



HIGHLIGHTS

- Study in a leading school district in Alberta, Canada
- Established International Student Program with over 700 students in District schools.
- Wide range of academic and alternative program choices
- Live with a safe, supportive Homestay family

PROGRAM FEATURES

- Alberta High School Graduation Diploma
- English as a Second Language
- International Baccalaureate (IB) & Advanced Placement (AP)
- Performing & Visual Arts, Science & Technology, Sports Alternative
- University Preparation

PROGRAM FACTS

- **Program Levels:** Grades K – 12
- **Calendar Year:** September – June
- **Intakes:** September or February
- **Private vs. Public:** Public
- **Year Program Founded:** 1995
- **Instruction Hours/Week:** 25
- **Post-secondary Admission:** International students who achieve high school graduation are qualified to apply to universities, colleges and technical institutes in Alberta as well as most post-secondary institutions worldwide.

ADMISSION AT A GLANCE

- **Minimum English Requirement:** None
- **Minimum Academic Requirements:** Passing grade of at least 50% in courses taken.
- **Reference Letter:** Required
- **Application Deadlines:** Recommend at least 3-4 months before start.

COMMUNITY & LOCATION

- Capital city of the province of Alberta
- **City Population:** 1,000,000
- **Climate Range:** -15° to 25°C
- **Setting:** Urban
- **Amenities:** shopping centres, community recreation centres, leisure centres, skating rinks, ski hills and pools
- Home to many reputable post-secondary institutions, including the world-renowned University of Alberta.

Edmonton Public Schools, Centre for Education
One Kingsway, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5H 4G9
Tel: (780) 429-8249, Fax: (780) 425-6405

E-mail: isp@epsb.ca, URL: <http://internationalprograms.epsb.ca>

LOCATION

Edmonton is a beautiful city noted for its abundant parkland and the natural beauty of its river valley. It is a growing city of just over 1 million people. The city is safe, clean and modern, featuring an excellent public education system as well as several reputable post-secondary institutions including the world-renowned University of Alberta.

International students can experience festivals of arts, dance and theatre performances, professional hockey and football games, excellent dining and numerous shopping opportunities. With its cosmopolitan reputation, Edmonton also offers opportunities for cultural, business and recreational partnerships on an international level.

The Rocky Mountains are a few hours away and are noted for skiing, snowboarding and sightseeing.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Edmonton Public Schools (EPS) has an excellent reputation for education programming. The District has offered an International Student Program (ISP) since 1995 and each year, serves over 700 students from all over the world. The program is well established and committed to the goal of educating students in a challenging and active school environment. Students attending any of the 13 high schools in the city are assured of receiving a high-quality education with the assistance of highly qualified and caring teachers, counsellors and staff.

The program features the provincial curriculum with Canadian peers as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) programming for students whose first language is not English. The ESL program is designed for students who wish to improve their English language skills in a friendly, yet challenging atmosphere. International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs are in place for more academically capable students.

The provincial curriculum consists of a challenging core of courses: English, social studies, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, fine arts, and career and technology studies. In addition, students may select from a number of options to create a unique program that meets the requirements of the educational system of the province of Alberta. Students who graduate from grade 12 in Edmonton's public school system are qualified to apply to all universities, colleges and institutes in Canada and elsewhere.

International students have the advantage of graduating from a leading Canadian school system while gaining fluency in English, a skill that has practical applications worldwide.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

EPS offers advanced facilities to assist students with their education. Academic resources include computer-assisted instruction, scientific laboratories, dance studios, television studios, libraries and technology centres.

Students have access to excellent athletics and recreational facilities. Sports such as soccer, basketball, badminton and cross-country skiing are available as well as extracurricular activities for those with interests in areas such as creative writing, photography and student leadership.

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

- **Student Ages:** 5-20 years
- **Class Sizes:** 22-28
- **School Size:** 300-2,500
- **Student/Teacher Ratio:** 22-28:1

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- **Program Enrolment:** 700+
- **% of District Enrolment:** 1%
- **Countries of Origin:** Brazil, China, Colombia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, UK, USA, Vietnam and many other countries.

REFUND POLICY

- Once students commence study in Edmonton Public Schools no refunds will be issued.
- There will be no refunds issued for late arrivals.
- Refunds will be provided if the student
 - is denied admission to Edmonton Public Schools
 - is unable to obtain a Study Permit prior to September 30th becomes a Permanent Resident of Canada or the student's parent obtains a Work Permit or Study Permit (program dependent) valid for the duration of the student's study program
- All refund requests must be made in writing and will be provided to the original payer only.

ADMISSION

Applications to the International Student Program can be submitted by e-mail (scanned documents accepted), courier or registered post, as per the instructions found on our website or application form.

Only complete applications will be accepted, and must include copies of the applicant's:

- ISP application form, fully completed, including requested study period, living arrangements and school preferences
- passport
- transcripts for the past two school years, translated in English
- letter of recommendation from current teacher or principal, translated in English
- immunization records
- notarized custodianship declaration, if under 18 years old (this document will be provided for students who participate in the Homestay program)
- payment in full of application fee, tuition fee and health insurance fee

Applications will be reviewed for acceptability to the program upon receipt of the full application and payment of fees. Once accepted to the program, an official Letter of Acceptance from Edmonton Public Schools will be issued to the applicant, which must be used in the students' application for a Study Permit from Citizenship & Immigration Canada. Completed Study Permit applications must be sent to Canadian diplomatic missions abroad where permit processing services are available. Students are encouraged to submit their Study Permit applications to at least three to four months in advance, to ensure ample processing time.

HOMESTAY PROGRAM

Edmonton Public Schools works with The Canada Homestay Network (CHN) to support international students who require Homestay services while attending EPS. Together, Edmonton Public Schools and CHN offer warm and welcoming Homestays so students will be well-supported during their program of studies in Edmonton. To support students in Homestay, the services of CHN Relationship Managers are available to assist both students and their host families when and if needed. A link to the online Homestay application form can be accessed from the International Programs website by clicking on the 'Homestay Program' link.

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The International Programs team as well as school-based staff and students assist international students in coping and adapting to their new environment in the least stressful manner possible. Teachers and student advisers are available to counsel students on issues concerning finances, school and personal well-being, and transitions to post-secondary studies. Multilingual staff are available to provide interpretation and translation services.

Many District schools offer international clubs that address the unique cultural circumstances of international students. With the help of staff, students can also arrange celebrations and social gatherings with other international students in order to ease the stress of being alone in Canada.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE!



Students at Edmonton Public Schools benefit from a great system! Check out the results!

- Alberta students rank within the top 10 in the world in science and reading on new international standardized tests of 15 year olds.
- At Edmonton Public Schools between 80% and 100% of international students meet the acceptable standard on provincial diploma exams every year.

INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS OF 15-YEAR-OLDS*

SCIENCE

1. Singapore
2. **Alberta**
3. Japan
4. Estonia
5. Chinese Taipei
6. Finland
7. Macao-China
8. Canada
9. Vietnam
10. Hong Kong-China
11. BSJG-China
12. Korea
13. New Zealand
14. Slovenia
15. Australia

READING

1. Singapore
2. **Alberta**
3. Hong Kong-China, Canada
4. Finland
5. Ireland
6. Estonia
7. Korea
8. Japan
9. Norway
10. New Zealand
11. Germany
12. Macao-China
13. Poland
14. Slovenia
15. Netherlands, Australia

MATHEMATICS

1. Singapore
2. Hong Kong-China
3. Macao-China
4. Chinese Taipei
5. Japan
6. BSJG-China
7. Korea
8. Switzerland
9. Estonia
10. Canada
11. Netherlands
12. **Alberta**
13. Denmark
14. Finland
15. Slovenia

*From surveys conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Programme for International Student Assessment International Tests Year 2015 (OECD PISA).

PISA scores are given as averages within a range, Alberta results take the confidence intervals into consideration. Visit the OECD PISA website at: www.pisa.oecd.org.

OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



**Edmonton
Public Schools'
international students
succeed in academic
courses!**

- Performance of senior high international students on Alberta Education Diploma courses for 2014-2015 – percentage of students who met the provincial acceptable standard:
 - Social Studies 30-1: 96%
 - Biology 30: 94%
 - Physics 30: 90%
 - Chemistry 30: 90%
 - Science 30: 89%
 - Math 31: 88%
 - Pure Math 30: 88%
 - English 30-2: 86%
 - Social 30-2: 85%
 - English 30-1: 80%
- 97% of junior high international students met or exceeded the acceptable standard on Alberta provincial achievement tests in Mathematics, 62% met or exceeded the standard in Science, 41% met or exceeded the standard in Social Studies, and 45% met or exceeded the standard in Language Arts.
- International students scored almost perfect school attendance rates in the 2014-2015 school year.