

DATE: May 16, 2023

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2023-2024 Non-Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees and 2024-2025 International Student Fees

ORIGINATOR: Todd Burnstad, Chief Financial Officer

RESOURCE STAFF: Drew Horn, Ann Parker, Jennifer Price, Madonna Proulx, Elizabeth Shen

REFERENCE [Education Act](#)
[Administrative Regulation HC.AR, Student Admission and Enrolment](#)
[2023-2024 Alberta Education Funding Manual](#)

ISSUE

Each year, administration brings forward a recommendation report to the Board of Trustees for approval of non-resident and special needs sponsorship fees. These fees are set annually for the purpose of recovering education costs for non-resident students where the Division is not eligible to receive provincial funding or another school division has received the funding and is requesting Edmonton Public Schools to provide the educational programming for their resident student(s).

International Student Fees are charged as Edmonton Public Schools cannot claim provincial education grants for international students.

BACKGROUND

Non-Alberta Resident Fees

The Division charges a fee for students who are residents of Canada where the parent(s) or legal court-appointed guardian(s) does not reside in Alberta. The Division does not receive per-student grants for those ineligible students; therefore, a fee is required to cover the costs of educational programming.

This fee is reviewed annually. During the 2022-2023 school year, there was one non-Alberta resident student registered with Edmonton Public Schools. Administration is recommending no changes to this fee for 2023-2024. Further information is available on Attachment I.

Also included in the fee schedule for 2023-2024 is a Distance Education credit enrolment unit (CEU) fee for non-Alberta resident students. The CEU rate being charged matches the provincial funding rate for part-time distance education students as outlined in the 2023-2024 Funding Manual.

Non-Alberta and Alberta Resident Special Needs Sponsorship Fees

The Division also enters into education service agreements (sponsorships) with other school divisions to provide instructional programming for their special needs students. The actual cost of the program for a student can vary due to the specific needs of each student. As such, additional fees may be applied to cover costs such as additional educational assistant time and transportation costs.

Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, a change in fee structures was approved to address differences in funding eligibility for sponsored Alberta residents versus sponsored non-Alberta residents. The Division can include eligible students from other Alberta school divisions in our enrolment count. As a result, the Division will reduce the Alberta resident special needs sponsorship fee by the non-Alberta Resident fee as outlined in Attachment I.

In the current year, Edmonton Public Schools is providing programming for 16 sponsored special needs students; 13 of these students are from other Alberta school divisions and three are from out of province. The majority of the sponsored students are attending the Alberta School for the Deaf.

International Program Student Fees

Through International Programs, the Division has over 25 years of history of offering academic programming to international students from a variety of countries. This school year, 51 Division schools served 246 international students from 27 countries; 185 of these students were full-year students and 61 were partial-year students. This is a continued decrease of approximately 50 per cent since the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, the program generated revenues in excess of \$2.69 million, with the majority being allocated to schools and the remaining balance being used to support the central administration costs associated with the program.

For the 2023-2024 school year, International Student Programs anticipates accepting approximately 250 international students. Registrations are beginning to return to pre-pandemic levels; there have been approximately 420 applications to this date for the 2023-2024 school year, with more still being submitted. However, due to the lack of available spaces in many schools, the number of students the Division is able to accept remains low.

Edmonton Public Schools International Student Fees remain consistent in comparison with the Calgary Board of Education for 2023-2024.

Several factors are considered in determining the International Student Tuition Fee: the cost of a senior high program with English Language Learning (ELL) instruction and support services; Division operational costs of administering the program including staff salaries; and the current market conditions for programs of a similar nature in Alberta and across Canada.

RELATED FACTS

- Sponsorship agreements are the mechanism to transfer funds needed for providing high-needs programming from the resident school division to Edmonton Public Schools in addition to provincial funding.
- Sponsored special needs students from outside Alberta and other non-resident students are excluded from the weighted moving average (WMA) calculation for provincial funding (based on Division enrolment).
- Non-Alberta Resident fees and Special Needs Sponsorship fees are reviewed annually based on the costs of programming and in context with changes to student funding rates.
- International Programs student fees are requested two years in advance to ensure sufficient time to communicate the fee schedule to families and partners. As well, the advanced notice is required to respect that families must be afforded adequate time to plan and budget.
- International Programs student fees continue to be allocated in a manner that maximizes revenues to schools but at the same time ensures sufficient financial resources to administer the program.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the proposed 2023-2024 Non-Alberta Resident fees and the Special Needs Sponsorship fees as outlined on Attachment I be approved.
2. That the proposed 2024-2025 International Student Tuition fee and International Student Application fee as outlined on Attachment I be approved.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

- Administration reviewed the proposed revisions to Administrative Regulation HC.AR, Student Admission and Enrolments and HEC.BP, Non-Resident Student Admission and Enrolment to ensure that the fee structure being proposed is in alignment.

NEXT STEPS

Once approved, the rates will be communicated to Division staff through *Connect* and International Student materials will be updated.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I	2023-2024 Proposed Non-Alberta Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees
	2024-2025 Proposed International Student Tuition and Application Fees

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Edmonton Public Schools
2023-2024 Proposed Non-Alberta Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees
2024-2025 Proposed International Students Tuition and Application Fees

<u>FEE DESCRIPTION</u>	2023-2024 Proposed Fees	2022-2023 Fee	Variance \$	Variance %	Notes
NON-ALBERTA RESIDENT FEE					
Non-Alberta Resident Fee	\$ 10,020	\$ 10,020	\$ -	-	
Distance Education/High School per credit enrolment unit (CEU)	204	191	13	7%	1
NON-ALBERTA RESIDENT SPECIAL NEEDS SPONSORSHIP FEE*					
<u>LEVEL OF SPECIALIZED LEARNING SUPPORTS (Grades Kindergarten - 12)</u>					
Moderate - frequently requires adult support (targeted)	11,770	11,105	665	6%	2
Severe - extensively dependent on adult support (specialized)	26,416	24,923	1,493	6%	2
Profound - constantly dependent on adult support (specialized)	37,128	35,029	2,099	6%	2
* <i>Additional fees may be added to cover costs such as additional educational assistant time and transportation costs</i>					
ALBERTA RESIDENT SPECIAL NEEDS SPONSORSHIP FEE*					
<u>LEVEL OF SPECIALIZED LEARNING SUPPORTS (Grades Kindergarten - 12)</u>					
Moderate - frequently requires adult support (targeted)	1,750	1,085	665	61%	3
Severe - extensively dependent on adult support (specialized)	16,396	14,903	1,493	10%	3
Profound - constantly dependent on adult support (specialized)	27,108	25,009	2,099	8%	3
* <i>Additional fees may be added to cover costs such as additional educational assistant time and transportation costs</i>					

<u>FEE DESCRIPTION</u>	2024-2025 Proposed Fees	2023-2024 Fee	Variance \$	Variance %	Notes
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM FEE	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	-	-	
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICATION FEE	250	250	-	-	

Notes

- 1 The Distance Education/High School per credit enrolment unit (CEU) fee is equal to the funding rate as outlined in the Funding Manual.
- 2 Non-Alberta Resident special needs sponsorship fees are calculated by taking the provincial base funding rate of \$6,492 (outlined in the Funding Manual) and multiplying it by the same ratios that the Division uses to calculate our internal Weighted Enrolment allocation that is provided to Division schools.
- 3 Special needs sponsorship fees for Alberta Residents is equal to the Non-Alberta fee (note 2 above) less the Non-Alberta resident fee.