

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

FUNDING MANUAL FOR SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

FOR THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

The following information outlines the changes to the *2007-2008 Funding Manual for School Authorities* that are significant or noteworthy. Please refer to the appropriate section(s) of the funding manual for more details.

Table of Contents

- Five new sections have been added: Section 2.8 ECS English as a Second Language (ESL), Section 2.9 ECS Enhanced ESL and Support Services for Immigrant Children, Section 3.7 English as a Second Language (ESL), Section 3.8 Enhanced ESL and Support Services for Immigrant Students, and Section 5.2 Francophone Student Health Services.

Introduction

- Page 8: Some new examples of documentation that should be kept on file for seven years have been added.

Part 1: School Jurisdiction Funding

Section 1.1 – ECS Base Instruction Funding

- Page 4: Requirement #3 is new and indicates that 50% ECS Base Instruction funding will be provided for funded children reported on the March 3 count that are between 3 years 6 months old and less than 4 years 6 months old on September 1, and that have mild to moderate disabilities, or are gifted and talented, or are ESL.

Section 1.2 – Base Instruction Funding

- Page 2: Allocation Criteria #8 indicates that to access funding for a funded student who attends a school of an Alberta school jurisdiction with which their resident board has entered into an education services agreement, the resident board must submit a copy of the agreement for review and funding approval to the School Finance Branch by October 19.
- Page 2: Allocation Criteria #9 indicates that to access funding for a funded student who attends a school in another province with which their resident board has entered into an education services agreement, the resident board must submit a copy of the agreement for review and funding approval to the School Finance Branch by October 19.
- Page 8: Allocation Criteria #14 indicates that to access funding for a funded student who attends an activity program in another province with which their resident board has entered into an education services agreement, the resident board must submit a copy of the agreement for review and funding approval to the School Finance Branch by October 19.
- Page 8: Allocation Criteria #15 has been changed to correct an error. Designated Special Education Private Schools (DSEPS) are authorized to serve students with mild, moderate or severe disabilities but not students who are gifted and talented.
- Page 11: Reporting Requirement #6(a) indicates what documentation must be kept on file for high school refugee students.

Section 1.4 – Home Education Funding

- Page 2: The Allocation Formula for Grades 10 to 12 students in a blended program has been changed to be: (the percentage of the home education program at home X home education funding rate) + the lesser of (percentage of the school program X base instruction rate or CEUs earned X CEU rate).

Section 1.5– ECS Mild to Moderate Disabilities/Delays Funding

- Page 1: Allocation Criteria #1 indicates that funded children with mild to moderate disabilities/delays and children who are gifted and talented and who are between the ages of 3 years 6 months to less than 4 years 6 months old on September 1, that are reported on the March 3 count, will be eligible for 50% ECS Mild/Moderate funding and 50% ECS Base Instruction funding.

Section 1.6 – Program Unit Funding (PUF)

- Page 10: Requirement #12(e) indicates that facility costs are not an eligible expense for Program Unit Funding. Any costs in this area should be covered from Alberta Education’s Plant Operations and Maintenance funding or from Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal funding.
- Page 10: Requirement #12(f) indicates that administration costs are not an eligible expense for Program Unit Funding. Funding for administration is included in Alberta Education’s ECS Base Instruction funding. School jurisdictions on the PUF Pilot or with Designated Special Education ECS programs may claim program coordination costs under PUF.
- Page 12: Requirement #13(g) indicates that the name of this cost category is changed from “Administration” to “Program Coordination”.

Section 1.7 – Severe Disabilities Profile Funding

- Page 1: Allocation Criteria #1, indicates that the severe disabilities funding profile numbers will be updated through an audit that will be done during 2007-2008. If a school jurisdiction’s profile numbers increase as a result of the audit, the new profile will be retroactively applied back to September 2007. If a school jurisdiction’s profile numbers decrease, the new profile will take effect in September 2008.

Section 1.8 – English as a Second Language Funding

- Page 2: Allocation Criteria #6 indicates that ESL funding is now available for ECS children starting at age 3 years 6 months old on September 1. As a result, the definition of a funded child in the Glossary of Terms has also been revised.
- Page 2: Allocation Criteria #6 indicates that ESL funded children who are between the ages of 3 years 6 months to less than 4 years 6 months old on September 1, that are reported on the March 3 count, will be eligible for both 50% ECS ESL funding and 50% ECS Base Instruction funding.
- Page 2: Allocation Criteria #5 indicates that each year of ECS ESL programming counts as only half a year (0.5) towards the 7-year maximum.

Section 1.17 – Relative Cost of Purchasing Goods and Services Adjustment (RCPA)

- Pages 2 and 3: The jurisdiction RCPA factor table has been revised with the latest data from Alberta Economic Development.

Section 1.21 – Special Transportation Funding

- Funding for parent-provided transportation of ECS children with special needs will no longer be provided under this section but instead will be provided under either Section 1.19 (Rural Transportation) or Section 1.20 (Urban Transportation).

Section 1.23 – Francisation Funding

- Page 2: Allocation Criteria #7 indicates that Francisation funding is now available for ECS children starting at age 3 years 6 months old on September 1. As a result, the definition of a funded child in the Glossary of Terms has also been revised.
- Page 2: Allocation Criteria #7 indicates that Francisation funded children who are between the ages of 3 years 6 months to less than 4 years 6 months old on September 1, that are

reported on the March 3 count, will be eligible for both 50% ECS Francisation funding and 50% ECS Base Instruction funding.

- Page 2: Allocation Criteria #6 indicates that each year of ECS ESL programming counts as only half (0.5) a year towards the 7-year maximum.

Section 1.25 – Enhanced ESL/Francisation and Support Services for Immigrant Students Funding

- Page 1: Allocation Criteria #1 indicates that Enhanced ESL/Francisation funding is now available for ECS children starting at age 3 years 6 months old on September 1. As a result, the definition of a funded child in the Glossary of Terms has also been revised.
- Page 1: Allocation Criteria #1 indicates that Foreign born ESL funded children between the ages of 3 years 6 months and less than 4 years 6 months old on September 1, that are reported on the March 3 count, will be eligible for 50% Enhanced ESL funding, 50% ESL funding and 50% ECS Base Instruction funding.

Part 2: Funding for Private ECS Operators

Section 2.1 – ECS Base Instruction Funding

- Page 4: Requirement #9 is new and indicates that 50% ECS Base Instruction funding will be provided for funded children reported on the March 3 count that are between 3 years 6 months old and less than 4 years 6 months old on September 1, and that have mild to moderate disabilities, or are gifted and talented, or are ESL.

Section 2.3 – Program Unit Funding (PUF)

- Page 10: Requirement #12(g) indicates that the name of this cost category is changed from “Administration” to “Program Coordination”.

Section 2.5 – ECS Special Transportation Funding

- Page 2: Requirement #3 indicates that funding for parent-provided transportation of ECS children with special needs will no longer be provided under this section but instead will be provided under Section 2.4 (Regular Transportation)

Section 2.6 – ECS Plant Operations and Maintenance Funding

- Page 1: Condition #1 indicates that the formula for calculating this funding has changed. Funding will be provided on a per funded child basis using the same funding rate that school jurisdictions receive where a child is counted as 0.5 FTE.

Section 2.7 – ECS Administration Funding

- Page 1: Condition #1 indicates that two new funding areas are included in the calculation of this funding allocation. The new funding areas are English as a Second Language (ESL) and Enhanced ESL and Support Services for Immigrant Children.

Section 2.8 – ECS English as a Second Language (ESL) Funding

- This new funding is provided to private ECS operators to address the educational needs of children who have insufficient fluency in English. The funding is available for eligible children starting at 3 years 6 months old on September 1. Each year of ECS ESL programming counts as only half a year (0.5) towards the 7-year maximum.
- Page 1: Condition #5 indicates that ESL funded children who are between 3 years 6 months and less than 4 years 6 months old on September 1, that are included in the March 3 count, will be eligible for both 50% ECS ESL funding and 50% ECS Base Instruction funding.

Section 2.9 – ECS Enhanced ESL and Support Services for Immigrant Children Funding

- This new funding provides educational supports and services for eligible foreign-born ESL children.
- Page 1: Condition #1 indicates that Foreign-born ESL **funded children** between the ages of 3 years 6 months and 4 years 6 months old on September 1, that are included in the March 3 count, will be eligible for 50% Enhanced ESL funding, 50% ECS ESL funding and 50% ECS Base Instruction funding.

Part 3: Funding for Accredited-Funded Private Schools

Section 3.1 – Base Instruction Funding

- Page 10: Requirement #10(a) indicates that new documentation must be kept on file for high school refugee students.

Section 3.2 – Designated Special Education Private Schools

- The wording in this section has been changed to correct an error. Designated Special Education Private Schools (DSEPS) are authorized to serve students with mild, moderate or severe disabilities but not students who are gifted and talented.

Section 3.4 – Home Education Funding

- Pages 1 and 3: Condition #5 and Requirement #7 indicate that the formula for calculating funding for Grades 10 to 12 students in a blended program has been changed to be: (the percentage of the home education program at home X home education funding rate) + the lesser of (percentage of the school program X base instruction rate or CEUs earned X CEU rate).

Section 3.7 – English as a Second Language (ESL) Funding

- This new funding is provided to accredited-funded private schools to address the educational needs of eligible students who have insufficient fluency in English.
- ESL funded students who enroll after the September 28 count date may be counted on the March 3 count date and 50% funding will be provided.

Section 3.8 – Enhanced ESL and Support Services for Immigrant Students Funding

- This new funding provides educational supports and services for eligible foreign-born ESL students.
- Foreign-born ESL students who are enrolled after the September 28 count date may be counted on the March 3 count date and 50% funding will be provided.

Part 5: Targeted Funding for Provincial Priorities

Section 5.2 – Francophone Student Health Services Funding

- This new funding is provided to improve access to and enhance the provision of integrated health services and support services in French for Francophone students and children with special needs in the five Francophone regional authorities.

Section 5.4 – SuperNet Service Funding

- Page 1: Consideration #1 indicates a change in the initial payment of this funding. Funding is paid retroactively to the service activation date if the funding application is received by March 31. If the application is received after March 31, no retroactive funding will be paid.

Part 6: Other Provincial Support

Section 6.3 – Learning Resources Credit Allocation (LRCA)

- Page 1: Consideration #3 indicates that school jurisdictions and private schools may access additional savings by combining their LRCA with the Early Order Discount program.

Part 8: Payments to School Authorities

Sections 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3 – Funding Rates

- Alberta Education's funding rates were increased by 3% as per the April 19, 2007 Budget 2007 announcement. New Francophone Health Services Funding was added to Section 8.1. New ESL Funding and Enhanced ESL and Support Services for Immigrant Students/Children Funding was added to Sections 8.2 and 8.3

Section 8.5 – Payment Schedule for Accredited-Funded Private Schools

- A March payment has been added to better reflect their operational year and to better meet their cash flow requirements.

Section 8.7 – Enrollment Counts

- Page 1: Condition #3 is new and indicates that a student who is enrolled at a school authority before the count date and then goes to an Institution and is in the Institution on the count date, may still be counted by the school authority if the student returns to the school authority within 30 calendar days of the count date.

Glossary of Terms

- A new definition has been added to the Glossary for "Associate Accredited-Funded Private School".
- The definition of an Education Services Agreement has been revised to reflect that agreements under Section 62 (1)(b) of the *School Act*, which are to be funded by Alberta Education, must be submitted to Alberta Education for review and funding approval.
- The definition of an Eligible Passenger has been revised to clarify that a funded student who is transported by their resident board to an accredited-funded private school must be directed to that school by their resident board and must be under an education services agreement that has been approved for funding by Alberta Education.
- The definition of a Funded Child has been revised to include ESL/Francisation children starting at 3 years 6 months old. The definition also now includes: a) a stepchild (who has been issued a study permit) of a temporary foreign worker that is in Canada on a work permit; and who is the biological or adopted child of the temporary foreign worker's spouse or partner, and b) a step-child of a Canadian citizen that is the biological or adopted child of the Canadian citizen's non-Canadian spouse or partner.
- The definition of a Funded Student has been revised to include a) a stepchild (who has been issued a study permit) of a temporary foreign worker that is in Canada on a work permit; and who is the biological or adopted child of the temporary foreign worker's spouse or partner, and b) a step-child of a Canadian citizen that is the biological or adopted child of the Canadian citizen's non-Canadian spouse or partner.
- The definition of an Institution has been revised to make it consistent with Section 44(7) of the *School Act*.
- A new definition has been added to the Glossary for "School Year". The definition articulates what is already in Section 147(1) of the *School Act* as well as what is in the *Private School Regulation* and the *Early Childhood Services Regulation*.
- The definition of Temporary Resident has been revised to improve clarity.
- The definition of a Transportation Agreement has been revised to improve clarity.