

**DATE:** May 17, 2022

**TO:** Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** 2022-2023 Non-Resident Fees and 2023-2024 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](#)

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## ISSUE

Each year, administration brings forward a recommendation report to the Board of Trustees for approval of non-resident fees. These fees are set annually for the purpose of recovering education costs for non-resident students where we are not eligible to receive provincial funding or another school division has received the funding and is requesting Edmonton Public Schools to provide the education 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 and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees**

The Division charges a fee for students who are residents of Canada where the parent does not reside in Alberta. The Division does not receive per-student grants for those ineligible students; therefore, a fee is required to cover the costs of educational programming. For the current school year, there are three non-Alberta resident students registered with Edmonton Public Schools.

The methodology used to calculate the 2022-2023 non-Alberta resident fee is consistent with that used by the Province when determining the student rate for school divisions that are not funded by Alberta Education such as those funded by the federal government. Further information is available on Attachment I.

Included in the fee schedule for 2022-2023 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.

The Division also enters into education service agreements (sponsorships) with other school divisions to provide instructional programming for their special needs students. The actual cost of the program for a student can vary due to the specific needs of each student. As such, additional fees may be applied to cover costs such as additional educational assistant time and transportation costs. In the current year, Edmonton Public Schools is providing programming for 19 special needs students; 14 of these students are attending the Alberta School for the Deaf.

For the 2022-2023 school year, a proposed change in fee structures has been introduced to address differences in funding eligibility for sponsored Alberta residents versus sponsored non-Alberta residents. The Division can claim eligible students from other Alberta school divisions and receive the per-student grants. These students will be included in the Division's weighted enrolment average (WMA) and in turn, we will reduce the Alberta resident fees by the "per-student WMA FTE rate" outlined in Attachment I, note 1.

### ***International Student Program Fees***

Through the International Student Program, the Division has over 25 years of history of offering full-time, academic programming to international students from a variety of countries. This school year, 31 Division schools served 245 international students from 33 countries. This is a decrease of approximately 50 per cent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, the program generated revenues in excess of \$2.35 million, with the majority being allocated to schools and the remaining balance being used to support central support program costs.

Several factors are considered in determining the International Student Tuition Fee including the cost of a senior high program with English Language Learning (ELL) instruction and support services, Division operational costs including staff salaries and expenses associated with operating and managing the program and the current market conditions for programs of a similar nature in Alberta and across Canada.

An increase of \$500 to the international student tuition fee is being recommended, effective for 2023-2024, to ensure the Division is consistent and competitive with 2023-2024 fees charged by comparable-sized metro boards. Historically Edmonton Public Schools and the Calgary Board of Education (CBE) have aligned fees and this increase would continue to ensure this alignment. The International Student Program has not seen an increase in fees since the 2018-2019 school year.

### **RELATED FACTS**

- Sponsored special needs students from other Alberta school divisions have, in the past, not been part of our WMA calculation. Provincial funding was normally claimed by the school division where the student resides but this has now been changed to allow the Division to claim funding for these students. 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 WMA calculation for provincial funding.
- 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 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 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 2022-2023 Non-Alberta Resident fees and Special Needs Non-Resident fees be approved (Attachment I).**

2. That the proposed 2023-2024 International Student Tuition fee of \$13,000 and an International Student Application fee of \$250 be approved (Attachment I).

#### **CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS**

- Changes to the provincial funding framework have been considered in determining the attached fees.
- Changes to the Division's budget allocation model have also been considered in determining the attached fees.
- Revisions to Administrative Regulation HC.AR, Student Admission and Enrolments have been considered in the development of the attached fee schedule.

#### **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      2022-2023 Proposed Non-Alberta Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees  
                                 2023-2024 Proposed International Student Tuition and Application Fees

TB:ja

**Edmonton Public Schools**  
**2022-2023 Proposed Non-Alberta Resident and Special Needs Sponsorship Fees**  
**2023-2024 Proposed International Students Tuition and Application Fees**

**FEE DESCRIPTION****2022-2023 Proposed Fees**

Notes

**NON-ALBERTA RESIDENT FEE**

Non-Alberta Resident Fee

\$ 10,020

1

Distance Education/High School per credit enrolment unit (CEU)

\$ 192

**FEE DESCRIPTION****SPECIAL NEEDS SPONSORSHIP FEES (not withstanding Administrative regulation HC.AR, Student Admission and Enrolments) \***

Non-Alberta Resident Special Needs Sponsorship Fee	Alberta Resident Special Needs Sponsorship Fee
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**LEVEL OF SPECIALIZED LEARNING SUPPORTS (Grades Kindergarten - 12)****Moderate** - frequently requires adult support (targeted)

\$ 11,105 \$ 1,084

**Severe** - extensively dependent on adult support (specialized)

\$ 24,923 \$ 14,902

**Profound** - constantly dependent on adult support (specialized)

\$ 35,029 \$ 25,009

\* *Additional fees may be added to cover costs such as additional educational assistant time and transportation costs***2023-2024 Proposed Fees****FEE DESCRIPTION****INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM FEE**

\$ 13,000

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPLICATION FEE**

\$ 250

**Notes****1 Non-Alberta resident fees**

Non-Alberta resident rates are based on the estimated 2022-2023 provincial funding as outlined below:

Total Funding Support with Bridge Funding

**2022-2023  
Funding Profile**

\$ 1,025,779,730

Less: Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal (IMR) \* Does not Include CMR \*

(13,633,699)

Total Operational Funding

1,012,146,031

Weighted Moving Average FTE Enrolment (WMA)

101,010

**Operational Funding per WMA FTE Student****\$ 10,020****2 Special Needs Sponsorship Fees**

Special needs sponsorship fees were established by taking the provincial base funding rate of \$6,125 and multiplying it by the same ratios that the Division uses to calculate our schools weighted enrolment as outlined below:

Level of Support	2022-2023 Alberta Education Base Funding Rate	Division weighted enrolment ratios	Fee
Moderate	\$6,125	1.813	\$11,105
Severe	\$6,125	4.069	\$24,923
Profound	\$6,125	5.719	\$35,029

Fees for Alberta Resident special needs students are reduced by the "per WMA FTE Student" rate outlined in note 1 as our Division claims these students on our WMA. The difference between the WMA FTE student rate of \$10,020 and the Non-Alberta Resident Special Needs Fee is invoiced to the student's respective division as outlined in a sponsorship agreement. For example, in a sponsorship agreement with another Alberta school jurisdiction for a student identified as requiring a severe level of support, the charges would be \$14,902 (\$24,920 - \$10,020).