

DATE: January 19, 2016

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses

ORIGINATOR: Dr. 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 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 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; 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 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:

- **Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9**
- **Calculus (AP) 35**
- **Capstone (AP) 25-35**
- **French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8**
- **Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9**
- **Theatre Performance 15-25-35**
- **Workplace Essential Skills 25-35**

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.

- 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 September 2016.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Summaries of LDCs Submitted For Approval on January 19, 2016

ATTACHMENT II Enrolments for Expiring Locally Developed Courses

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Summaries of LDCs Submitted for Approval on January 19, 2016

BIBLE STUDIES GRADE 1 TO GRADE 9

Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9 is a course series that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB). It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at four District schools and as of November 2, 2015, had an enrolment of 1,838 students.

Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9 is a course series designed for both Christian and non-Christian students and supports Christian alternative programming in the District. Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9 provides students with the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of the Bible and foster the exploration of their own Christian beliefs and values.

Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9 is designed to meet the required 20 per cent course content addressing a comparative study of other major world religions.

CALCULUS (AP) 35

Calculus (AP) 35 is a five credit course that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by EPSB in schools delivering Advanced Placement (AP) alternative programs. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at two District schools and as of November 2, 2015, had an enrolment of 87 students.

Calculus (AP) 35 provides students with the opportunity to learn high level calculus in a supportive high school classroom. This course series provides students with opportunities to explore the concepts, methods and applications of calculus. The course emphasizes a multi-representational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. The intent of Calculus (AP) 35 is to prepare students for the Calculus BC AP Exam, to ease students' transition to the first year of post-secondary study and to prepare them for success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs.

CAPSTONE (AP) 25-35

Capstone (AP) 25-35 is a new 10 credit course series developed for students in the AP program in EPSB. Strathcona Composite High School and Queen Elizabeth High School plan to deliver the course series.

AP Capstone is an internationally recognized program that is delivered by designated AP schools at Edmonton Public Schools (EPS). The Capstone (AP) 25-35 course series is designed for schools authorized by the AP College Board to provide the AP Capstone diploma program.

Capstone (AP) 25-35 is a locally developed course series that provides students enrolled in AP Capstone with the necessary knowledge, skills, time and support to meet the requirements of the AP Capstone Certificate and/or the AP Capstone Diploma and to strengthen opportunities for success in post-secondary programs. In this course series students engage in independent research and in-depth discussions, work in collaborative

teams to investigate several perspectives of issues, write an academic paper and present and defend research choices.

FRENCH LANGUAGE LATE IMMERSION 7- 8

French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8 is a course series that has been previously developed, authorized and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. This LDC expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at McKernan School and as of November 2, 2015, had a current total enrolment of 48 students. It will also be delivered at École Dickensfield School beginning September 2016.

French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8 is a course series that serves as an integral part of the Late French Immersion program in Edmonton Public Schools. This course series complements the existing provincial French Language Arts program of studies by enabling students to begin French Immersion programming at Grade 7 and integrate gradually into the provincial French Language Arts course at the Grade 9 level. Outcomes in the provincial French language arts program of studies are written in French as are the specific outcomes in this LDC. Late French Immersion programming establishes an environment in which French is used for communication, learning and personal satisfaction. The French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8 course series enables the delivery of subject area content, language instruction and cultural information concurrently, promoting effective language acquisition. Outcomes from French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8 enable the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote the development of effective global citizens and enhance the economic and career potential of students.

JUDAIC STUDIES KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 9

Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9 is a course series that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at Talmud Torah School and had an enrolment of 137 students as of November 2, 2015.

Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9 is a course series that plays a prominent role in Hebrew bilingual alternative programming in Edmonton Public Schools. This course series emphasizes integration of knowledge and appreciation for Jewish values, traditions, Hebrew language, and the Land of Israel. The value of community, “Klal Yisrael”, is also reflected within this course series.

The Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9 course series provides students with opportunities to explore their Jewish identity through learning about and participating in Jewish religious/cultural festivals and Jewish life as part of the school’s program and the local community.

Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9 is designed to meet the required 20 per cent course content addressing a comparative study of other major world religions.

THEATRE PERFORMANCE 15-25-35

Theatre Performance is a 15 credit course series that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being

delivered at Victoria School of the Arts and had an enrolment of 25 students as of November 2, 2015.

Theater Performance 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to extend their theater experience beyond the foundational skills offered through the provincial Drama 10, 20, 30 Program of Studies. This course series is designed to foster the students' development of performance skills and techniques through the exploration of knowledge, attitudes, values and behaviours associated with the professional performing artist. Students are provided with opportunities to develop their ability to observe, create, interpret and respond creatively through participation in a full-scale collaborative theatre production.

WORKPLACE ESSENTIAL SKILLS 25-35

Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 is a 10 credit course series that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at the Learning Stores at Blue Quill, Northgate, West Edmonton and on Whyte. It had an enrolment of 59 students as of November 2, 2015.

Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 is a course series developed to provide students at risk of not completing high school with the basic literacy and numeracy skills required in the workplace, preparing them for employment and lifelong citizenship. This course series focuses on the workplace environment, providing students with opportunities to develop the fundamental knowledge, skills and attitudes they require to pursue further studies, training and employment.

This course series is unique in that it provides opportunities for students to gain the necessary knowledge, skills and experiences to prepare them to potentially receive certification for the Test of Workplace Essential Skills (TOWES), a nationally accepted test that measures essential skills in the workplace.

Enrolments for Expiring Locally Developed Courses

Locally Developed Course Name/Series	Schools	Total Student Enrolment 2014-2015	Total Student Enrolment as of Nov 2, 2015
Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9	Edmonton Christian NE	1,730	1,838
	Edmonton Christian West		
	Meadowlark Christian		
	Millwoods Christian		
Calculus (AP) 35	Jasper Place	72	87
	Strathcona		
Capstone (AP) 25-35	Strathcona	0	0
	Queen Elizabeth		
French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8	McKernan	49	48
Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9	Talmud Torah	134	137
Theatre Performance 15-25-35	Victoria School of the Arts	35	25
Workplace Essential Skills 25-35	Learning Store at Blue Quill	125	59
	Learning Store at Northgate		
	Learning Store on Whyte		
	Learning Store West Edmonton		