12 that begins right in Kindergarten and extends straight through grade 12. This model, once fully developed and implemented, will engage students in learning experiences that help them to learn about themselves, to explore a variety of life and career possibilities and learn how to set goals and create plans to achieve them. Career Pathways will reflect instruction and student centred learning, and connect curriculum to knowledge, skills, attitudes that are foundational to building competencies necessary for success in life; Career Pathways will be supported in its delivery by active parent and community involvement.
- **#19 Improve timely access to mental health and wellness services and addictions supports:** The District supports health related resources that are directly accessible to students and their families through a school-based wrap-around approach. Existing examples of this work is happening across the District include, but are not limited to: the All in for Youth schools, The Way In at Dan Knott, Edith Rogers and T.D. Baker schools, the Community Mental Health Program at Parkview School, and the Star Program at Jasper Place are all examples of this approach.

Priority Area – INVEST IN OUR POVERTY-FREE FUTURE

- **#23 Plan and implement a system of early learning and care:** The District offers both Early Learning and Early Education programming for children who would benefit from an early start to educational programming. This programming is delivered through a play-based inclusive approach and is supported by a multi-disciplinary team of professionals. The District continues to explore ways of reaching out and connecting with families prior to Kindergarten to support screening and promote access to pre-Kindergarten programming opportunities where appropriate. In exploring early engagement with families the District is working in partnership with Health, early learning community stakeholders and service providers and families. The District currently has:
 - Alberta Education funded Early Education sites for children identified as having mild, moderate or severe special needs at ten schools demographically spread out across the city;
 - Targeted early learning programs for children identified as English Language Learners or with special education needs related to language and literacy skills development at 15 schools through-out the city.
 - Targeted full-day Kindergarten programs in communities serving a high number of socially vulnerable families at 27 schools.

What are the specific resources that your organization can contribute to the EndPovertyEndmonton Priorities that you are involved with?

- District leadership will collaborate with the City and key community stakeholders to explore the alignment of opportunities that are responsive to the root causes of poverty in areas related to mental health, literacy, early intervention and Career Pathways.

- Central leadership resources can be mobilized to support the exploration and development of school embedded wrap-around supports that strategically address the barriers and challenges poverty presents and build the elements of wellness and capacity necessary to thrive.
- The District recognizes that school facilities are a community asset and is working closely with Joint Use to support access to school space during critical hours, including supporting use of school space to host quality summer programming.

Who is the best individual in your organization for us to contact directly (name/ phone number/ email address)?

Board of Trustees: Trustee Michelle Draper @ Michelle.Draper@epsb.ca

Administration: Nancy Petersen, Director Governance and Strategic Supports @ Nancy.Petersen@epsb.ca

Please send your completed forms to dallas.dyson@edmonton.ca