

PURPOSE

This funding provides support to **Designated Special Education Private Schools (DSEPS)** for instruction of students with identified mild, moderate or severe disabilities.

CONDITIONS

New

1. Funding is provided for students with mild, moderate and severe disabilities, who meet Alberta Learning eligibility criteria, who were enrolled on September 30. Regular students attending the **DSEPS** with a sibling(s) at the **DSEPS** who has special needs will be funded at the regular **private school** basic instruction funding rate.

Revised

2. Funding is only provided to **DSEPS** that have been approved by the Minister of Learning. To obtain approval for this status the **private school** must send a request in writing to the Director of Special Programs Branch, Alberta Learning, **by June 1**. The Director will review the request to determine if the operator meets or exceeds Alberta Learning standards for special education programming and that students attending the **school** meet eligibility requirements for special education.

3. A **school jurisdiction** that directs a student to a **DSEPS** will pay all program costs, which are not covered by funding, provided by Alberta Learning to the **DSEPS**.

Revised

4. The **DSEPS** must advise parents of the need to discuss their **child's** mild or moderate special needs eligibility and placement options with their **resident board** prior to enrollment in the **DSEPS**. After consulting with the resident **school jurisdiction** about a special education program for their **child**, parents may make an informed decision on the most appropriate placement for the **child**. If parents then choose to send their **child** to the **DSEPS**, enhanced funding of \$8,555 per student will be paid directly to the **DSEPS**, with no cost to the **school jurisdiction**. To confirm that parents did consult with their **resident board**, one of the following types of documentation must be kept on file at the **DSEPS**:

- A signed registration form at the **DSEPS** which contains a statement declaring that the **parent** consulted with their resident **school jurisdiction**; or
- A signed letter from the **parent** attesting that they consulted with the resident **school jurisdiction**; or
- A letter from the resident **school jurisdiction** confirming that the **parent** consulted with them on their special needs **child's** placement options.

These students must be coded by the **DSEPS** using the funding codes 110 and 500 with the applicable special needs 50s code (mild/moderate).

4. If a **parent** enrolls their **child** in a **DSEPS** without consulting with the **resident board** on the **child's** eligibility for a special education program, the **DSEPS** will only be eligible for basic support funding of \$5,243 (rather than full funding of \$8,555) per student. Included in the Basic support funding rate is funding for basic instruction, transportation and plant operation and maintenance. These students will be coded by the **DSEPS** using the funding code 500 with the applicable special needs 50s code (mild/moderate). The 110 code cannot be used for these students.

Revised

5. The **DSEPS** shall report all students enrolled in their **school** to Learner Records & Data Exchange. **DSEPS** must also notify **school jurisdictions**, in writing, of their resident students who are registered at the **DSEPS**. This list should indicate:

Revised

- Which students are newly enrolled;
- Which students currently attending who were enrolled in previous years; and
- Which students' parents consulted with the resident **school board** on the special needs placement options for their **child** prior to enrollment at the **DSEPS**.

A copy of this notification should also be sent to the Director of School Finance, at Alberta Learning, confirming which of the students' **parents** have discussed placement options with their resident **school jurisdiction** and which did not. This confirmation will determine the basis of Alberta Learning's payment to the **DSEPS** (i.e. enhanced funding or basic support funding).

6. Enhanced funding will be provided for students with mild/moderate disabilities whose parents placed them in the **DSEPS** prior to September 30, 1998 as long as they are attending the **DSEPS**.

7. For students enrolled with a **school jurisdiction** on September 30 who transfer to a **DSEPS** after September 30 in a school year (or vice versa), funding must be transferred on a pro-rated basis based on a 10-month program. The funding transferred would be paid for the months remaining in the school year. For example: If the student has transferred to a **DSEPS** on December 1, funding would be transferred as follows:

Revised

- If the **parent** consulted with the **resident board** on the student's special education program, \$5,988.50 would be transferred ($7/10 \times \$8,555$).
- If the **parent** did not consult with the **resident board** on the student's special education program, \$3,670.10 would be transferred ($7/10 \times \$5,243$).

New

If the student returns to the **school jurisdiction** in the same school year, the funding must then be returned by the **DSEPS** to the **school jurisdiction** on a pro-rated basis based on a 10-month program.

No pro-rated funding will be provided by Alberta Learning to the **DSEPS** for students enrolled after September 30.

SECTION 3.1.1 DESIGNATED SPECIAL EDUCATION PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- Revised** 8. For students with severe disabilities attending a **DSEPS**, basic support funding of \$5,243 and severe disabilities funding will be provided to the **DSEPS**.

- New** 9. No satellite campuses for existing **DSEPS** will be approved without written consent of the Director of Special Programs Branch. Requests for satellite campuses must be submitted by June 1.

