



EDMONTON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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News Release

Edmonton Catholic Students will Benefit from New Funding

Provincial government funding announced in July will translate into additional dollars for Edmonton Catholic School students. The school district will receive an additional \$12.8 million in funding for 2006-2007; \$5 million instructional dollars and \$7.8 million non-instructional dollars. This morning at a special public board meeting, Trustees voted that the entire \$5 million dollars in instructional dollars will go directly into the classroom.

“This Board is very pleased that the provincial government has listened to our appeal for additional funding for Severely Disabled students, Basic Instruction and Class Size reduction,” said Board Chairperson Debbie Cavaliere. “In the 2006-07 school year, all Edmonton Catholic School students will benefit from this additional funding,” Cavaliere went on to say.

The additional funding for the classroom will mean:

- **Lower class sizes** for Grades 1 to 3. Classes will be lowered to a district average of 17 students for the 2006-2007 school year;
- **Increased focus on Literacy** to include Grades 1 to 6. Teachers will receive training in Literacy intervention and work with students who need additional support one-on-one or in small groups.
- **Financial support for severely disabled students** which will close the gap between the over 960 students the district supported last school year with the 873 severe needs students that the district was funded for in 2005-2006; and
- **Additional funding for ESL** (English as a Second Language) students. This additional ESL funding will allow our schools to continue to provide additional programming supports to ESL students who otherwise would have had their support discontinued.

The Trustees have also agreed that the remaining \$7.8 million dollars in non-instructional funding be allocated as follows:

- The Board of Trustees will ask the Minister of Education if \$1.7 million can be used in 2006-07 to pay off the accumulated IMR (Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal) deficit. This would eliminate the \$4 million Capital portion of the district’s \$10 million operating deficit;
- Almost \$5 million be allocated to address outstanding and emergent needs for Infrastructure throughout the district; and
- The remaining funding will form contingency funds for both the Plant Operation and Maintenance budget as well as the district’s School Transportation budget.

“This additional government funding will ensure that all students in Edmonton Catholic Schools continue to receive the supports they need to help them succeed throughout their educational journey,” said Superintendent Joan Carr.

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