

EICS School Supplies and Transportation Fees Changes for September 2019

As we prepare for another school year at Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS), there will be a number of changes to our division within the context of the anticipated budget in the Fall of 2019. We want to ensure that our budget is directed to serving our students and staff and their educational success as we move into another school year.

School Supplies Program:

EICS streamlined budgets for the past two years which allowed us to share cost-savings directly with our EICS students and families. One of the ways we shared this cost-savings was to provide school supplies to all students within the division. Unfortunately with the new fiscal reality we are anticipating within the upcoming Alberta budget, EICS will no longer be able to provide this program for the September 2019 school year and families will be required to purchase school supplies for their students as they have traditionally done.

Anticipating this change, EICS has reached out to Staples Canada to provide volume discounted school supply packages for the upcoming year for our schools. We will be providing these package request forms directly to schools for parents to order in the next few weeks.

Transportation Fees:

New this year, EICS Transportation will be mirroring our partner transportation providers in charging a Supplemental Bus fee. Essentially, there will be a \$130 per student fee charged when students access an additional bus (of their own choice - not a transfer bus) either to/from an alternate address. This \$130 annual fee is purely cost-recovery to offset some of the fuel costs associated with multiple pick-up/drop off addresses.

The EICS Board of Trustees will be reviewing school fees at the June 19, 2019 EICS Board of Trustees public meeting.

Fee Waiver Program:

Under the principle that finances should not be a barrier to a child's education, Elk Island Catholic Schools will waive fees for independent students or parents/guardians if they meet certain income guidelines, are on social services or are facing exceptional circumstances. If you qualify, you may apply using the attached application form for a waiver for the following fees:

Ineligible Transportation Fees; Instructional Material Fees; Course Fees; Instructional Activity Fees

To download a copy of the EICS Fee Waiver Form, please click [here](#). For more information on the Fee Waiver program, please visit our website page located at: <https://www.eics.ab.ca/parents-and-students/school-fees>