

**DATE:** June 6, 2017

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Locally Developed Courses

**ORIGINATOR:** Nancy Petersen, Acting Executive Director, Governance and Strategic Support Services

**RESOURCE**

**STAFF:** Janice Aubry, Laurie Houston, Bob Morter, Ania Ossowska

**REFERENCE:** [Alberta Education - Guide to Education](#)  
[Ministerial Order on Student Learning \(#001/2013\)](#)  
[GA.BP - Student Programs of Study](#)  
[GAA.BP - Delivery of Student Programs of Study](#)  
[GK.BP - Student Assessment, Achievement and Growth](#)  
[GKB.AR - Standards for Evaluation](#)

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## ISSUE

Alberta Education requires that all locally developed courses (LDCs) be approved by the Board of Trustees prior to submission to Alberta Education and implementation in schools.

## BACKGROUND

LDCs are courses that are developed or acquired and authorized by school authorities to provide students with learning opportunities that complement provincial programs of study. LDCs provide unique opportunities for students to explore a range of interests in subject areas or extend the learning outcomes in provincial programs. These courses accommodate special interests and abilities of students, support District alternative programs, and address local, community or parental interests. LDCs support the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.

Alberta Education supports the local development and authorization of junior high school and senior high school complementary courses which do not duplicate provincially authorized courses. These courses serve to:

- further develop and cultivate the unique interests and abilities of students
- foster educational improvement and excellence through innovation at the local level
- meet the unique needs of a local community

LDCs are approved and/or renewed on a four-year cycle by the developing school authority. In the case of high school courses, the courses must also be approved and/or renewed by Alberta Education. This process is governed by District and provincial policies.

All LDCs developed by Edmonton Public Schools have also been revised to ensure they meet current student, school, community and program needs, as well as provincial and District requirements. This includes ensuring that these courses:

- are aligned with the elements of the *Ministerial Order on Student Learning* (#001/2013)

- contain a rationale, philosophy, and general and specific learning outcomes aligned with the provincial requirements and standards
- contain updated, current content

Supplementary information for teachers related to all LDCs, such as assessment information and possible resources, will be made available to teachers on an internal website. Student progress for all LDCs is to be assessed in accordance with GK.BP - Student Assessment, Achievement and Growth and GKB.AR - Standards for Evaluation.

### RELATED FACTS

- All District-developed LDCs in this report were reviewed and/or revised collaboratively with District teachers, school administrators and central staff.
- Other school authorities in Alberta request to acquire many LDCs from Edmonton Public Schools each year.
- Edmonton Public Schools acquires a number of LDCs from other school authorities in the province.
- School authorities may not amend or adapt the content in LDCs acquired from other school authorities without prior written consent.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 2021:**

- Advanced Governance and Public Policy 15-25-35 (5 credit)
- Audio 15-25-35 (3 credit)
- Aviation 35-3
- Biodynamics 9
- Botany 8
- Braided Journeys 15-25-35 (3 credit)
- English Critical Reading and Writing: Prose 35-5
- Film and Media Art 15-25-35 (3 and 5 credit)

### OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

1. Approve the LDCs as presented.
2. Approve the LDCs, with amendments to those developed by the District.
3. Do not approve the LDCs.

### CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

- LDCs support the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.
- LDCs provide unique opportunities for students to explore a range of interests in subject areas, extend the learning outcomes in provincial programs, and/or accommodate special interests and abilities of students.
- Many LDCs support District alternative programming and career pathways.

### NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will submit the high school LDCs developed by the District to Alberta Education for approval. If approved, the Administration will make those LDCs available for the 2017-2018 school year.

### ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I      Summaries of LDCs submitted for Approval on June 6, 2017.

ATTACHMENT II     Course Completions for Film Studies 15-25-35

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## Summaries of LDCs Submitted for Approval on June 6, 2017

### **ADVANCED GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY 15-25-35 (5 credit)**

This LDC series has been identified through the District LEGACY work as a next step to further build student capacity in governance and public policy.

Advanced Governance and Public Policy 15-25-35 is a new course series which focuses on the development of leadership, the understanding of governance structures within public, private and voluntary sectors, as well as an understanding of public policy issues and societal issues within various communities. Students in Advanced Governance and Public Policy 15-25-35 build confidence, enhance understandings and develop professional standards and values through meaningful youth engagement in public policy debate and the design and implementation of plans to address social issues. Through authentic, hands-on learning and career-related experiences based on student interests, students have the opportunity to develop, apply and reflect on governance learnings.

### **AUDIO 15-25-35 (3 credit)**

Audio 15-25-35 (3 credit) provides students with opportunities to create and collaborate in the expression of ideas, thoughts and feelings through audio production and to develop a repertoire of skills that they can apply into real life situations. Students use various technologies and develop understandings of the audio production industry. Students enrolled in this LDC series develop audio recording techniques, post-production mixing skills and the ability to connect these techniques and skills to the benchmarks that exist in the history of popular music. Audio 15-25-35 (3 credit) provides opportunities for students to explore possible career interests and pathways that could capitalize on their knowledge, skills and abilities in artistic expression.

### **AVIATION 35-3**

Aviation 35 is a 3 credit course developed by Chinook's Edge School Division. Aviation 35-3 is intended to inspire and motivate students toward a career in aviation. As well, it will provide the opportunity for students to develop the skills necessary to succeed in the aviation field. Students will work with real-world curricula, and will be required to think critically, conceptualize and apply the knowledge they gain.

### **BIODYNAMICS 9**

Biodynamics 9 provides students with opportunities to deepen their understanding of biological principles related to ocean and wetlands ecosystems, and further develop their laboratory skills beyond the scope of the junior high science curriculum. In Biodynamics 9, the focus is on students gaining knowledge and understanding through the experience of applying scientific practices in laboratory settings, field settings and interaction with others. The aim of Biodynamics 9 is for students to become confident, independent problem-solvers who use critical thinking to analyze and evaluate experimental design.

### **BOTANY 8**

Botany 8 provides students with opportunities to augment their understanding of biological principles related to the field of botany, while further developing their laboratory skills beyond the scope of the junior high science curriculum. Botany 8 focuses on students gaining knowledge and understanding through the experience of applying scientific practices in laboratory studies, field settings and interaction with others. In Botany 8, the explorative and experimental process encourages students to engage critically and analytically and connect their classroom studies with the world that surrounds them.

**BRAIDED JOURNEYS 15-25-35 (3 credit)**

Braided Journeys 15-25-35 is a 3 credit course series developed by Edmonton Catholic Schools. It is intended to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth to become leaders of character, vision and action. First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth are provided with multi-component, culturally-based programs that challenge their creativity, build on their skill set, and increase their support network. In addition, youth have the opportunity to develop citizenship skills, thus enhancing self-esteem and confidence. Participants also gain skills through a variety of cultural and potential leadership activities.

**ENGLISH CRITICAL READING AND WRITING: PROSE 35-5**

English Critical Reading and Writing: Prose 35 is a 5 credit course developed by Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School District. As the outcomes correspond with Norquest's English 1011 course, it has the potential to become part of the District's dual credit opportunities.

This course assists students to develop critical reading, writing and thinking skills while studying a range of literary prose beyond the regular English language arts curriculum. It offers a diverse selection of novels, short stories, essays, creative non-fiction and films. Texts selected will be representative of different historical periods and cultural contexts and authors of different ethnicities and genders. This course provides enhanced opportunities for students to expand their existing knowledge and skills of making meaning from texts to better prepare for entry into first-year post-secondary English. The emphasis on student learning encourages students to be motivated, resourceful and self-reliant.

**FILM AND MEDIA ART 15-25-35 (3 and 5 credit)--Replaces Film Studies 15-25-35**

Film and Media Art 15-25-35 is a 3 and 5 credit course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. Its predecessor, Film Studies 15-25-35, has consistently had high enrolment at multiple school sites in Edmonton Public Schools. Enrolment data is provided in Attachment II. Film and Media Art is the exploration of film and media arts as an artistic form of expression. This course provides an open and active structure for learning and invites students to engage with ideas, colleagues and audiences through film and media art.

**Course Completions for Film Studies 15-25-35  
May 15, 2017**

<b>School Year</b>	<b>Course School Name</b>	<b>Film Studies 15</b>	<b>Film Studies 25</b>	<b>Film Studies 35</b>	<b>School Total</b>
<b>2011-2012</b>	Academy King Edward	8			8
	Eastglen	32	1		33
	J. Percy Page	24	2	1	27
	Jasper Place	56	11	8	75
	Lillian Osborne	40	20	13	73
	Victoria	19	10	4	33
	W. P. Wagner	28			28
<b>2011-2012 Total</b>		<b>207</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>277</b>
<b>2012-2013</b>	amiskwaciy Academy	15	1		16
	Eastglen	17	3		20
	J. Percy Page	22	8	7	37
	Jasper Place	24	21	3	48
	Lillian Osborne	39	4	9	52
	McNally			28	28
	Victoria	8	3	5	16
<b>2012-2013 Total</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>2013-2014</b>	amiskwaciy Academy	13	3		16
	Centre High	32			32
	Jasper Place	29	8	6	43
	Lillian Osborne	25	5	4	34
	McNally			34	34
	Victoria	56	5	7	68
<b>2013-2014 Total</b>		<b>155</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>2014-2015</b>	amiskwaciy Academy	3	1	2	6
	Centre High	17			17
	Jasper Place	62	11	3	76
	Lillian Osborne	31	5	3	39
	McNally			17	17
	Ross Sheppard	26	8	1	35
	Victoria	66	32	5	103
<b>2014-2015 Total</b>		<b>205</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>293</b>
<b>2015-2016</b>	Jasper Place	62	19	10	91
	Lillian Osborne	34	4	9	47
	McNally			18	18
	Ross Sheppard	36	8	5	49
	Victoria	69	18	20	107
<b>2015-2016 Total</b>		<b>201</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>312</b>

<b>2016-2017 In Progress</b>	Jasper Place	60	37	18	115
	Lillian Osborne	34	20	1	55
	Queen Elizabeth	26			26
	Ross Sheppard	49	11	6	66
	Victoria	66	25	8	99
<b>2016-2017 Total in Progress</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>361</b>