

EQUILIBRIUM INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION INSTITUTE

ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT (AERR) NOVEMBER 30, 2008

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The annual education results report for Equilibrium International Education Institute for the 2007/08 school year was prepared under the direction of the Private School Board in accordance with the responsibilities under the *School Act* & the *Government Accountability Act*. The Private School Board is committed to using the results in this report, to the best of our abilities, to improve outcomes for our students. We will use the results to develop sound strategies for our next three-year education plan to ensure that all our students can acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing members of society.

Equilibrium International Education Institute's AERR for 2007/08 is available at:

<http://www.equilibrium.ab.ca/contact%20us.htm>

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2007/08

- **Accountability Pillar Overall Summary by Alberta Education is available at**

<http://education.alberta.ca/admin/funding/accountability/results/provsum.aspx>

- **Jurisdiction Accomplishments**

Equilibrium International Education Institute was very successful in promoting inter-cultural understanding through the interaction of our very diverse school population. Equilibrium continued to serve the international students who wish to improve their English and increase their awareness of life and culture in Canada. However, we noticed this year a significant spike in the new immigrant students registration who wish to return to education in order to complete their Canadian high school diploma. Although originally created for international students, Equilibrium has now both Canadian and International students in roughly the same proportion. This new trend allows our international students direct contact with the Canadian culture, and allow our Canadian students to meet people from around the world. It allowed us this year to promote integration among Canadian and International students on much larger scale.

Our English as a Second Language (ESL) courses at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels with emphasis on written and oral communication skills, and reading comprehension were successfully completed by almost 95 % of all students enrolled. This year in each ESL course level, one-third off classroom instruction time was dedicated to building functional English language proficiency in the "real world" outside the school environment. In other words, using the English language for daily communication, supplemented by the necessary grammatical competencies, was taught at all levels. Day classes include outings to various nearby institutions, shopping malls., libraries, and museums in order for the language to be practiced in a "real" environment rather than just the artificial and vicarious environment of the classroom. All students including the high school students spent a numerous afternoons and weekends experiencing a variety of recreational and cultural activities in and around Calgary. This includes outings to cultural events and restaurants in Calgary, as well as trips to the Rocky Mountains, and Drumheller.

The school was able to continue its individual approach to each and every student by supporting students through its advisor program and individual counseling. Our counselors helped

the number of our graduates to prepare their university or college applications forms, if needed they also evaluated the students transcripts from their home country and enable them to get credit for courses they have already taken in their country from origin.

Equilibrium International Education Institute has a policy to maintain small class size in order to enable students a closer relationship with their teacher, and a more personalized teaching style which we delivered this year.

Equilibrium International Education Institute continued to provide the students with all the resources they needed to succeed in their studies. We expended our library of books, educational videos and computer software. We also maintained and upgraded a computer laboratory where students were encouraged to use the computers to prepare their assignments for Social Studies, English, or other classes.

We continued to develop further our AISI project called High School Social Studies. The goal of the project is to address the fact that majority of our students come to our school from around the world or are new immigrants and do not necessarily speak fluent English or have a good grasp of how to be successful in our Alberta education system. The project is designed to expand student learning opportunities particularly in Canadian History and Geography to ensure that these international students come to appreciate their Canadian community, especially Alberta. To do so, we engaged students in field trips, had guest speakers, and undertook special projects, e.g. Remembrance Day. We also worked with students to develop their ESL and test-writing skills, particularly essay writing to be ensure success in Social Studies Diploma Exams.

Information on our AISI project - High School Social Studies is available at:

<https://phoenix.edc.gov.ab.ca/login/aisi/forms/default.asp>

PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

GOAL ONE: HIGH QUALITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Outcome: Schools provide a safe and caring environment.

Performance Measure		Results					Target
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007/08
Overall teacher, parent and student agreement that students are safe at school, learning the importance of caring for others, learning respect for others, and are treated fairly at school.	Overall Jurisdiction	85 %	85%	85 %	90 %	90 %	93 %
	Province	80.7 %	83.1 %	84.4 %	84.2 %	85.1 %	85 %

Strategies:

Equilibrium organized number of events to highlight the ethnic, cultural and language diversity among our students to celebrate their uniqueness and learn to respect each other during 2007/08 school year.

School nurse as well as school's friends from the fire department and police were asked to deliver educational speeches on health safety (including smoking and drank driving) as well as safety on the road (since many of our students already drivers their own vehicles) and at school (option of certified CPR courses).

GOAL ONE: HIGH QUALITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Outcome: The education system meets the needs of all K – 12 students, society and the economy.

Performance Measure		Results				Target	
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007/08
Percentages of teachers, parents and students satisfied with the opportunity for students to receive a broad program of studies, including fine arts, career, technology, and health and physical education.	Overall Jurisdiction	85 %	85%	85 %	80 %	80 %	83 %
	Province	75.8 %	76.7 %	78.1 %	78.5 %	79.4 %	79.0 %

Strategies:

Equilibrium does not have a gym facility hence the difficulty with providing students with the physical education option. Equilibrium continued to offer affordable tuition fee as well as offer the option of the funding through the AEII. Equilibrium continued to incorporate information technology into the curriculum by providing easy and complimentary access to the computer lab. Students were encouraged to use information technology in order to increase and expand their subject knowledge.

GOAL ONE: HIGH QUALITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Outcome: Children and youth at risk have their needs addressed through effective programs and support.

Performance Measure		Results				Target	
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007/08
Annual dropout rate of students aged 14 to 18.	Overall Jurisdiction	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	2 %	3%
	Province	5.5 %	5.3 %	5.0 %	4.7 %	5.0 %	5.0 %

Strategies:

Equilibrium is a safe and caring school where each student is treated as a family member. To continue our great results in keeping students in school and eliminating completely the dropout rate we continued to have small classes (maximum of 15 students) and provided very individualized program of teaching.

GOAL ONE: HIGH QUALITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Outcome: Students complete programs.

Performance Measure		Results				Target	
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007/08
Percentages of students who completed high school within three, four and five years of entering Grade 10.	Within 3 years Overall Jurisdiction	97 %	97 %	97%	97 %	98 %	95%
	Within 3 years Province	67.8 %	69.3 %	70.4 %	70.4 %	71.0 %	71.0 %

Strategies:

Equilibrium monitored all students to make sure that they follow their academic schedules that set their educational goals and time framework for completing them. Once a given student failed to complete his/her set goals for a given semester a meeting was called to have them adjusted and/or a new alternative ways of reaching the goals were suggested (Summer school or individualized program like tutoring or peer help).

GOAL TWO: EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Outcome: Students demonstrate high standards in learner outcomes.

Performance Measure
Percentages of students who achieve the acceptable standard and the percentages who achieve the standard of excellence on diploma examinations.
<p>Strategies:</p> <p>Equilibrium continued to be committed to providing small class sizes conducive to more effective teaching, with a maximum of 15 students.</p> <p>Equilibrium continued to offer one on one provincial diploma exam preparation programs tailored towards English as a Second Language students.</p>

Performance Measure		Results					Target
		A E* 2004	A E* 2005	A E* 2006	A E* 2007	A E* 2008	A E* 2007/08
English 30-1	Jurisdiction	16.7/0	31.8/0	22.2/0	10.5/0	12/0	65
	Province	92.0/18.8	89.1/17.8	88.0/19.3	87.7/19.0	87.1/15.5	
Social Studies 30	Jurisdiction	30.8/0	20/0	75/0	12.5/0	20/0	65
	Province	85.9/23.8	85.2/24.3	85.5/23.9	86.1/24.6	84.7/21.5	
Social Studies 33	Jurisdiction	n/a	n/a	n/a	60/10	25/0	65
	Province	82.9/15.0	85.0/17.6	83.5/19.0	84.8/19.6	85.3/18.9	
Pure Math 30	Jurisdiction	64.3/0	40/0	76.5/23.5	77.8/11.1	46.7/0	65
	Province	83.7/32.0	80.6/25.7	82.8/26.5	81.1/24.6	81.3/25.8	
Biology 30	Jurisdiction	50/0	55.6/22.2	42.9/0	n/a	66.7/0	65
	Province	81.9/26.6	81.9/26.6	81.4/26.4	83.5/27.4	82.3/26.3	
Chemistry 30	Jurisdiction	40/10	66.7/0	75/12.5	n/a	54.5/18.2	65
	Province	85.7/27.9	88.2/33.4	88.4/37.1	89.3/37.9	89.2/39.2	
Overall	Jurisdiction	40.36/0	42.82/4.44	75.02/16.28	40.2/5.27	37.48/3.03	
	Province	85.8/22.2	85.7/23.0	84.7/23.0	85.4/23.3	85.0/22.3	

*“A” = Acceptable; “E” = Excellence — the percentages achieving the acceptable standard include the percentages achieving the standard of excellence

GOAL TWO: EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Outcome: Students are well prepared for lifelong learning.

Performance Measure		Results					Target
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007/08
High school to post-secondary transition rate within four and six years of entering Grade 10.	Within 6 years Jurisdiction	98 %	99 %	99%	99 %	99 %	95%
	Within 6 years Province	51.5 %	54.4 %	57.5 %	59.5 %	60.3 %	
	Within 4 years Jurisdiction	98 %	99 %	99%	99 %	99 %	95%
	Within 4 years Province	32.8 %	34.0 %	37.0 %	39.5 %	40.7 %	

Strategies:

Equilibrium continued to assist all their students who wished to continue their studies at the post-secondary level. Equilibrium's staff helped students to set out their academic schedules to include required high school pre-requisites, planned wisely the high school credit course completion dates (to synchronize them with the post-secondary deadlines) as well as completed on time all language requirements (like TOEFL).

Equilibrium continued to organize Career Days that brought a number of post-secondary representatives to speak to our students about a variety of post-secondary options.
 Equilibrium continued to teach students how to use local resources (library, career fairs, computer skills, etc) to continue their learning after their graduation.

GOAL TWO: EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Outcome: Students are well prepared for employment.

Performance Measure		Results				Target	
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007/08
Percentages of teachers and parents who agree that students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school.	Overall Jurisdiction	99 %	99 %	99%	99 %	99 %	99%
	Province	72.2 %	74.9 %	77.0 %	77.1 %	80.1 %	

Strategies:

Students were taught how to work in groups and share the responsibilities of various projects as well as appreciate others. Equilibrium continued to use its strict attendance policy that encourages students to be punctual as well as take a responsibly for their actions.

GOAL TWO: EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Outcome: Students model the characteristics of active citizenship.

Performance Measure		Results				Target	
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007/08
Percentages of teachers, parents and students who are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship.	Overall Jurisdiction	95 %	95 %	95%	99 %	99 %	99%
	Province	72.2 %	75.3 %	76.8 %	76.6 %	77.9 %	

Strategies:

Equilibrium's students were well prepared for citizenship. Equilibrium continued to organize a number of different seminars and guest speakers (including the "Passages to Canada" series) that are designed to inform, teach and embrace Canadian customs and culture.

GOAL THREE: HIGHLY RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE JURISDICTION

Outcome: The jurisdiction demonstrates effective working relationships with partners and stakeholders.

Performance Measure		Results				Target	
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007/08
Percentages of teachers and parents satisfied with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education.	Overall Jurisdiction	90 %	90 %	90%	90 %	95 %	95%
	Province	74.1 %	76.1 %	77.9 %	77.5 %	78.2 %	

Strategies:

Equilibrium continued its policy of having a close contact over the phone, email or in person with students' parents and legal guardians.

GOAL THREE: HIGHLY RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE JURISDICTION

Outcome: The jurisdiction demonstrates leadership and continuous improvement

Performance Measure		Results				Target	
		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007/08
Percentages of teachers, parents and students indicating that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same the last three years.	Overall Jurisdiction	99 %	99 %	99 %	99 %	99 %	99 %
	Province	68.8 %	73.9 %	76.8 %	76.3 %	77.0 %	
<p>Strategies: Equilibrium continued to support their teachers and staff and assist them in their professional growth (professional days, access to educational/learning/teaching resources thorough on site bookstore, professional growth programs like CPR)</p>							

FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR 2008/2011

Equilibrium International Education Institute's priority areas for improvement include:

1. Improving communication with AEII in Edmonton responsible for the Skills Development Programs.
2. Lobby AEII to allocate more funds into existing Skills Development programs in our school to allow more financially disadvantaged students as well as adult students (who otherwise do not qualify to return to secondary school system) attend our programs. Equilibrium International Education Institute with its personal approach to teaching and small class sizes is able to offer high quality education to students who would normally be unable to afford it. Equilibrium International Education Institute recognizes the existing need in the community for such programs.
3. Continue to organize supplemental English/ Social Studies classes for the English as a Second Language students in order to help them succeed in the regular classroom as well as increase their performance on the provincial diploma exams.
4. Continue to provide access to information technology. Equilibrium International Education Institute is planning to maintain its existing computer lab by adding new equipment and upgrading existing software. An alternative to the tuition fee and government-funding source of revenue will be used for that project. Equilibrium International Education Institute will keep using the resources provided by "Computers for Schools Program" that are free of charge.
5. Develop further the AISI Social Studies project. Equilibrium International Education Institute recognizes the need as well as benefits of such unique extra curriculum program tailored towards English as a Second Language students. We found that many English as a Second Language students struggle with basic Social Studies facts and knowledge since they were raised abroad. We would like to expand students' learning opportunities particularly in Canadian History and Geography to ensure that these international students come to appreciate their Canadian community, especially Alberta. To do so, we plan to engage students in field trips, have guest speakers, and undertake special projects, e.g. Remembrance Day.