

**DATE:** May 14, 2025

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** 2025-2026 Non-Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees and  
2026-2027 International Student Fees

**ORIGINATOR:** Todd Burnstad, Chief Financial Officer

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

**REFERENCE** Education Act  
Administrative Regulation HC.AR, Student Admission and Enrolment  
[Funding Manual for School Authorities 2025-2026](#)

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## ISSUE

Each year, administration prepares a recommendation report for the Board of Trustees to approve non-resident and special needs sponsorship fees. These fees are set annually to help recover the cost of educating non-resident students in situations where Edmonton Public Schools is not eligible to receive provincial funding for the student, or when another school division requests Edmonton Public Schools to provide the educational programming for their resident student(s).

## BACKGROUND

### **Non-Alberta Resident Fees**

The Division charges a fee for students who are residents of Canada but whose parent(s) or legal court-appointed guardian(s) do not live in Alberta. Since the Division does not receive per-student provincial funding for these ineligible students, the fee is required to help cover the cost of providing educational programming.

During the 2024–2025 school year, two non-Alberta resident students from Nunavut were registered with Edmonton Public Schools.

The 2025–2026 fee schedule includes a Distance Education Credit Enrolment Unit (CEU) fee for non-Alberta resident students. This CEU fee is set to match the provincial funding rate for part-time distance education students, as outlined in the 2025–2026 Funding Manual.

For the 2025–2026 school year, administration is proposing an increase to the Non-Alberta Resident Fee to align with the Operational Funding per Adjusted Enrolment Method (AEM) FTE Student rate provided by Alberta Education. The proposed fee is \$10,400, representing a \$380 increase—or four per cent—which also aligns with the increase in provincial funding of 4.5 per cent. Additional details are available in Attachment I.

### **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. Programming costs vary based on each student's unique needs and may include additional fees for supports such as extra educational assistant time and transportation. By including eligible students from other Alberta school divisions in our enrolment count and claiming provincial funding, the Division is able to reduce the Alberta resident special needs sponsorship fee by the amount of 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. Of these, 14 are from other Alberta school divisions, and two are from out of province. Most of these students are attending the Alberta School for the Deaf.

### **International Program Student Fees**

Through International Student Programs, the Division has a 29-year history of offering academic programming to international students from various countries. This school year, 33 Division schools served 268 international students from 30 countries, with 241 full-year students and 27 partial-year students. Of these, 60 were in grades 2 to 9, and 208 were high school students in grades 10 to 12. This represents a decrease of more than 50 per cent in international student enrolment compared to previous years, largely due to limited school space.

For the 2025-2026 school year, International Student Programs expects to accept approximately 200 to 250 new and returning international students. To date, there have been around 180 new applications, with 50 students accepted. Students are carefully selected by International Program staff based on various criteria, including available space and address location. While the program remains of high quality, the number of applicants has significantly decreased compared to previous years. This decline is due to factors such as fewer agents recommending the program because of capacity issues, no active recruitment efforts, an increase in rejected study permits by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and growing economic hardship abroad.

The International Student Tuition Fee is determined by several local factors, including the cost of English as an Additional Language (EAL) instruction and support services, Division operational costs such as staff salaries, and current market conditions for similar programs in Alberta and across Canada.

An increase in the international student tuition fee of \$500 is being recommended for the 2026-2027 school year to keep the Division consistent and competitive with fees charged by comparable-sized metro boards. Historically, the Edmonton Public School Division and the Calgary Board of Education have aligned their fees, and this increase would maintain that alignment. The International Student Program has not raised fees since the 2022-2023 school year.

### **RELATED FACTS**

- Sponsorship agreements are used to transfer the necessary funds 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 AEM calculation for provincial funding, which is based on Division enrolment.
- Non-Alberta Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship fees are reviewed annually, taking into account the costs of programming and any changes to student funding rates.

- International student tuition fees are set two years in advance to allow sufficient time for communication with families and partners, and to ensure families have enough time to plan and budget.
- International Program tuition fees are allocated in a way that maximizes revenue for schools while also ensuring there are adequate financial resources to effectively administer the program.

## RECOMMENDATION

1. **That the proposed 2025-2026 Non-Alberta Resident fees and Special Needs Sponsorship fees, as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.**
2. **That the proposed 2026-2027 International Student Tuition fee of \$13,500 and International Student Application fee of \$250, as outlined in Attachment I, be approved.**

## CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

- Administration has 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 proposed fee structure aligns with the updated policies.

## NEXT STEPS

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

## ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| ATTACHMENT I | 2025-2026 Proposed Non-Alberta Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees<br>2026-2027 Proposed International Student Tuition and Application Fees |
|--------------|---|

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**Edmonton Public Schools**  
**2025-2026 Proposed Non-Alberta Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees**  
**2026-2027 Proposed International Students Tuition and Application Fees**

|  | 2025-2026<br>Proposed<br>Fees | 2024-2025<br>Fee | Variance \$ | Variance % | Notes |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-------|
| <b><u>FEE DESCRIPTION</u></b>  |                               |                  |             |            |       |
| <b>NON-ALBERTA RESIDENT FEE</b>  |                               |                  |             |            |       |
| Non-Alberta Resident Fee   | \$ 10,400                     | \$ 10,020        | 380         | 4%         |       |
| Distance Education/High School per credit enrolment unit (CEU)   | 206                           | \$ 204           | 2           | 1%         | 1     |
| <b>NON-ALBERTA RESIDENT SPECIAL NEEDS SPONSORSHIP FEE*</b>   |                               |                  |             |            |       |
| <b><u>LEVEL OF SPECIALIZED LEARNING SUPPORTS (Grades Kindergarten - 12)</u></b>  |                               |                  |             |            |       |
| <b>Moderate</b> - frequently requires adult support (targeted)   | \$ 11,896                     | \$ 11,770        | 126         | 1%         | 2     |
| <b>Severe</b> - extensively dependent on adult support (specialized)   | 26,709                        | \$ 26,416        | 293         | 1%         | 2     |
| <b>Profound</b> - constantly dependent on adult support (specialized)  | 37,536                        | \$ 37,128        | 408         | 1%         | 2     |
| * Additional fees may be added to cover costs such as additional educational assistant time and transportation costs, this is determined on an |                               |                  |             |            |       |
| <b>ALBERTA RESIDENT SPECIAL NEEDS SPONSORSHIP FEE*</b>   |                               |                  |             |            |       |
| <b><u>LEVEL OF SPECIALIZED LEARNING SUPPORTS (Grades Kindergarten - 12)</u></b>  |                               |                  |             |            |       |
| <b>Moderate</b> - frequently requires adult support (targeted)   | \$ 1,496                      | \$ 1,750         | (254)       | -14%       | 3     |
| <b>Severe</b> - extensively dependent on adult support (specialized)   | 16,309                        | \$ 16,396        | (87)        | -1%        | 3     |
| <b>Profound</b> - constantly dependent on adult support (specialized)  | 27,136                        | \$ 27,108        | 28          | 0%         | 3     |
| * Additional fees may be added to cover costs such as additional educational assistant time and transportation costs, this is determined on an |                               |                  |             |            |       |
|  | 2026-2027<br>Proposed<br>Fees | 2025-2026<br>Fee | Variance \$ | Variance % |       |
| <b><u>FEE DESCRIPTION</u></b>  |                               |                  |             |            |       |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TUITION FEE</b>   | \$ 13,500                     | \$ 13,000        | 500         | 4%         |       |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICATION FEE</b>   | 250                           | \$ 250           | -           | -          |       |

**Notes**

- The Distance Education/High School per credit enrolment unit (CEU) fee is equal to the funding rate as outlined in the Funding Manual. The change from the previous year is due to a 1% increase in base rates, which was approved in summer 2024, subsequent to the 2024-2025 budget approval.
- Non-Alberta Resident special needs sponsorship fees are calculated by taking the provincial base instruction funding rate of \$6,564 (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.
- Special needs sponsorship fees for Alberta Residents is equal to the Non-Alberta Resident special needs sponsorship fee (note 2 above) less the Non-Alberta resident fee.