

Making the move to high school

2018–19 High School Guide





First things first

When making the move to high school, the most important step is choosing a school that suits **YOU**.

So take a moment to think:
What are your goals? Your interests?

Write them down!

My goals:

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My interests:

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Answering these questions will help guide your decisions over the next few months as you:

- **research your options**
- **apply to a school**
- **choose your courses**

Table of contents

Get on track	1
Research your options	2
Apply to a school	3
Consider your designated school	
Pre-enrol as a current student	
Register as a new District student	
Choose your courses	5
Course credits.....	5
Course numbering.....	5
Prerequisites.....	6
Course options.....	7
Diploma requirements.....	8
Core courses.....	9
English Language Arts	
Social Studies	
Mathematics	
Science	
Physical Education.....	13
Career and Life Management.....	13
Honours programs.....	14
Advanced Placement	
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme	
Off-campus education.....	15
Registered Apprenticeship Program	
Work Experience	
Knowledge and Employability.....	16
Your high school plan.....	17
Prepare for school	18
Need a ride to school?	
Course confirmation	
Supports for student success	19
Career Pathways	
Special education programming	
Get awards, scholarships and bursaries	
Feeling overwhelmed?	
Summer school	
Planning post-secondary studies	
High school locations	21

Get on track →

There are lots of steps between finishing Grade 9 and starting your first day of high school. Here's what you can do now to get on track!



Research your options

No lab coats required.

Take time to find information about schools you're interested in and choose one that suits you.

Check out the school websites and social media accounts

Find a list of high schools at [epsb.ca/schools/findaschool/list/seniorhigh](https://www.epsb.ca/schools/findaschool/list/seniorhigh). Explore school websites to learn more about what you can look forward to at each school, including:

- programs and courses
- registration dates
- athletics and clubs
- news and events
- services for students

School social media accounts will give you a snapshot of student life and exciting ways to get involved.



Review school program guides

High school program guides are full of information about school programs, courses, clubs and services. Review these guides to learn about each school's academic focus and what makes it unique. Watch for them at your school or pick one up at a high school open house.

▶ Attend school open houses

Our schools come alive when their open houses **start in February!**

It's your chance to get an all-access pass to see what different high schools are like. Explore the hallways and classrooms, chat with teachers and students to learn about programs, and get a glimpse of where your locker and classes might be. Be wowed by science experiments, dance performances, theatrical presentations, musical ensembles and so much more.

Find open house dates at [openhouse.epsb.ca](https://www.openhouse.epsb.ca).



*Schools I'm interested in
and their open house dates:*

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Registration vs. pre-enrolment

APPLY BY APRIL 16

Are you **new** to
Edmonton Public Schools?

YES

REGISTER

If you are new to Edmonton Public Schools, **register as a new District student.**

You'll need to complete a Student Registration form and take that form to the school office. You can register at any of our schools throughout the year, but applying after **April 16** may limit your options.

NO

PRE-ENROL

If you're currently an Edmonton Public Schools student, **tell your parents about pre-enrolment.**

Once you've chosen which high school you'd like to attend, **your parents need to sign in to their SchoolZone account to select your preferred school between March 12 and April 16.**

If you have questions, or need help completing pre-enrolment before the April 16 deadline, contact your current school principal.



For more information about high school registration, visit epsb.ca/schools/register/highschoolregistration.



Not sure which school to choose?

This is a big decision. Talk to your family and teachers, and meet with a counsellor or assistant principal at your school to help you decide what's best for you.

Choose your courses

Create a plan that works for you.

▶ A lesson in **vocabulary**

Course credits

To earn credits in a course, you need to complete the course with a mark of at least 50%. Each course is assigned a number of credits (usually 3 or 5), and credits can only be earned once in any course.



You need to meet course requirements and have 100 credits to graduate from high school. For more details on requirements, see page 8.

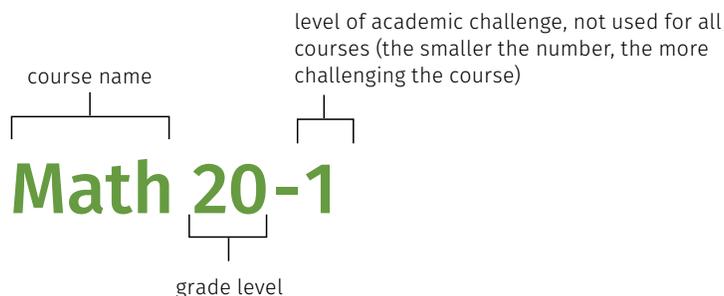
All-year vs. semestered courses

Some courses run all year from September to June, while others are semestered. Many high schools offer flexible programming schedules. Contact the schools that interest you to learn more.

Course numbering

A course number typically tells you both the grade level and level of academic challenge.

- Grade 10 courses are numbered 10 through 15 (for example, Science 10 and Science 14).
- Grade 11 courses are numbered 20 through 25 (for example, Biology 20).
- Grade 12 courses are numbered 30 through 35 (for example, Mathematics 31).



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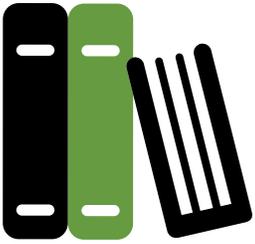
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Choose your courses *(continued)*



What are core courses?

Core courses are required to graduate.

They include:

- English Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science

Career and Life Management (CALM) and Physical Education

are also required for an Alberta High School Diploma.

Course sequences

Course numbers are arranged in sequences. For example, an English Language Arts (ELA) course sequence might involve taking English Language Arts 10-1 in Grade 10, English Language Arts 20-1 in Grade 11 and English Language Arts 30-1 in Grade 12.



Prerequisites

A prerequisite is something you need to do or know before doing or learning something else. Most Grade 11 and 12 courses have prerequisites. Usually you need to earn a grade of at least 50% in a prerequisite course to take the next course in a sequence.

For example, you'll need **at least 50%** in Social Studies 10-1 to take Social Studies 20-1.

If you earn less than 50%, you may choose to:

- repeat the course or
- continue to the next level in a less challenging course sequence (if available) and earn credits retroactively

For example, if you earn less than 50% in Social Studies 10-1, but continue to Social Studies 20-2 and complete the course (with at least 50%), you will earn credits for Social Studies 10-2 and Social Studies 20-2.

Choose your courses *(continued)*

Diploma exams

are tests given to Alberta high school students who are taking 30-level diploma examination courses. Final marks in these courses are a blend of school and diploma exam marks.

Diploma exams are required in:

- English Language Arts 30-1 and 30-2
- Social Studies 30-1 and 30-2
- Mathematics 30-1 and 30-2
- Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30 and Science 30
- French Language Arts 30-1

Alberta High School Diploma requirements

To obtain an Alberta High School Diploma, you must earn at least 100 credits by taking required courses plus other courses that interest you and help you achieve your goals.

These courses are required for a diploma.

- English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2
- Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2
- Mathematics 20-1 or 20-2 or 20-3
- Science 20 or 24 or Biology 20 or Chemistry 20 or Physics 20
- Physical Education 10
- Career and Life Management (CALM)

The science requirement may also be met with the 10-credit combination of Science 14 and Science 10.

Earn 10 credits or more, in any combination, from:

At least 10 credits should come from these courses.

- Career and Technology Studies (CTS)
- Fine arts
- Second languages
- Physical Education 20 and/or 30
- Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) courses
- Knowledge and Employability courses

Earn 10 credits or more in any 30-level course (in addition to a 30-level English Language Arts and 30-level Social Studies), in any combination, from:

At least 10 credits should come from these courses.

- 30-level Mathematics or Science or fine arts or second languages or CTS or Physical Education
- 30-level locally developed courses
- 30-level Work Experience
- 30-level Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)
- 30-level Knowledge and Employability courses
- Advanced level (3000 series) in CTS courses
- 30-level Green Certificate Program courses
- Special Projects 30

Locally developed courses give you a chance to explore a range of interests like film and media art, leadership or vocal jazz.

Learn more about these course options from high schools that interest you.

More information: education.alberta.ca.

Core courses

English Language Arts *Words for the wise.*

Studying English Language Arts (ELA) involves much more than learning how to read and write. The two aims of the high school English Language Arts program are to:

- provide you with an understanding and appreciation of a broad range of texts
- enable you to use language for many purposes

English Language Arts focuses on six areas: listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing.

English Language Arts (ELA) 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1 focus on interpreting complex texts and refining your ability to show that you understand those texts. Students who take this course sequence will create and analyze a variety of literary texts with increasingly sophisticated written expression.



English Language Arts (ELA) 10-2, 20-2 and 30-2 allow you to engage in the same goals as the -1 stream, but with more focus on popular non-fiction texts and feature films. The emphasis is on developing your understanding of and ability to communicate about various texts.

Both course sequences meet diploma requirements and require you to write a diploma exam upon completion of the 30-level course.

Some post-secondary programs accept English Language Arts 30-2 for entry. Make sure you're familiar with entrance requirements for the programs you're considering. Talk to your school counsellor to make sure your chosen course sequence is right for you.

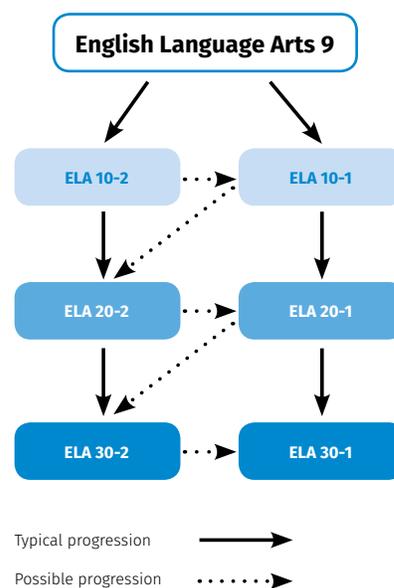


Both the -1 and -2 English Language Arts course sequences can be used to apply for the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- ✓ **English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2**



Choose your courses *(continued)*

Social Studies *Connect with your world.*



Social Studies explores how people are connected to each other and the world. By studying past and present issues, you'll learn about diversity and respecting multiple perspectives. The goal is to help you decide your future as an engaged and responsible citizen within your local and global communities.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- ✓ **Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2**

There are two main course sequences in Social Studies:

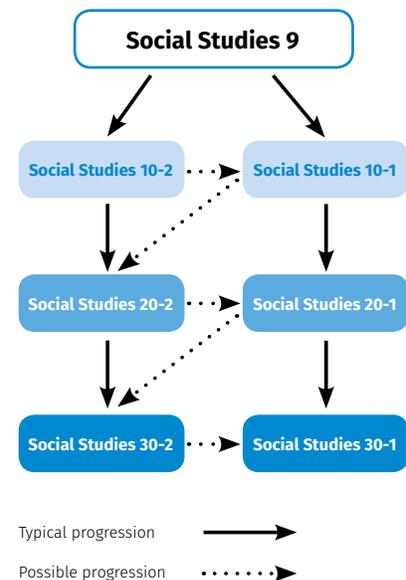
- **Social Studies 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1**
- **Social Studies 10-2, 20-2 and 30-2**

In both sequences, students explore the meaning and effects of globalization, nationalism and ideologies. Additionally, both sequences meet diploma requirements upon completion of the 30-level course. However, the expectations for Social Studies 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1 put more emphasis on complex concept development, critical thinking and skill development.

Many post-secondary schools accept Social Studies 30-2 for entry. Make sure you're familiar with entrance requirements for the post-secondary programs you're considering. Talk to your counsellors to make sure your chosen course sequence is right for you.



Both the -1 and -2 Social Studies course sequences can be used to apply for the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement.



Mathematics *Here's where it should all add up.*



Math counts! In every aspect of your life, you use numbers, problem solving and spatial reasoning to help make decisions. The more you learn about how math systems work, the better you will be at making choices that help yourself and others.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- ✓ a 10- and 20- level math course to earn at least 10 credits

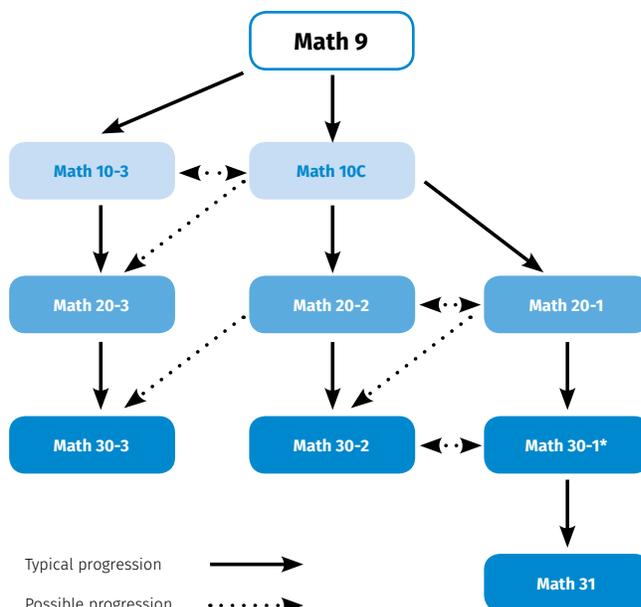
Mathematics 10C (Combined) is the starting point for both course sequences and will prepare you for entry into post-secondary programs that require advanced math skills. You must typically have 50% in Math 9 to enter this course.

Mathematics 20-1 and **30-1** are precalculus courses designed to prepare you for entry into post-secondary studies involving calculus, such as engineering, business and certain sciences. You can take Mathematics 30-1 before or at the same time as Mathematics 31.

Mathematics 20-2 and **30-2** prepare you for post-secondary studies in programs that do not involve calculus.

Mathematics 10-3, 20-3 and **30-3** provide you with the foundational understanding and critical-thinking skills for entry into many trades and for direct entry into the workforce.

Mathematics 31 is a calculus course that prepares you for post-secondary programs that recommend or require high school calculus for entrance. See your school counsellor for more information.



*Math 30-1 is a prerequisite or corequisite for Math 31.



- Both the -1 and -2 Math course sequences can be used to apply for the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement.

Choose your courses *(continued)*

Science *Curiosity thrives here!*

Science inspires a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world. Studying the relationships between science, technology and society can help you understand how and why things work. You might even make discoveries that improve yourself and the world.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- ✓ **Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics at the 20 level OR both Science 14 and 10**

Science 10 is the prerequisite for all the academic sciences. In other words, you need to complete Science 10 before advancing to other science courses. Science 10 provides you with an overview of the biological, chemical, physical and earth sciences, as well as an awareness of the connections between them.

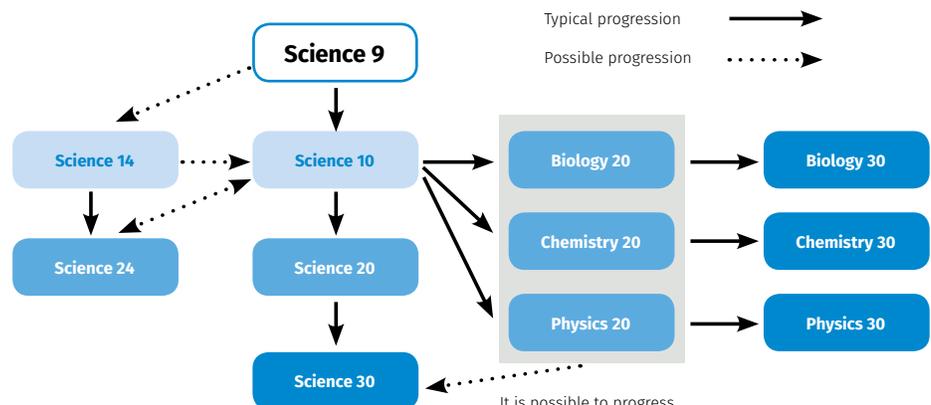
Biology 20 and **30** explore how living organisms interact with each other and within their systems. Biology 20 focuses on energy and matter exchange and is a prerequisite for Biology 30. Biology 30 emphasizes adaptation and change.

Chemistry 20 and **30** examine matter and how it interacts on a molecular level. You'll get a chance to explore and understand the natural world and see chemistry's great influence on your everyday life.

Physics 20 and **30** examine matter and energy and their interactions. You will study the underlying physics principles behind natural events and man-made technologies.

Science 20 and **30** explore concepts related to physics, biology, chemistry and earth sciences. Biology 20, Chemistry 20 and Physics 20 can be used as prerequisites for Science 30.

Science 14 and **24** include topics in biology, chemistry and physics you can apply in your daily life. These courses allow you to meet the credit requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma for approved science coursework.



It is possible to progress from any of these 20-level courses to Science 30.

Physical Education *Make your move!*

Physical Education classes are a great way to foster a healthy and active lifestyle. Their central theme—daily active living—explores four main concepts: movement activities, health benefits, interacting positively with others and personal responsibility.

REQUIRED

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- ✓ **at least 3 credits in Physical Education 10**

Physical Education 10 (3 or 5 credits) is one of the requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma. Physical Education gives you the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to lead an active, healthy lifestyle.

Physical Education 20 and **30** (3 or 5 credits) are optional courses and involve increased exposure to life-skill activities and leadership experience. The skills developed in these courses help you make choices that lead to an active, healthy lifestyle.



Physical Education 9

Physical Education 10

Physical Education 20

Physical Education 30

Career and Life Management (CALM) *Grow your skills.*

Career and Life Management (CALM) helps you develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for well-being in our rapidly changing society. You will learn to make well-informed decisions in all aspects of your life.

CALM is organized around three main themes:

- self-awareness and health
- resources related to independent living
- career and life choices

Students will participate in independent assignments, group projects and discussions. Guest speakers may visit the class to provide information on a wide range of health and wellness issues.

REQUIRED

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- ✓ **CALM**

Honours programs

Many high schools offer honours programs that focus on preparing you for university. If you are considering an honours program, certain courses will differ from those in a regular high school program. The rigorous curriculum is designed to give you a strong foundation for academic post-secondary studies, and could earn you university credit for certain courses. Check with your school counsellor to learn more before planning your courses.

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) courses help students develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. The AP program is recognized by hundreds of universities in more than 60 countries. AP is offered at:

- Eastglen
- Edmonton Christian
- J. Percy Page
- Jasper Place
- Millwoods Christian
- Queen Elizabeth
- Strathcona
- W.P. Wagner

More info: apcanada.collegeboard.org

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme is designed to develop inquiring minds, an international perspective and effective work habits. IB qualification is recognized internationally and accepted by more than 100 universities worldwide. IB is offered at:

- Harry Ainlay
- Jasper Place
- Lillian Osborne
- M.E. LaZerte
- McNally
- Old Scona Academic
- Ross Sheppard
- Victoria

More info: ibo.org



Choose your courses *(continued)*

Knowledge and Employability

Earning a Certificate of High School Achievement

Students enrolled in Knowledge and Employability (K&E) courses can take advantage of community partnerships to prepare for employment, further studies, active citizenship and lifelong learning. K&E courses give you the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities at school and off-campus, maximizing your chances for success in whatever you choose to do.

Earn a **Certificate of High School Achievement** when you complete 80 credits in a combination of K&E and other courses.

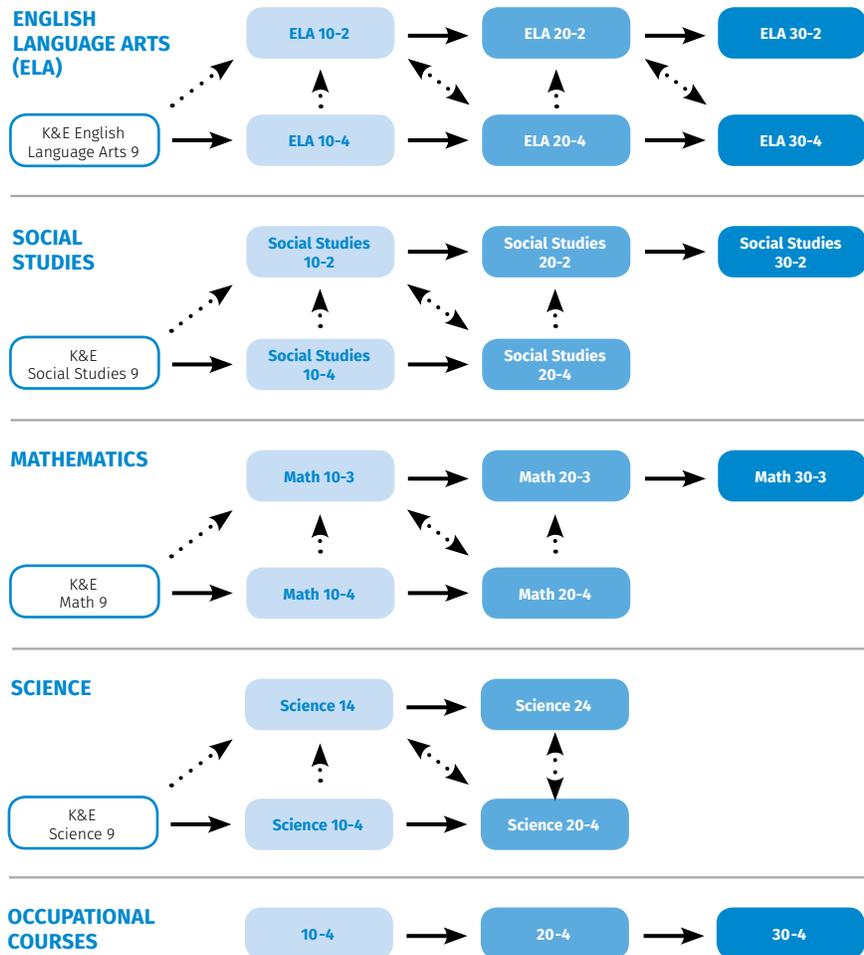
OR

Earn an **Alberta High School Diploma** if you meet the requirements listed on page 8.

K&E courses are for you if:

- you plan to complete a Certificate of High School Achievement (rather than an Alberta High School Diploma)
- your goals include succeeding in school to better prepare for the workplace
- you achieve your greatest success through hands-on learning activities

Some students start in K&E courses and then shift to other high school courses. To make the transition, consult with your school counsellor and parents or guardians. Transitions will be decided based on your needs, goals and achievements. You may also transition to training opportunities and continuing education (which includes some colleges and apprenticeship programs).



Typical progression →
Possible progression ·····→

Your high school plan

Use what you learn from this guide to make decisions about your studies for the next three years. By planning ahead, you can make sure your studies meet requirements and serve your goals and interests.



Checklist

Make sure you:

- choose core and option courses needed for your program*
- have the prerequisites you need
- consider what you need in order to apply for post-secondary studies and achieve your career goals

* Career and Life Management (CALM) and Physical Education are not core courses, but are required for an Alberta High School Diploma, so don't forget to add them to your list!

Sample plan

The sample plan gives you a sense of the courses required to get an Alberta High School Diploma.

Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS
English Language Arts	5	English Language Arts	5	English Language Arts	5
Social Studies	5	Social Studies	5	Social Studies	5
Mathematics	5	Mathematics	5	30/35/30-4 level course:	5
Science	5	Science	5		
Physical Education	5	CALM	3	30/35/30-4 level course:	5
Option:	5	Option:	5	Option:	5
Option:	5	Option:	5	Option:	5
Option:	5	Option:	5	Option:	5
TOTAL CREDITS		TOTAL CREDITS		TOTAL CREDITS	
Recommended credits: 40		Recommended credits: 35 minimum		Recommended credits: 30 minimum	

Need a bit more help planning your courses?

Visit myblueprint.ca/epsb to design a plan based on courses offered at the school of your choice. You can find Canada-wide information about post-secondary and employment opportunities based on that plan.

Prepare for school

Rise and shine for your first day!

Buses that go by my school:

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What I need to bring for my first day:

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Need a ride to school?

Some students drive themselves to school while others catch rides with family or take public transit. Check [takeets.com](https://www.takeets.com) to see if there's an Edmonton Transit System (ETS) route that will take you to school.

Watch for your course confirmation

During the summer break, you'll get information on SchoolZone from your high school with confirmation of the courses you've requested. Let your high school know if you need to change any classes.

You may also be invited to attend an orientation day or registration day where you'll pick up your timetable, get textbooks and smile for your student ID photo.



Save the date!

The first day for most schools is **September 4!**

My goals for after high school:

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Feeling overwhelmed?

High school is both exciting and challenging. You may experience issues with school work, getting along with other students or problems not directly related to school. It's OK to ask for help. Talk to the schools you're considering to learn about the supports they have for students. You can also find supports at

[epsb.ca/schools/goingtoschool/studentconduct/support](https://www.epsb.ca/schools/goingtoschool/studentconduct/support).



Summer school

Summer school can help you complete required courses, free up space in your timetable for next year, upgrade marks or finish your diploma to pursue post-secondary courses. You can choose from a variety of 10-, 20- and 30-level subjects and finish courses in under four weeks.

Summer school is open to students of all ages. Daytime and evening classes are offered in a variety of locations around Edmonton.

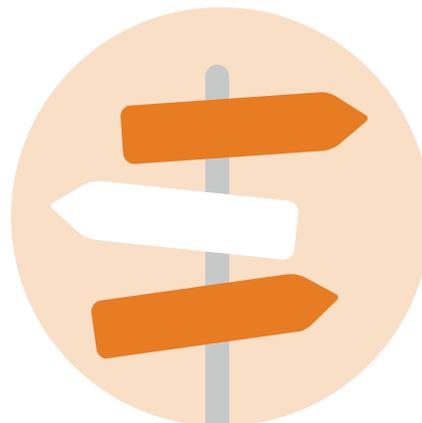
For more information, speak with your high school counsellor, call Metro Continuing Education at 780-428-1111 or visit **[metrocontinuingeducation.ca](https://www.metrocontinuingeducation.ca)**.

Planning post-secondary studies

Student Services or an assistant principal at your future high school can help you plan for post-secondary studies. You'll want to become familiar with admission requirements for the post-secondary schools you're considering. Check each school's website for up-to-date requirements, registration deadlines and program info.

Find lists of post-secondary institutions, planning resources and more at:

- **[education.alberta.ca](https://www.education.alberta.ca)**
- **[eae.alberta.ca](https://www.eae.alberta.ca)**
- **[alis.alberta.ca](https://www.alis.alberta.ca)**



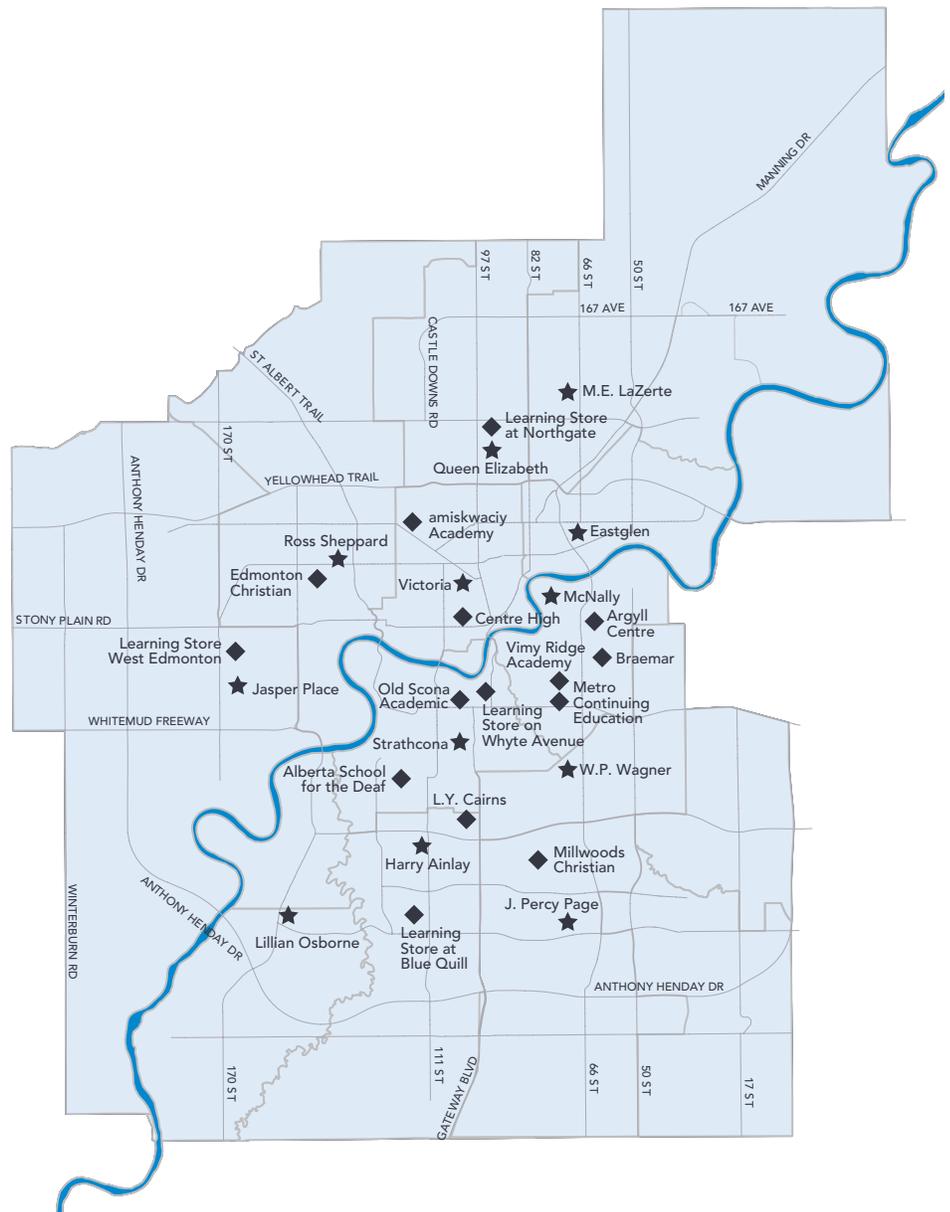
High school locations →

High schools with designated attendance areas:

- ★ Eastglen
- ★ Harry Ainlay
- ★ J. Percy Page
- ★ Jasper Place
- ★ Lillian Osborne
- ★ M.E. LaZerte
- ★ McNally
- ★ Queen Elizabeth
- ★ Ross Sheppard
- ★ Strathcona
- ★ Victoria
- ★ W.P. Wagner

Specialized high school programs without designated attendance areas:

- ◆ Alberta School for the Deaf
- ◆ Academy at King Edward (*multiple campuses*)
- ◆ amiskwacyi Academy
- ◆ Argyll Centre
- ◆ Braemar
- ◆ Centre High Campus
- ◆ Edmonton Christian
- ◆ L.Y. Cairns
- ◆ Learning Store at Blue Quill
- ◆ Learning Store at Northgate
- ◆ Learning Store West Edmonton
- ◆ Learning Store on Whyte Avenue
- ◆ Metro Continuing Education
- ◆ Millwoods Christian
- ◆ Old Scona Academic
- ◆ Vimy Ridge Academy



Use the Find a School tool to search for your designated school. You can also search by school name, program or keyword.

epsb.ca/fast

Find the most up-to-date version of this information at **epsb.ca**.

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EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS