

EIPS Announces Important Changes to the Boundary Exemption Process

All Elk Island Public Schools' (EIPS) schools provide quality educational programming. Thus, EIPS encourages families to register their children at their **Designated School**; however, sometimes situations arise when families would like to register at a **School of Choice**. The following information clarifies the boundary exemption process for all schools in EIPS.

Parents/guardians/independent students considering a **School of Choice** for grades 1-12 should note the following process, paying particular attention to the revised application deadlines:

- The new **Boundary Exemption Request form** is available on EIPS' website at www.eips.ca. You may only submit **one** boundary exemption request at a time.
- Schools are now accepting boundary exemption requests for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Students and parents will be asked to provide reasons for the boundary exemption request. All requests must be based on valid educational criteria and/or strong rationale, such as access to a specific course or program not offered at the Designated School, concern for the health and security of their child, joint custody families in which the parents/guardians live in separate households, families in the process of moving to a new area, etc.
- To have the request *considered for approval*, parents/guardians/independent students must ensure the form is completed and submitted to the **Designated School** by **March 11, 2011**.
PLEASE NOTE: The signature of the Designated School principal does not guarantee the request will be approved.
- The Designated School principal will forward the form to the principal at the receiving school (**School of Choice**) by **March 24, 2011**.
- The principals from the Designated School and the School of Choice will review the merit of the request and determine the outcome. Principals will respond to parents/guardians/independent students with their decision by **April 8, 2011**.
- Upon notification, parents/guardians/independent students will be responsible for completing the **Student Registration form** and submitting it to the appropriate school, if required.
- Parents/guardians/independent students who are interested in **School of Choice** busing are responsible for contacting Student Transportation to make busing arrangements.
- *PLEASE NOTE:* Boundary exemptions will not be accepted after **March 11, 2011** except in extreme or extenuating circumstances. All boundary exemptions after the deadline must be submitted directly to the Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services at Central Office for consideration. No principal signatures are required.

Students who attend a school outside their designated attendance area are responsible for making transportation arrangements. Student transportation services *may* be available to **School of Choice** students at a cost. For more information or to make transportation arrangements, please contact EIPS' Student Transportation department at 780-417-8151 or by e-mail at st@ei.educ.ab.ca. All transportation fees are due by June 30, 2011.

Standard EIPS' practices allow students who have been granted a boundary exemption to continue attending their **School of Choice** until they move to a grade not offered at that school. When students must move to a new school, they will be directed to their **Designated School**. If they choose to explore

another School of Choice option, they must submit another **Boundary Exemption Request form** for the new School of Choice.

To find your **Designated School**, use the Versatrans e-Link tool on EIPS' website at <http://www.eips.ca/content.php?page=312>

If you have questions regarding changes to the boundary exemption process, please contact your school principal at 780-467-0044. EIPS' Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services, Bev Fleming at 780-417-8227; or EIPS' Director of Communication Services, Tanya Orr at 780-417-8204.