

DATE: May 14, 2024

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: 2024-2025 Non-Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees and 2025-2026 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](#)
[2024-2025 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. As the Division does not receive per-student grants for those ineligible students, a fee is necessary to offset educational programming costs.

During the 2023-24 school year, there were four non-Alberta resident students registered with Edmonton Public Schools. For 2024-2025, as there has been no increase in provincial funding rates, Administration is proposing no changes to the Non-Alberta Resident Fee. Further information is available on Attachment I.

Also included in the fee schedule for 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 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. Costs for the programming vary based on each student's specific needs, necessitating additional fees to cover expenses such as extra

educational assistant time and transportation. By including eligible students from other Alberta school divisions in our enrolment count and claiming the provincial funding, the Division reduces the Alberta resident special needs sponsorship fee charged to other school divisions by the non-Alberta Resident fee as outlined in Attachment I.

In the current year, Edmonton Public Schools is providing programming for 18 sponsored special needs students; 16 of these students are from other Alberta school divisions and two are from out of province. The majority of the sponsored students are attending the Alberta School for the Deaf.

For 2024-2025, Administration is proposing no change in fees.

International Program Student Fees

Through International Programs, the Division has 28 years of history offering academic programming to international students from a variety of countries. This school year, 46 Division schools served 297 international students from 31 countries; 263 of these students were full-year students and 35 were partial-year students. This remains a decrease of approximately 50 per cent since the COVID-19 pandemic. Travel restrictions are no longer the contributing factor for this decrease, rather the availability of school space. The program, however, continues to generate revenues in excess of \$3.6 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 2024-2025 school year, International Student Programs anticipates accepting approximately 300 new and returning international students. There have been approximately 530 applications to date for the 2024-2025 school year, with more still being submitted. Successful students are carefully selected by International Program staff based on multiple criteria, including address location based on available spaces. Edmonton Public Schools International Programs remains a highly sought-after, high quality program for students from around the world.

Edmonton Public Schools International Student Fees remain consistent in comparison with the Calgary Board of Education for 2025-2026.

Several factors are considered in determining the International Student Tuition Fee: the cost of a senior high program with English As an Additional Language (EAL) 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.

For 2025-2026, Administration is proposing no change in fees.

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 2024-2025 Non-Alberta Resident fees and the Special Needs Sponsorship fees as outlined on Attachment I be approved.**
2. **That the proposed 2025-2026 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	2024-2025 Proposed Non-Alberta Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees 2025-2026 Proposed International Student Tuition and Application Fees
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Edmonton Public Schools
2024-2025 Proposed Non-Alberta Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees
2025-2026 Proposed International Students Tuition and Application Fees

<u>FEE DESCRIPTION</u>	2024-2025 Proposed Fees	2023-2024 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	\$ 204	-	-	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	\$ 11,770	-	-	2
Severe - extensively dependent on adult support (specialized)	26,416	26,416	-	-	2
Profound - constantly dependent on adult support (specialized)	37,128	37,128	-	-	2
<i>* Additional fees may be added to cover costs such as additional educational assistant time and transportation costs, this is determined on an individual student basis</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	1,750	-	-	3
Severe - extensively dependent on adult support (specialized)	16,396	16,396	-	-	3
Profound - constantly dependent on adult support (specialized)	27,108	27,108	-	-	3
<i>* Additional fees may be added to cover costs such as additional educational assistant time and transportation costs</i>					
Notes					
<u>FEE DESCRIPTION</u>	2025-2026 Proposed Fees	2024-2025 Fee	Variance \$	Variance %	
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM FEE	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	-	-	
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICATION FEE	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.
- Non-Alberta Resident special needs sponsorship fees are calculated by taking the provincial base instruction 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.
- 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.