

For Immediate Release

A Piece of the Puzzle, But Not the Full Picture

Saint-Hubert, May 30, 2019 – Further to the report that was aired today by Radio-Canada, we think it is important to provide an accurate picture of the situation.

It is true that the English school boards of Québec are facing specific challenges when it comes to recruiting professionals considering the fact that our professionals are required to be bilingual. As an example of these challenges, despite two separate postings to hire 1.5 professionals, these positions remained unfilled. This forced us to call on private professionals to provide the required services. Furthermore, Anglophone universities in Québec do not offer the “*orthopédagogue*” program and the English school boards in Québec do not have this category of professionals in our classification plan. We therefore use resource teachers to accomplish the tasks normally done by “*orthopédagogues*”. At Riverside, we currently have over 50 resource positions in our schools and centres. It is thus inaccurate to equate the low ratio of professionals with the level of service provided to our students.

In order to accurately represent the ratio calculated in the article, two factors must be considered. Firstly, the number of professionals is actually 37.8 and not 31.1 as of today. Secondly, the 50 or so resource teachers must be factored into these calculations thus bringing the total number of positions to 87.8. The ratio should thus read 103:1 as opposed to 285:1.

This ratio is more aligned with the data we have received from the Ministry indicating that, for the 2017-2018 school year, we invested \$2,361,490 *more* in “*adaptation scolaire*” than allocated.

These factors explain why we rank as the the 3rd best graduating school board in the province while also maintaining one of the highest ratio of integration of students with special needs (over 93%) in our regular classes.