





















**DATE:** November 3, 2020

**TO:** Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** Impact of Changes to the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD)  
(Response to Request for Information #079)

**ORIGINATOR:** Kathy Muhlethaler, Assistant Superintendent

**RESOURCE  
STAFF:** Ann Parker, Natalie Prytuluk

**REFERENCE:** [September 22, 2020, Board meeting](#) (Trustee Dunn)

---

#### **ISSUE**

The following information was requested:

- Impact of changes: Provide information on the changes to RCSD, and how this has impacted the Division in terms of funding, services to students, and the ability for cross-ministry collaboration.
- Use of funds: How has administration used the re-allocated funds from RCSD for this school year? How has this impacted the number of mental health therapists and other health care professionals available to students in schools compared to the 2019-2020 school year?

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the September 22, 2020 public Board meeting, Trustee Dunn stated that the Board has received a significant amount of community advocacy about how the changes to the Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD) may impact children's mental health services.

#### **CURRENT SITUATION**

##### **Impact of changes:**

In spring 2020, Alberta Education released their new funding framework and articulated that their goals were to increase the share of funding going into classrooms, contain cost growth, allocate funding predictably, assure the long-term viability of rural schools, improve key performance data available to parents, and foster collaboration among school authorities to realize economies of scale, create centres of excellence and encourage best practices. Further intentions were to reduce red tape and duplication, increase local flexibility, simplify planning/reporting and direct funding to the classroom.

Although RCSD operated as a cross-ministry program, all funding was provided by the Education Ministry and was intended to support school-aged children and youth in accessing educational programming. The full portion of funds that had previously been allocated for use by Edmonton Public Schools under the Edmonton Regional Collaborative Delivery model (\$11,543,602) have been accounted for and redirected to our Specialized Learning Supports (formerly Inclusive Learning) department for the 2020-2021 school year. This redirection of RCSD funds has ensured the continuance of school-linked specialized service teams and allowed for the contracting of some highly specialized positions from Alberta Health Services. In addition, \$2.5 million will be directed to contracted services for external specialized assessment.





