

DATE: June 11, 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](#)

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 until August 2023:

- **Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Braided Journeys 15-25-35 (3)**
- **Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9**
- **ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25 (5)**
- **ESL Introduction to Science 15-25 (5)**
- **ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9**
- **ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9**
- **Inquiry Option 7-8-9**
- **Journalism 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Performing Arts 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)**
- **Yoga 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**

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 June 11, 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 June 11, 2019

Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 15-25-35

Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at seven District schools and had an enrolment of 268 students as of May 8, 2019.

Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 15-25-35 is designed to develop an appreciation of theatre as an innovative form of performance art and communication that reflects diverse social, cultural and global perspectives. This course sequence expands upon the skills learned through Drama 10-20-30 and offers students opportunities to study acting as a theatre performance-based course. Students will develop an appreciation for the role and impact of theatre as a means of communicating with an audience.

Braided Journeys 15-25-35

Braided Journeys 15-25-35 is a 3-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Catholic Separate School District. It is currently being delivered at one District school and had an enrolment of 19 students as of May 8, 2019.

Braided Journeys 15-25-35 encourages youth to be entrepreneurial while exploring their gifts, talents and potential within their unique context. With an emphasis on First Nations, Métis and Inuit worldviews and traditions, this course sequence is intended to support all students in becoming leaders of character, vision and action. Students are provided multi-component, culturally-based programs that challenge their creativity, build on their skill set and increase their support network.

Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35

Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at seven District schools and had an enrolment of 141 students as of May 8, 2019.

Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35 is designed for students who are interested in opportunities to write in a variety of genres that encourage them to experiment with new ideas, concepts and processes in various communication mediums. In this course sequence, students will create original texts and follow editing, publishing and marketing processes using current approaches and technologies. Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35 provides students with the opportunity to explore interests and career possibilities in writing and publishing.

ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9

ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at three District schools and had an enrolment of 105 students as May 8, 2019.

ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9 provides opportunities for English language learners at the intermediate English language proficiency level to examine and practice using the academic language required for participation, progression and achievement in the study of English language arts. Students in this course sequence will strengthen their skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing for a variety of academic purposes. This course sequence provides students with the background knowledge necessary for successful integration into grade-level English language arts classes.

ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25

ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at nine District schools and had an enrolment of 358 students as of May 8, 2019.

English language learners, at the beginning levels of English language proficiency, face language-related barriers to achievement in social studies classes due to the extensive subject-specific vocabulary and the complexity of the discourse, grammatical structures and language functions required. ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25 provides students with English language development while simultaneously creating and sharing knowledge upon which Canadian cultural, historical, geographical and political concepts are built.

ESL Introduction to Science 15-25

ESL Introduction to Science 15-25 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Calgary Board of Education. ESL Introduction to Science 15 is currently being delivered at seven District schools and had an enrolment of 182 students as of May 8, 2019.

ESL Introduction to Science 15-25 provides English language learners with the opportunity to build communicative competence with the English language while attaining the scientific awareness needed to function as effective members of society. Students in this course sequence will use their growing proficiency with language functions, forms and vocabulary to explore and develop a range of scientific concepts and skills.

ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9

ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Calgary Board of Education. Currently, it is not being delivered at any District schools.

In ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9, English language learners examine and practice using the academic language required for participation, progression and achievement in the study of the sciences. This course sequence provides English language learners at beginning levels of language proficiency with the language instruction and practice necessary for successful integration and continued learning in grade-level science classes.

ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9

ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at one District school and had an enrolment of 16 students as of May 8, 2019.

ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9 provides English language learners with the opportunity to build communicative competence with the English language while attaining the cultural, social and political awareness needed for success in Canadian classrooms and participation in Canadian society. This course sequence provides beginner and intermediate English language learners with explicit language instruction as they develop the academic language skills required for successful integration into junior and senior high school social studies courses.

Inquiry Option 7-8-9

Inquiry Option 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is replacing Discovery Option 7-8-9, which is currently being delivered at 21 District schools and had an enrolment of 1,443 students as of May 8, 2019.

Inquiry Option 7-8-9 provides students with the time and opportunity to extend their studies beyond the scope of the regular curriculum. The aim of this course sequence is to enable students to engage in active learning through the independent research and study of student-selected topics.

Journalism 15-25-35

Journalism 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at two District schools and had an enrolment of 17 students as of May 8, 2019.

Journalism 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to explore, create and reflect through journalistic media. In this course sequence, students evaluate the impact, responsibility and ethics of media in society and develop skills in creating texts for diverse audiences.

Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35

Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at three District schools and had an enrolment of 44 students as of May 8, 2019.

Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 provides students with the opportunity to investigate and develop their personal practice of artistic expression through focused development of painting techniques. This course sequence offers an extension of Art 10-20-30, with a specific focus on painting methods and materials. Through rigorous intellectual, technical and artistic engagement, students in Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 will acquire valuable artistic knowledge and develop an appreciation of the artistic process in the broad field of painting.

Performing Arts 15-25-35

Performing Arts 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Grande Yellowhead Public School Division. It is currently being delivered at three District schools and had an enrolment of 54 students as of May 8, 2019.

Performing Arts 15-25-35 provides students with enrichment opportunities to study dance, music and drama. This course sequence is intended for students who seek the challenge of working through the creative process to performance. Performing Arts 15-25-35 assists in preparing students for postsecondary experiences and lifelong theatre experiences, both amateur and professional.

Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)

Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) is a course sequence newly developed by Edmonton Public Schools that includes 5-credit courses at the high school level.

The Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) course sequence is intended for students who begin their study of Punjabi language and culture in Kindergarten or Grade 1 and continue their study into high school. This course sequence provides opportunities for students to develop Punjabi language proficiency, as well as knowledge and appreciation of Punjabi-speaking cultures. Punjabi Language and

Culture Twelve-year (12Y) provides opportunities for student to develop an awareness of, and sensitivity to, cultural and linguistic diversity, in addition to preserving cultural identity.

Yoga 15-25-35

Yoga 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at five District schools and had an enrolment of 256 students as May 8, 2019.

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 sequence is to foster an awareness of the benefits of yoga for a healthy, active lifestyle. Yoga 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to develop their physical literacy through various yoga movements and to develop self-awareness and relaxation techniques.

Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2019

Locally Developed Course Name/Sequence	Enrolments 2014-2019 as of May 8, 2019					Schools offering in 2018-19
	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	
Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	N/A	323	374	333	268	Edmonton Christian Harry Ainlay M.E. LaZerte McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard Victoria W. P. Wagner
Braided Journeys 15-25-35 (3)	N/A	N/A	N/A	24	19	McNally Strathcona Victoria
Creative Writing and Publishing 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	109	116	197	150	141	Argyll Centre Jasper Place Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Ross Sheppard Victoria
Discovery Option 7-8-9 *being replaced by Inquiry Option 7-8-9 beginning in September 2019	1,070	1,172	903	1,267	1,443	Academy at King Edward amiskwaci Academy Argyll Centre Balwin Donald R. Getty Dr. Lila Fahlman Highlands Hillcrest Hilwie Hamdon John D. Bracco Killarney Laurier Heights Mary Butterworth McKernan Meadowlark Christian Oliver Riverbend Rosslyn S. Bruce Smith

						Steele Heights T.D. Baker
ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9	N/A	N/A	N/A	103	105	Dr. Lila Fahlman Hillcrest Westlawn
ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25 (5)	408	398	508	457	358	Centre High Eastglen Harry Ainlay Jasper Place Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard
ESL Introduction to Science 15 (5)	112	124	159	222	182	Eastglen Harry Ainlay Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard
ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9	0	0	0	4	0	None
ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9	26	63	85	0	16	Westlawn
Journalism 15-25-35 (5)	12	31	54	53	17	Academy at King Edward Ross Sheppard
Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 (5)	N/A	N/A	107	49	44	Argyll Centre Strathcona Victoria
Performing Arts 15-25-35 (5)	27	24	46	25	54	Jasper Place Ross Sheppard Victoria
Yoga 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	236	361	377	336	256	Braemar Jasper Place McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard