

DATE: April 19, 2016

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses

ORIGINATOR: Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director, Governance, Strategic Services and Support for Schools

RESOURCE STAFF: Janice Aubry, Melody Kostiuk

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](#)
[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.

BACKGROUND

LDCs are courses that are developed or acquired and approved 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 authorized every four years by Alberta Education. This process is governed by District and provincial policies.

A school authority may acquire courses from other school authorities, or they may request permission to acquire and adapt an LDC. This report contains LDCs that are acquired from other school authorities; no LDCs in this report have been acquired and adapted. Therefore, amendments or adaptations to these

LDCs may not be made without further written consent from the developing school authority. All of these acquired LDCs have been reviewed by District teachers and/or administrators and deemed to be still meeting the needs of District schools.

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 have been acquired from other school authorities in the province for use in the District.
- 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 2020:

- **Astronomy 15**
- **Band 15-25-35**
- **Biology (AP) 35**
- **Chemistry (AP) 35**
- **Class V Driver Training 35 (3)**
- **Competencies in Math 15**
- **ESL English for Academic Success 35**
- **ESL Expository English 15-25**
- **ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15**
- **Extended Essay (IB) 35**
- **Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35**
- **Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35**
- **Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35**
- **Reading 15-25**
- **Study of Film 35**
- **Theory of Knowledge 25-35 (3)**
- **Vocal Jazz 15-25-35**

OPTIONS

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

1. Approve the LDCs as presented.
2. Do not approve the LDCs as presented.

CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS

- LDCs support the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.
- All LDCs in this report have been acquired from other school authorities in the province for use in the District. No LDCs in this report have been amended or adapted.

- 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 to Alberta Education for authorization. If approved, the Administration will make those LDCs available for September 2016.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I	Summaries of LDCs Submitted For Approval on April 19, 2016
ATTACHMENT II	Enrolments for Expiring Locally Developed Courses

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Summaries of LDCs Submitted for Approval on April 19, 2016

ASTRONOMY 15

Astronomy 15 is a 3 credit course acquired from Calgary Board of Education. It expires in August 2018. Astronomy 15 has not been previously delivered in Edmonton Public Schools. Astronomy 15 is planned for initial delivery at Jasper Place School.

Astronomy 15 provides opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of astronomical principles beyond the Alberta Science 10 Program of Studies. Throughout the course students will enhance their scientific literacy and numeracy through the application of active observation and documentation skills of various celestial bodies visible in the daytime and nighttime skies. Students in Astronomy 15 will analyze, assess and refine connections between celestial observations and human exploration, creativity, innovation, innate curiosity and technological advancements.

BAND 15-25-35

Band 15-25-35 is a 9 and 15 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved, and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016. Band 15-25-35 is acquired from Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered in three District high schools and had an enrolment of 26 students as of January 11, 2016.

Band 15-25-35 is designed as an extension of the Alberta Instrumental Music 10-20-30 Program of Studies. This course series offers students opportunities to refine and extend their musicianship through rehearsal and performance in an ensemble setting. Outcomes from Band 15-25-35 build upon and extend the foundational knowledge, attitudes and skills from the Instrumental Music 10-20-30 Program of Studies through the collaborative rehearsal and performance of historical and culturally diverse repertoire.

BIOLOGY (AP) 35

Biology (AP) 35 is a 3 credit course that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016. It is acquired from Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at four District schools and had an enrolment of 117 students as of January 11, 2016.

The Biology (AP) 35 course is designed to be an extension of the existing Alberta Biology 30 course and provides students access to introductory post-secondary content. Biology (AP) 35 is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester college introductory level biology course. Outcomes in this course focus on the development of proper laboratory techniques, developing critical thinking, and the ability to express ideas with clarity and logic. Biology (AP) 35 also focuses on students attaining an in-depth understanding of biological concepts and how this knowledge affects decision making and society as a whole.

CHEMISTRY (AP) 35

Chemistry (AP) 35 is a 3 credit course that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and is acquired from St. Albert Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at four District schools and had an enrolment of 135 students as of January 11, 2016.

Chemistry (AP) 35 focuses on students that wish to study beyond the scope of the provincial Chemistry 30 course. Students are encouraged to develop higher learning skills both on paper and in the laboratory. The course emphasizes the application of concepts learned in class to lab situations. Students learn data analysis, interpretation of facts, and critical thinking. Responsibility and independent thinking are also encouraged throughout the course so that students are well prepared to enter a first year university chemistry class with confidence. The Chemistry (AP) 35 course requires extra units that cannot be completed in the regular Science 10, Chemistry 20 and Chemistry 30 courses. This course also provides the extra time needed to support students to successfully complete the Advanced Placement requirements.

CLASS V DRIVER TRAINING 35 (3)

Class V Driver Training 35 is a 3 credit course that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and is acquired from Northern Lights School Division. It is currently being delivered at Centre High and had an enrolment of 29 students as of January 11, 2016.

Class V Driver Training 35 is a combined classroom instruction and practical driving course that prepares students to acquire a Class 5 driving license. The course enables students to apply acquired knowledge through a student centered practical driving experience. Driver training is offered through collaboration between the school, Alberta Transportation and the local driver training industry.

COMPETENCIES IN MATH 15

Competencies in Math 15 is a 3 and 5 credit course acquired from Red Deer Public School District. It expires in August 2018. Competencies in Math 15 has not been previously delivered in Edmonton Public Schools. It is planned for initial delivery at Institutional Services.

This course aims to build confidence in students by addressing cross-curricular competencies in the context of mathematics. The course will provide additional learning opportunities that will develop student competency in knowing how to learn, thinking critically, applying multiple literacies, identifying and solving complex problems, and demonstrating good communication skills. The course will enhance numeracy skills in students, develop their critical thinking and problem solving abilities, and set them up for success in future mathematics courses.

ESL ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS 35

ESL English for Academic Success 35 is a 3 and 5 credit course that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and is acquired from Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at two District schools and had an enrolment of 39 students as of January 11, 2016.

ESL English for Academic Success 35 is a course intended for English language learners who need to build and extend their communicative competence within all aspects of literacy (listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing). Students will engage with and examine a range of general, academic and content-specific materials from a variety of curricular areas that support the high school programs of study. This course provides students with opportunities to study language, its functions, forms, vocabulary and common cultural referents required to improve their literacy skills so that they are able to engage with a variety of written, oral, and representational aspects of communication.

ESL EXPOSITORY ENGLISH 15-25

ESL Expository English 15-25 is a 10 credit course series acquired from Calgary Board of Education. It expires in August 2016. ESL Expository English 15-25 has not been previously delivered in Edmonton Public Schools. ESL Expository English 15-25 is planned for initial delivery at Queen Elizabeth School. A number of other District schools have also expressed interest in offering this course series.

ESL Expository English 15 and 25 is a course series that provides English language learners with an opportunity to develop and extend their skills in oral and written discourse for the purposes of explaining, describing, and informing. ESL Expository English 15 and 25 provides opportunities for students to strengthen their understanding and application of the expository text forms (grammatical structures) and functions (purposes) to succeed in secondary and post-secondary education. The skills learned through this course series will also benefit them as citizens in the workplace, broader community, and the world as they become more informed and more able to effectively express themselves in a formal manner.

ESL INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICS 15

ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15 is a 5 credit course that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and has been acquired from Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at four District schools and had an enrolment of 112 students as of January 11, 2016.

ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15 is designed to meet the needs of English language learners who require scaffolded support with the English language and content of mathematics to access the Alberta Mathematics 10-12 Program of Studies. This course is meant for students who, due to limited or interrupted schooling in their first language, need explicit language, literacy, and numeracy instruction. ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15 also provides opportunities for students who are approaching grade level in their mathematical understanding to develop explicit language proficiency to access the mathematical content in higher grades. ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15 focuses on essential pre-requisite skills from the mathematical strands of number, shape and space, statistics and probability, patterns and relations. This course is intended to support students in the acquisition of competencies in language, literacy, and numeracy in mathematics to successfully transition into the Alberta Mathematics 10-12 Program of Studies.

EXTENDED ESSAY (IB) 35

Extended Essay (IB) 35 is a 3 credit course that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and is acquired from St. Albert Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at six District schools and had an enrolment of 118 students as of January 11, 2016.

Extended Essay (IB) 35 is a required component for achieving the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, along with the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) and Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) component. The Extended Essay (IB) 35 is an in-depth study in a specific International Baccalaureate subject, but not restricted to one of the students' examination subjects. Extended Essay (IB) 35 aims to provide students with an opportunity to explore some subjects in greater depth and study others more broadly, but is a deliberate compromise between the early specialization preferred in some national systems and the breadth found in others.

INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ 15-25-35

Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 is a 9 and 15 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and is acquired from Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at nine District schools and had an enrolment of 245 students as of January 11, 2016.

Instrumental Jazz is the study of a uniquely North American art form and offers students the opportunity to study the jazz idiom as a subject in its own right and as an integral part of the Fine Arts program. Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 is designed as an extension to the Instrumental Music 10-20-30 program, allowing students to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of instrumental jazz and hone their musical skills through study and performance.

LEADERSHIP, CHARACTER AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY 15-25-35

Leadership, Character and Responsibility 15-25-35 is a 9 and 15 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and is acquired from Golden Hills School Division. It is currently being delivered at six District schools and had an enrolment of 385 students as of January 11, 2016.

Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35 is designed to provide students with opportunities to explore leadership, develop leadership skills and abilities, and to grow and develop as individuals while making a difference in their school and community. This courses series provides students with guided opportunities to learn and grow as leaders and to develop a stronger sense of their social responsibility. Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35 is designed to develop essential leadership knowledge and skills with a focus on development of character. Outcomes from this course series focus on the development of key values, attitudes, and ethics for leadership and for responsible citizenship in the future. Unlike other leadership modules and courses, the focus of this course series is on developing an engaged thinker, ethical citizen, and morally responsible and social individual.

PAINTING (ADVANCED TECHNIQUES) 15-25-35

Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 is a 9 credit and 15 credit course series that has been previously developed, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expired in August 2015 and was not moved forward for re-approval at that time. Calgary Board of Education was granted permission to acquire and adapt Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35. The District is now acquiring this course series from Calgary Board of Education. Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 is planned for delivery at Strathcona School and Victoria School.

In Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35, students will be challenged to develop specific technical abilities in both traditional and non-traditional painting. They will be encouraged to create and express visual ideas unique to their personal experience and cultural context. This challenge will require students to work in a rich variety of means and materials in order to extend their repertoire of visual experiences. Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 is designed to provide students with opportunities to have an extended exploration of an area of personal interest. It enables students to develop a personal and critical view of themselves in relation to the world.

READING 15-25

Reading 15-25 is a 6 and 10 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and is acquired from Calgary Board of

Education. It is currently being delivered at seven District schools and had an enrolment of 264 students as of January 11, 2016.

The Reading 15-25 course series is intended to help students develop a wider range of strategies that they can use more independently before, during and after reading to help them construct the meaning of the print and visual texts they encounter in school, in post-secondary education, in the workplace, in the community, and in leisure time pursuits. Students who possess a wide variety of strategies will move towards increasing independence in making sense of print and visual texts. With these skills, students are more likely to choose to read widely for a variety of purposes.

In Reading 15-25 students will study a wide range of texts encompassing those that they need to be able to read in order to be successful in their senior high school courses. The texts students study can also include online and print resources they encounter in career exploration and texts they are required to read in the workplace and in courses such as the Registered Apprenticeship Program, Work Experience and Career and Technology Studies. Reading 15-25 also gives particular emphasis to texts that students choose to read for their own interest and pleasure.

STUDY OF FILM 35

Study of Film 35 is a 3 credit course that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and is acquired from St. Albert Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at two District schools and had an enrolment of 43 students as of January 11, 2016.

The Study of Film 35 course is intended for students who wish to expand their knowledge of film and understanding of film-making. Film is presently an essential part of the Alberta English Language Arts Program of Studies, where students are engaged in appreciating film as literature. Study of Film 35 will provide students with more advanced and in-depth skills and experiences that will assist them in further developing their critical appreciation of film and considering multiple perspectives and issues presented in film. Study of Film 35 provides an alternate method of examining the complexities of narrative unavailable to some readers. Their knowledge and experience will enable them to become more informed and critically aware viewers and thinkers as well as to enhance their ability to deconstruct bias in all forms of media.

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (IB) 25-35

Theory of Knowledge (IB) 25-35 is a 6 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and is acquired from Edmonton Catholic School District. It is currently being delivered at seven District schools and had an enrolment of 393 students as of January 11, 2016.

Theory of Knowledge (IB) 25-35 encourages students to think about the nature of knowledge, to reflect on the process of learning in all the subjects they study and to make connections across them. It is a course series that provides opportunities for students to develop critical thinking and inquiry skills that focus on the process of knowing, rather than about learning a specific body of knowledge. This course series encourages students to challenge the status quo and to build relationships through collaboration and teamwork.

VOCAL JAZZ 15- 25-35

Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 is a 9 and 15 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered at Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016 and is acquired from Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at two District schools and had an enrolment of 49 students as of January 11, 2016.

Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to study the jazz idiom as a subject in its own right in a small ensemble setting and as an integral part of a Fine Arts program. Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to refine musicianship through skill development, creativity, personal practice, rehearsal and performance. In Vocal Jazz 15-25-35, students explore the human voice and experience the skills necessary to understand and communicate musically, culminating with performance opportunities.

Enrolments for Expiring Locally Developed Courses

Locally Developed Course Name/Series	Schools offering in 2015-2016	Total Student Enrolment 2014-2015	Total Student Enrolment as of January 11, 2016
Band 15-25-35 (3 and 5 credit)	Ross Sheppard	98	26
	Strathcona		
	W.P. Wagner		
Biology (AP) 35	J. Percy Page	100	117
	Jasper Place		
	Queen Elizabeth		
	W.P. Wagner		
Chemistry (AP) 35	J. Percy Page	103	135
	Jasper Place		
	Queen Elizabeth		
	W.P. Wagner		
Class V Driver Training	Centre High	0	29
ESL English for Academic Success 35	Centre High	53	39
	Ross Sheppard		
ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15	Centre High	112	112
	Eastglen		
	M.E. LaZerte		
	Queen Elizabeth		
Extended Essay (IB) 35	Harry Ainlay	109	118
	M.E. LaZerte		
	McNally		
	Old Scona		
	Ross Sheppard		
	Victoria		
Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35	Harry Ainlay	295	245
	Jasper Place		
	Lillian Osborne		
	M.E. LaZerte		
	Queen Elizabeth		
	Ross Sheppard		
	Strathcona		
	Victoria		
	W.P. Wagner		

Locally Developed Course Name/Series	Schools offering in 2015-2016	Total Student Enrolment 2014-2015	Total Student Enrolment as of January 11, 2016
Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35	Academy King Edward	370	385
	amiskwaciy Academy		
	Centre High		
	Millwoods Christian		
	Ross Sheppard		
	Victoria		
Reading 15-25	Centre High	179	264
	Harry Ainlay		
	J. Percy Page		
	Jasper Place		
	L. Y. Cairns		
	Queen Elizabeth		
	Strathcona		
Study of Film 35	Mill Woods Christian	59	43
	Strathcona		
Theory of Knowledge (IB) 25-35	Harry Ainlay	397	393
	Jasper Place		
	Lillian Osborne		
	M.E. LaZerte		
	McNally		
	Old Scona		
	Ross Sheppard		
Vocal Jazz 15-25-35	Ross Sheppard	45	49
	Victoria		