

**DATE:** February 19, 2019

**TO:** Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** Locally Developed Courses

**ORIGINATOR:** Ron MacNeil, Assistant Superintendent, Mike Suderman, Assistant Superintendent

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Janice Aubry, Laurie Houston, Bob Morter

**REFERENCE:** [Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12, 2018-2019](#)  
[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 school authorities approve locally developed courses (LDCs) by a motion of the Board of Trustees prior to implementation in schools.

## BACKGROUND

The *Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12, 2018-2019* (pg.67) states that:

“School authorities have the flexibility to develop or acquire locally developed courses (LDCs) to address particular student and/or community needs. These learning opportunities complement, extend and/or expand upon provincial programs of study. LDCs may be used to:

- accommodate student needs and interests
- encourage and support innovative learning and teaching practices
- address unique community priorities
- encourage students who may be at risk of leaving school early
- promote successful transitions to further education by exposing students to advanced subject matter and learning environments”

LDCs also support District alternative programs and the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.

Junior and senior high school LDCs are usually approved on a four-year cycle by the developing school authority. Senior high school LDCs must also be authorized by Alberta Education. The maximum duration for Alberta Education authorization is currently four years. This approval and/or authorization process is governed by provincial and District policies.

All LDCs developed by Edmonton Public Schools have been written to ensure that they meet 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 sequence introduction (formerly philosophy), a statement outlining what student needs are addressed (formerly rationale) and specific learning outcomes aligned with provincial requirements and standards
- contain updated, current content

Supplementary information related to all LDCs, such as assessment information, is available on the District intranet. 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 revised collaboratively with District teachers, school administrators and central staff.
- Other school authorities in Alberta request to acquire 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:**

- **Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Audio 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Biology (IB) 35 (3)**
- **Ceramics (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Chemistry (IB) 35 (3)**
- **Christian Studies 15-25-35 (3)**
- **Dance Composition 35 (5)**
- **Fire Rescue Services 15 (3)**
- **Geometry 7-8-9**
- **Islamic Studies 7-8-9**
- **Musical Theatre 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Physics (IB) 35 (3)**
- **Study Skills and Learning Strategies 7-8-9**
- **World History 7-8-9**

## 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 provide unique opportunities to accommodate student needs and interests, encourage innovation in learning and teaching practices, address community priorities, engage students who are at risk of leaving school early and/or promote successful transitions to further education.
- Many LDCs support District alternative programming.
- LDCs support the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.

**NEXT STEPS**

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will make these LDCs available for the 2019-2020 school year.

**ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES**

- ATTACHMENT I      Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on February 19, 2019
- ATTACHMENT II     Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2019

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## **Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on February 19, 2019**

### **Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35**

Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35 is a 3 and 5 credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at seven District schools and had an enrolment of 543 students as of January 24, 2019.

Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to develop artistic skills and communicate visually through the study of the elements and principles of design, image-making, typography, and contemporary and historical graphic design. This course sequence supports students in developing a problem-solving mindset and becoming informed creators of solutions to design problems. Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35 also provides opportunities for students to explore possible career interests and pathways that could capitalize on their knowledge, skills and abilities in artistic expression.

### **Audio 15-25-35**

Audio 15-25-35 is a 3 and 5 credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at three District schools and had an enrolment of 139 students as of January 24, 2019.

Audio 15-25-35 provides students with an opportunity to use various technologies and develop an understanding of the audio production industry. The emphasis of Audio 15-25-35 is on the development of a repertoire of skills that students can apply into real life situations. Students in this course sequence acquire audio recording techniques, post-production mixing skills and the ability to connect these techniques and skills to milestones in the history of popular music.

### **Biology (IB) 35**

Biology (IB) 35 is a 3 credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at six District schools and had an enrolment of 420 students as of January 24, 2019.

Biology (IB) 35 allows students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme to meet the IB requirements that are beyond the provincial curriculum through additional instruction and opportunities to further study experimental sciences. The learning outcomes in this locally developed course represent the outcomes that are part of this IB program and are not currently provided in Alberta programs of study. 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.

Alberta Education has extended the authorization of this version of Biology (IB) 35 to August 31, 2022.

### **Ceramics (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35**

Ceramic (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 is a 5 credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at five District schools and had an enrolment of 355 students as of January 24, 2019.

Ceramics (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and abilities for expressing thoughts, ideas and feelings through ceramics. Students will benefit from opportunities to develop an appreciation of the art of ceramics and an awareness of the historical record of civilization ceramics can represent. Ceramics (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 also allows

students to create and develop a body of artwork and expand their skills as they apply to two-dimensional and three-dimensional ceramic works.

### **Chemistry (IB) 35**

Chemistry (IB) 35 is a 3 credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at seven District schools and had an enrolment of 440 students as of January 24, 2019.

Chemistry (IB) 35 allows students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme to meet the IB requirements that are beyond the provincial curriculum through additional instruction and opportunities to further study experimental sciences. The learning outcomes in this locally developed course represent the outcomes that are part of this IB program and are not currently provided in Alberta programs of study. Chemistry (IB) 35 provides students with an opportunity 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.

Alberta Education has extended the authorization of this version of Chemistry (IB) 35 to August 31, 2022.

### **Christian Studies 15-25-35**

Christian Studies 15-25-35 is a 3 credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. This year, it is not being delivered at any District schools, but will be resumed in 2019-2020 at Millwoods Christian School.

Christian Studies 15-25-35 is designed for both Christian and non-Christian students. In this course sequence, students explore various aspects of Christianity in a way that encourages them to be critical thinkers about religion and the development of their own personal faith. Learning outcomes in this course sequence enable students to identify key themes of Christianity and a number of other world religions, and consider how these themes impact decision-making for people of those faiths. Throughout Christian Studies 15-25-35, students consider various viewpoints on social issues and faith-based value systems, and by doing so, develop their own worldview and gain a better understanding of what it means to live in a pluralistic, multi-faith society.

### **Dance Composition 35**

Dance Composition 35 is a 5 credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one District school and had an enrolment of 11 students as of January 24, 2019.

Dance Composition 35 is designed for students who have previously studied dance and who wish to extend and enrich their study of dance to include the processes of choreography. Students in Dance Composition 35 will explore the role of choreographer and present a final work to an audience. Dance Composition 35 provides students with knowledge about choreography in contemporary and historical contexts and the opportunity to develop technical proficiency in choreography.

### **Fire Rescue Services 15 (formerly Fire Rescue Services 25)**

Fire Rescue Services 15 is a 3 credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one District school and had an enrolment of 43 students as of January 24, 2019.

Fire Rescue Services 15 is a locally developed course that provides students with an opportunity to learn about and experience the role of a firefighter. The emphasis of this course is on the development of fire

rescue skills. Fire Rescue Services 15 also provides opportunities for students to explore potential careers in emergency services.

### **Geometry 7-8-9**

Geometry 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at three District schools and had an enrolment of 687 students as of January 24, 2019.

Geometry 7-8-9 provides students with opportunities to develop logical arguments to support, refute or prove mathematical ideas. In this course sequence, students will analyze mathematical patterns and relationships, use spatial reasoning to measure, and analyze and represent quantities, shapes and objects. Geometry 7-8-9 is designed for those students who would like to deepen their numeracy skills and explore this ancient area of mathematics and its applications to modern life.

### **Islamic Studies 7-8-9**

Islamic Studies 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one District school and had an enrolment of 294 students as of January 24, 2019.

Islamic Studies 7-8-9 is a locally developed course sequence designed for both non-Muslim and Muslim students. The primary goal of Islamic Studies 7-8-9 is to provide students with knowledge about the history and basic teachings of Islam and the customs of the Prophet Muhammad based on the Qur'an. Outcomes in Islamic Studies 7-8-9 also address a comparative study of other major world religions, such as Judaism, Buddhism, or Christianity.

### **Musical Theatre 15-25-35**

Musical Theatre 15-25-35 is a 5 credit course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at nine District schools and had an enrolment of 334 students as of January 24, 2019.

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 in Musical Theatre 15-25-35 examine the historical, cultural and social aspects of the musical theatre genre. This course sequence 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.

Alberta Education has extended the authorization of this version of Musical Theatre 15-25-35 to August 31, 2020.

### **Physics (IB) 35**

Physics (IB) 35 is a 3 credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at five District schools and had an enrolment of 174 students as of January 24, 2019.

Physics (IB) 35 allows students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme to meet the IB requirements that are beyond the provincial curriculum through additional instruction and opportunities to further study experimental sciences. The learning outcomes in this locally developed course represent the outcomes that are part of this IB program and are not currently provided in Alberta programs of study. Physics (IB) 35 is intended to provide students with opportunities to become

engaged in the process of scientific inquiry as a means of gaining an understanding of the physical laws of nature.

Alberta Education has extended the authorization of this version of Physics (IB) 35 to August 31, 2022.

### **Study Skills and Learning Strategies 7-8-9**

Study Skills and Learning Strategies 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at 18 District schools and had an enrolment of 1423 students as of January 24, 2019.

Study Skills and Learning Strategies 7-8-9 provides students with the opportunity to develop specific skills and strategies to become more successful learners. Through explicit instruction, guided practice, ongoing feedback and self-reflection, students in this course sequence develop and apply a range of strategies to maximize achievement in their subject areas. Students have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet the academic demands of junior high school and to be able to make a successful transition to senior high.

### **World History 7-8-9**

World History 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at four District schools and had an enrolment of 672 students as of January 24, 2019.

World History 7-8-9 provides opportunities for students to investigate the development, contributions and interactions of world civilizations. Students in this course sequence will also examine the origins of modern cultural, political and ethnic diversity. World History 7-8-9 is intended to provide additional opportunities for students to more deeply study history and develop historical thinking skills.

## Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2019

Locally Developed Course Name/Sequence	Enrolments 2014-2019 as of January 24, 2019					Schools offering in 2018-19
	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	
Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	566	568	673	638	543	Argyll Centre J. Percy Page Lillian Osborne Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard Strathcona Victoria
Audio 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	42	39	53	121	139	Jasper Place Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte
Biology (IB) 35 (3)	443	361	406	529	420	Harry Ainlay Jasper Place Lillian Osborne M. E. LaZerte Old Scona Ross Sheppard
Ceramics (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 (5)	188	281	444	398	355	Argyll Centre McNally Ross Sheppard Victoria W. P. Wagner
Chemistry (IB) 35 (3)	422	380	374	419	440	Harry Ainlay Jasper Place Lillian Osborne M. E. LaZerte McNally Old Scona Ross Sheppard
Christian Studies 15-25-35 (3)	N/A	187	156	205	0	None
Dance Composition 35 (5)	10	9	8	10	11	Vimy Ridge Academy
Fire Rescue Services 25 (3)	0	32	24	32	43	Centre High
Geometry 7-8-9	263	312	325	730	687	Allendale Edith Rogers Stratford Junior High
Islamic Studies 7-8-9	237	255	268	263	294	Killarney



Musical Theatre 15-25-35 (5)	373	328	379	420	334	Eastglen J. Percy Page Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte Millwoods Christian Old Scona Ross Sheppard Strathcona Victoria
Physics (IB) 35 (3)	167	149	222	176	174	Harry Ainlay Lillian Osborne McNally Old Scona Ross Sheppard
Study Skills and Learning Strategies 7-8-9	719	782	1098	762	1423	Britannia Dan Knott Edith Rogers Hardisty Hillcrest Ivor Dent John D. Bracco Kate Chegwin Kenilworth Killarney Michael Phair Millwoods Christian Parkview Rosslyn Spruce Avenue Vimy Ridge Academy Westlawn Westminster
World History 7-8-9	N/A	606	718	750	672	Allendale Edith Rogers Riverbend Stratford