

**DATE:** June 20, 2017

**TO:** Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** International Student Program Fees  
(Response to Request for Information #219)

**ORIGINATOR:** Nancy Petersen, Acting Executive Director

**RESOURCE  
STAFF:** Ann Calverley, Grace Cooke

**REFERENCE:** May 23, 2017 Board meeting (Board Chair Draper)  
[School Act](#)  
[Funding Manual For School Authorities 2017/2018 School Year](#)

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**ISSUE**

The following information was requested:

That information be provided regarding whether there is any type of assistance for international students should they not be able to afford the international student fee.

**BACKGROUND**

In the province of Alberta, access to education is defined by the *School Act*. In turn, funding received by the District from Alberta Education is intended to provide educational programming to those children and youth who are eligible to access educational programming, as per the terms and conditions of the *School Act*.

Accountability and alignment to the *School Act* is reflected in Board Policy HEC.BP Student Admission, which states, *“To support the Board’s Vision, individuals who have an entitlement to an education will have access to schooling in accordance with district regulations related to student admission, placement and accommodation.”*

HEC.BP further establishes the expectation that District tuition fees are charged to international students wishing to participate in educational programming offered by the District.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

The District’s decision making around the use of provincial funding reflects the needs and best interests of the students who are eligible to access educational programming as defined in the *School Act*. This does not include use of District funds to support sponsorship of international students.

There is nothing preventing a third party stakeholder from sponsoring an international student to attend educational programming in the District.

**KEY POINTS**

- With respect to residency, the *School Act* (s.8) provides that individuals who are Canadian citizens, lawfully admitted to Canada for permanent residence, or are children thereof, are entitled to have access to an education program.
- Under the “Responsibility to students” portion of the *School Act* (s.45), school boards are required to provide its resident students with an education program consistent with the *School Act* and its regulations.
- The *Funding Manual For School Authorities 2017/2018* makes it clear that the funding distributed to school authorities are to support the education of “Alberta children and students”, and meet the educational needs of all “funded children/students” (pp.8-9).

Consequently, the District is not obligated to provide international students with an education program.

NP:GC:mh