

DATE: June 9, 2015

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses

ORIGINATOR: Mary Michailides, Assistant Superintendent, Support for Schools

RESOURCE STAFF: Janice Aubry, Diane Brunton, Melody Kostiuk

REFERENCE: [Alberta Education - Guide to Education](#)
[GA.BP - Student Programs of Study](#)
[GAA.BP - Delivery of Student Programs](#)
[GK.BP- Student Assessment, Achievement and Growth](#)
[GKB.AR- Standards for Evaluation](#)

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) until August 2019:

- **LDCs Acquired From Other School Authorities**
 - **Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35**
 - **Musical Theatre 15-25-35**
 - **Yoga 15-25-35**
- **LDCs Developed by EPSB**
 - **Biology (IB) 35**
 - **Chemistry (IB) 35**
 - **Fire Rescue Services 25 (previously Fire Protection 25)**
 - **Physics (IB) 35**

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; and

- 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 authorized and/or renewed by Alberta Education. This process is governed by District and provincial policies.

Of the LDCs recommended in this report, the following have been approved by the Board of Trustees of Calgary Board of Education (CBE), authorized by Alberta Education and acquired from CBE:

- Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35
- Musical Theatre 15-25-35
- Yoga 15-25-35

Of the LDCs recommended in this report, the following are developed by Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) and will be submitted to Alberta Education for authorization once approved by the EPSB Board of Trustees:

- Biology (IB) 35
- Chemistry (IB) 35
- Fire Rescue Services 25 (previously Fire Protection 25)
- Physics (IB) 35

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 *Inspiring Education* and 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; and
- 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.

Descriptions of each course, including current enrolments, are provided in Attachment I.

RELATED FACTS

- All LDCs in this report that are developed by the District were reviewed and 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 several 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.

OPTIONS

The following options are selected for consideration as they are deemed the most admissible:

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 & ANALYSIS

- LDCs support the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.
- All of the LDCs recommended for approval in this report have District student enrolments for 2014-2015.
- 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.
- Each of the IB LDCs (Biology (IB) 35, Chemistry (IB) 35 and Physics (IB) 35) support students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme to meet IB program requirements in the specific subject area that are beyond the provincial programs of study through the provision of the additional learner outcomes. The IB science curricula for the IB Diploma Programme have recently been revised, necessitating early revision to these LDCs.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will:

- Submit the LDCs developed by the District to Alberta Education for approval. If approved, the Administration will make those LDCs available for September 2015; and
- Make the LDCs that are acquired from CBE available for September 2015.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Summaries of LDCs Submitted For Approval on June 9, 2015

ATTACHMENT II 2014 -2015 Enrolments for LDCs Submitted for Approval June 9, 2015

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Summaries of LDCs Submitted for Approval on June 9, 2015

ACQUIRED COURSES

CREATIVE WRITING AND PUBLISHING 15-25-35

Creative Writing and Publishing is a 15 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2015. This course is currently being delivered in five District high schools and has an enrolment of 113 students in 2014-2015. Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35 is acquired from Calgary Board of Education for use in District high schools.

Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35 is designed for students who are interested in opportunities to write in a variety of genres and to experiment with new ideas, concepts and processes in their writing. This course series provides students with opportunities to explore and learn about various writing markets, prepare their writing for submission and assess how to effectively submit their writing to specific publications. Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to explore possible career interests and pathways that could capitalize on their knowledge, skills and abilities as a writer.

MUSICAL THEATRE 15-25-35

Musical Theater 15-25-35 is a 15 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered by EPSB. Musical Theatre 15-25-35 is acquired from the Calgary Board of Education and is intended for students who have had experience in drama, music and dance. It expires August 2015. It is currently being delivered in nine District high schools and has a total enrolment of 379 students in 2014-2015.

Musical Theatre 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to study musical theatre as an integral part of fine and performing arts programs and is intended for students who seek the challenge of working through the creative process to performance. Students enrolled in Musical Theatre 15-25-35 learn to understand the historical, cultural and social aspects of the musical theatre genre. It assists in preparing students for post-secondary experiences and life-long theatre experiences, both amateur and professional, in the role of performer as well as in the enjoyment of being an audience member.

YOGA 15-25-35

Yoga 15-25-35 is a 9 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires August 2015. It is currently being delivered in six District high schools and has a total enrolment of 272 students in 2014-2015. Yoga 15-25-35 is acquired from the Calgary Board of Education.

Yoga 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to pursue physical fitness and wellness beyond the Alberta Physical Education Program of Studies. The aim of this course series is to foster an awareness of the benefits of yoga for a healthy, active lifestyle and for students to develop an appreciation of yoga as a holistic pursuit of wellness. Yoga 15-25-35 provides students opportunities to develop their physical literacy through various yoga movements and develop increased self-awareness and relaxation techniques. In Yoga 15-25-35, students learn how to identify the precursors of stress and how stress release can assist them in making responsible personal choices and decisions.

DEVELOPED BY EPSB
BIOLOGY (IB) 35

Biology (IB) 35 is a 3 credit course that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered in seven District high schools and has a total enrolment of 445 students in 2014-2015.

Biology (IB) 35 is a locally developed course that allows students in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme to meet the IB program requirements that are beyond the provincial curriculum through additional instruction and opportunities to further study experimental sciences. Biology (IB) 35 allows students to engage in the pursuit to understand systems consisting of interconnected living and nonliving components and the relationships within the living and nonliving universe. The emphasis of Biology (IB) 35 is on the development of skills relating to scientific literacy, critical thinking and problem solving as students critically analyze evidence to form conclusions.

CHEMISTRY (IB) 35

Chemistry (IB) 35 is a 3 credit course that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered in seven District high schools and has a total enrolment of 416 students in 2014-2015.

Chemistry (IB) 35 is a locally developed course that allows students in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme to meet the IB program requirements that are beyond the provincial curriculum through additional instruction and opportunities to further study experimental sciences. Chemistry (IB) 35 allows students to become engaged in the process of scientific inquiry as a means of gaining an understanding of the physical laws of nature as they pertain to chemistry principles. The emphasis of Chemistry (IB) 35 is on the development of skills relating to scientific literacy, critical thinking and problem solving as students critically analyze evidence to form conclusions.

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES 25

Fire Rescue Services 25, formerly Fire Protection 25, is a 3 credit course that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2015. It is currently being delivered at Centre High and has a 2014-2015 enrolment of 44 students.

Fire Rescue Services 25 is a locally developed course intended to provide students with an opportunity to develop an awareness of and experience the role and responsibilities of a firefighter. This course series allows students to investigate potential careers in fire rescue services and qualifications for entry and advancement, but also encourages students to develop general employability skills which will serve them well in any chosen profession. This course may help prepare students interested in pursuing a fire rescue services career.

PHYSICS (IB) 35

Physics (IB) 35 is a 3 credit course that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered in six District high schools and has a total enrolment of 167 students in 2014-2015.

Physics (IB) 35 is a locally developed course that allows students in the International

Baccalaureate Diploma Programme to meet the IB program requirements that are beyond the provincial curriculum through additional instruction and opportunities to further study experimental sciences. The Physics (IB) 35 course allows students to become engaged in the process of scientific inquiry as a means of exploring the physical laws of nature from the context of scientific methodology. The emphasis of Physics (IB) 35 is on the development of skills relating to scientific literacy, critical thinking and problem solving as students critically analyze evidence to form conclusions.

2014 -2015 Enrolments for LDCs Submitted for Approval June 9, 2015

Locally Developed Course Name/Series	Schools	Total Student Enrollment 2014-2015
Biology (IB) 35	Harry Ainlay	445
	Jasper Place	
	Lillian Osborne	
	M.E. LaZerte	
	McNally	
	Old Scona	
	Ross Sheppard	
Chemistry (IB) 35	Harry Ainlay	416
	Lillian Osborne	
	M.E. LaZerte	
	McNally	
	Old Scona	
	Ross Sheppard	
	Victoria School of the Arts	
Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35	Jasper Place	113
	Vimy Ridge Academy	
	Lillian Osborne	
	Ross Sheppard	
	Victoria School of the Arts	
Fire Rescue Services 25	Centre High	44
Musical Theatre 15-25-35	Eastglen	379
	J. Percy Page	
	Lillian Osborne	
	M.E. LaZerte	
	Millwoods Christian	
	Old Scona	
	Ross Sheppard	
	Strathcona	
	Victoria School of the Arts	
Physics (IB) 35	Harry Ainlay	167
	Lillian Osborne	
	M.E. LaZerte	
	McNally	
	Old Scona	
	Ross Sheppard	
Yoga 15-25-35	Braemar	272
	Institutional Services Schools	
	McNally	
	Queen Elizabeth	
	Ross Sheppard	
	Victoria School of the Arts	