

DATE: November 5, 2019

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Trisha Estabrooks

SUBJECT: Motion re Adequate, Equitable Funding for Education

REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook – Section 5.2.2 – Notices of Motion](#)

ISSUE

The Edmonton Public School Board of Trustees is committed to advocating for a provincial framework that takes enrolment growth into account and provides sustainable, predictable and adequate funding to support all District students.

BACKGROUND

The Edmonton Public School District is actively participating in the Government of Alberta's funding framework review for education. We appreciate being part of this important conversation about the future of funding for education in our province.

RELATED FACTS

- Edmonton Public Schools is the fastest growing district in Alberta. The District has grown by approximately three per cent (3,000 students) each year for nine consecutive years.
- The District serves an increasing number of students with complex learning needs.
 - The number of students with severe special needs has increased by 19.7 per cent in the last five years.
 - English language learners make up 25 per cent of our student population.
- With the government's proposed funding freeze and our current rate of growth, we will receive approximately \$1500 less per student in 2023 than we do today. This year alone, we will have a shortfall of \$34 million.
- The new Alberta funding framework for education is expected to be in place for the 2020-21 spring budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees advocate to the Government of Alberta that they clearly communicate changes to the funding framework for education to Edmonton Public Schools prior to implementation and that consider suggestions from Edmonton Public Schools on the draft of the framework.

Further, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees advocate for adequate, equitable funding that takes into account enrolment growth, ensuring that all children receive the support they need to be successful.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the recommendation.
2. Provide feedback and request changes to the recommendation for approval.

NEXT STEPS

Should the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation, a letter will be sent to Education Minister Adriana LaGrange and Premier Jason Kenney requesting the Minister of Education share with Edmonton Public Schools, before the end of 2019 and in advance of the 2020 Budget, Alberta Education's draft funding policy for review and comment. The letter will also advocate for a funding model that takes enrolment growth into account and provides sustainable, predictable and adequate resources to support all District students.

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