

**DATE:** May 3, 2022

**TO:** Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** Locally Developed Courses

**ORIGINATOR:** Kathy Muhlethaler, Assistant Superintendent

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Marnie Beaudoin, Laurie Houston, Bob Morter, Ann Parker

**REFERENCE:** [Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12, 2021–2022](#)  
[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, 2021-2022* (p. 62) states that:

“School authorities have the flexibility to develop or acquire locally developed courses to address particular student and/or community needs. These learning opportunities complement, extend and/or expand upon provincial programs of study. Locally developed courses 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 alternative programs in Edmonton Public Schools and the Division 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. However, there may be circumstances that result in Alberta Education granting an authorization of one, two or three years. This approval and/or authorization process is governed by provincial and Division policies.

All LDCs developed by Edmonton Public Schools are written to ensure they meet student, school, community and program needs, as well as provincial and Division requirements. This includes ensuring these courses:

- contain a sequence introduction, a statement outlining what student needs are addressed 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 Division 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

- The Division-developed LDCs in this report were reviewed and revised collaboratively with Division teachers, school administrators and central staff.
- Other school authorities in Alberta request to acquire LDCs from Edmonton Public Schools.
- Edmonton Public Schools acquires LDCs from other school authorities in the province.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2026:**

- American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Three-year (3Y) 15-25-35 (5 credits)
- Astronomy 15-25-35 (3 credits)
- Competencies in Math 15 (3 and 5 credits)
- Drawing 15-25-35 (5 credits)
- Educational Assistant: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35 (5 credits)
- Global Perspectives 25-35 (5 credits)
- Guitar 15-25-35 (3 and 5 credits)
- Introduction to Educational Assistant 35 (5 credits)
- Learning to Lead 7-8-9
- Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)
- Speech and Debate 15-25-35 (3 credits)
- Technical Theatre 15-25-35 (3 and 5 credits)

**That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2025:**

- Chemistry (Advanced) 35 (3 credit)

**That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2024:**

- Biology (IB) 35 (3 credits)
- Chemistry (IB) 35 (3 credits)
- Physics (IB) 35 (3 credits)

## OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

1. Approve the LDCs as presented.
2. 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 alternative programming in Edmonton Public Schools.
- LDCs support the Division 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 2022–2023 school year.

**ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES**

ATTACHMENT I      Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 3, 2022  
ATTACHMENT II      Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2022

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## Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 3, 2022

### **American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Three-year (3Y) 15-25-35**

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Three-year (3Y) 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at two Division schools and had an enrolment of 122 students, as of March 21, 2022.

American Language and Deaf Culture Three-year (3Y) 15-25-35 is intended for students who are beginning their study of American Sign Language and Deaf culture in senior high school. This course sequence provides the opportunity for students to learn to use American Sign Language (ASL) in a variety of situations and for a variety of purposes. Apart from the common advantages related to the learning of a second language, it permits an insight into Deaf culture and provides the opportunity for learners to communicate directly with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

### **Astronomy 15-25-35**

Astronomy 15-25-35 is a 3-credit course sequence developed by the Calgary School Division. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 59 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Astronomy 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to develop an understanding of the complex and interdisciplinary nature of astronomy. In this course sequence, students will examine and analyze connections among celestial observations, human exploration, creativity, innovation and technological advancements. Students in Astronomy 15-25-35 will enhance their scientific literacy and numeracy skills through active observation and documentation.

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

Biology (IB) 35 is a 3-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at five Division schools and had an enrolment of 360 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Biology (IB) 35 provides students with the opportunity to engage in the process of scientific inquiry as a means of gaining an understanding of the living world. This course enables students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme to meet the IB requirements that are beyond the provincial Biology Program of Studies through additional instruction and opportunities to study experimental sciences.

A two-year approval is being requested as Alberta Education has extended the current authorization period to align with the International Baccalaureate's delayed release of their new Biology curriculum.

### **Chemistry (Advanced) 35**

Chemistry (Advanced) 35 is a 3-credit course developed by the St. Albert School Division. It is replacing the expiring Chemistry (Advanced) 35 course developed by the Calgary School Division, which is currently being delivered at two Division schools and had an enrolment of 26 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Chemistry (Advanced) 35 provides students with an opportunity to cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations that are beyond the scope of the provincial Chemistry Program of Studies. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to develop laboratory and analytical skills, using both theory and labs, in a collaborative environment. This course provides additional learning that aligns with the College Board Chemistry Advanced Placement course.

**Chemistry (IB) 35**

Chemistry (IB) 35 is a 3-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at five Division schools and had an enrolment of 414 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Chemistry (IB) 35 provides students with the opportunity to engage 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. This course enables students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme to meet the IB requirements that are beyond the provincial Chemistry Program of Studies through additional instruction and opportunities to study experimental sciences.

A two-year approval is being requested as Alberta Education has extended the current authorization period to align with the International Baccalaureate's delayed release of their new Chemistry curriculum.

**Competencies in Math 15**

Competencies in Math 15 is a 3- and 5-credit course developed by the Red Deer School Division. It is currently being delivered at eleven Division schools and had an enrolment of 539 students, as of March 21, 2022.

In Competencies in Math 15, students have the opportunity to develop and enhance their numeracy skills and understanding of mathematical concepts, procedures and skills. Students will extend their knowledge beyond performing routine operations and will be encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts through critical thinking and exploration exercises. The overall aim of Competencies in Math 15 is to deepen students' knowledge and skills in order to build a strong foundation for success in high school mathematics courses.

**Drawing 15-25-35**

Drawing 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is replacing Drawing (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35, which is currently being delivered at five Division schools and had an enrolment of 116 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Drawing 15-25-35 is intended to provide accessibility and relevance to enriched art experiences at the high school level. This course sequence allows students to specialize and develop skills required for further study in their chosen field. Drawing 15-25-35 provides opportunities for development of a body of work for a field of artistic study selected by the student, which may assist students with their admission into post-secondary programs.

**Educational Assistant: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35**

Educational Assistant: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35 is a 5-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is replacing Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35, which is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 20 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Educational Assistant: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35 provides an introduction to the variety of assistive and adaptive technologies that may be used to support learners to achieve success in their learning. The focus in this course is on critically examining technologies and determining which ones can most effectively support student learning. To contextualize the exploration, students will examine various barriers to learning and potential strategies to overcome them.

**Global Perspectives 25-35**

Global Perspectives 25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 5 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Global Perspectives 25-35 provides students with opportunities to examine a variety of attitudes, skills and strategies that can be developed and applied in both personal and professional contexts. Through an exploration of the central themes of personal development, thinking processes, effective communication, intercultural understanding and applied ethics, students will develop their skills in creative and critical thinking, communication and collaboration. This course sequence serves to fulfil the core requirement of the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme.

**Guitar 15-25-35**

Guitar 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by the Calgary School Division. It is currently being delivered at eight Division schools and had an enrolment of 437 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Guitar 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to learn instrumental technique, concepts and theory applied to both classical and modern musical forms. This course sequence extends the creative avenues available for students to learn how to express themselves musically and make meaning from listening to music. Students in Guitar 15-25-35 will have the opportunity to interpret the compositions of others and apply their developing performance skills to writing their own music and engaging in musical performance, in both formal and informal settings.

**Introduction to Educational Assistant 35**

Introduction to Educational Assistant 35 is a 5-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is replacing Introduction to the Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway 35, which is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 26 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Introduction to Educational Assistant 35 provides students with the opportunity to examine the valuable role that educational assistants play in supporting learners with diverse needs. This course supports the development of a variety of competencies necessary for working on a multidisciplinary team. Students in Introduction to Educational Assistant 35 are able to explore their interests and develop their skills, while making personal connections to career possibilities.

**Learning to Lead 7-8-9**

Learning to Lead 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at 34 Division schools and also as an online option. This course sequence had an enrolment of 4,712 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Learning to Lead 7-8-9 provides opportunities for students to better understand the concept of leadership in preparation for their future career and life roles. This course sequence promotes service leadership and encourages students to experience the positive outcomes that accrue when they see beyond self-interest and play an active role in bettering their communities. Learning to Lead 7-8-9 provides students with productive and constructive outlets for their ideas and opportunities to develop their leadership skills through the planning and completion of a variety of service initiatives.

**Physics (IB) 35**

Physics (IB) 35 is a 3-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at five Division schools and had an enrolment of 164 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Physics (IB) 35 provides students with the opportunity to engage in the process of scientific inquiry as a means of gaining an understanding of the physical laws of nature. This course enables students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme to meet the IB requirements that are beyond the provincial Physics Program of Studies through additional instruction and opportunities to study experimental sciences.

A two-year approval is being requested as Alberta Education has extended the current authorization period to align with the International Baccalaureate's delayed release of their new Physics curriculum.

**Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)**

Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools that includes 5-credit courses at the high school level. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 28 students, as of March 21, 2022.

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) encourages students to explore their own identity, develop self-awareness and deepen their appreciation of diverse perspectives.

**Speech and Debate 15-25-35**

Speech and Debate 15-25-35 is a 3-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 97 students, as of March 21, 2022.

In Speech and Debate 15-25-35, students address societal, global and other issues important to youth through speech, the interpretation and oral renderings of meaningful texts, and debate, the presentation of logical, coherent argumentation in a fixed format. Students in this course sequence develop the skill of persuasive argumentation and hone their ability to present and defend their ideas. Speech and Debate 15-25-35 emphasizes a formalized and organized approach to the art of oratory.

**Technical Theatre 15-25-35**

Technical Theatre 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by the Calgary School Division. It is currently being delivered at eight Division schools and had an enrolment of 192 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Technical Theatre 15-25-35 offers students the opportunity to engage in the non-acting roles that are required to realize complex theatre performances. Students will explore multiple technical roles, including stage management, sound, lighting, set and props, as well as costumes and makeup. This course sequence may serve as a stepping stone for students wishing to consider a career in the non-performing technical components of theatre production, film and event production.

## Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2022

Locally Developed Course/Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2018–2022 as of March 21, 2022				Schools offering in 2021–2022 as of March 21, 2022
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	
American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Three-year (3Y) 15-25-35	95	101	115	122	Alberta School for the Deaf Jasper Place
Astronomy 15-25-35	45	66	30	59	Jasper Place
Biology (IB) 35	418	392	408	360	Harry Ainlay Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte Old Scona Ross Sheppard
Chemistry (Advanced) 35	127	103	98	26	Queen Elizabeth W.P. Wagner
Chemistry (IB) 35	431	373	304	414	Harry Ainlay Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte Old Scona Ross Sheppard
Competencies in Math 15	557	668	618	539	Braemar Dr. Anne Anderson Harry Ainlay Hospital Campuses J. Percy Page Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard Victoria Vimy Ridge Academy
Drawing (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35	204	196	122	116	Eastglen M.E. LaZerte Queen Elizabeth Victoria W.P. Wagner
Global Perspectives 25-35	12	8	6	5	Victoria



Locally Developed Course/Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2018–2022 as of March 21, 2022				Schools offering in 2021–2022 as of March 21, 2022
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	
Guitar 15-25-35	110	217	287	437	Argyll Centre Dr. Anne Anderson Eastglen Jasper Place Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte Victoria W.P. Wagner
Introduction to the Special Needs Education Assistant Career Pathway 35	49	34	17	26	Centre High
Learning to Lead 7-8-9	3,175	2,779	5,275	4,712	Academy at King Edward Alex Janvier Allendale Argyll Centre Bessie Nichols D.S. MacKenzie Dickinsfield Donald R. Getty Dr. Donald Massey Edith Rogers Elizabeth Finch Ellerslie Campus Esther Starkman Highlands Hillcrest Hilwie Hamdon Jan Reimer Kensington Killarney Laurier Heights Londonderry Major General Griesbach McKernan Michael Strembitsky Oliver Ottewell Parkview Riverbend Spruce Avenue

Locally Developed Course/Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2018–2022 as of March 21, 2022				Schools offering in 2021–2022 as of March 21, 2022
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	
Learning to Lead 7-8-9 (continued)	3,175	2,779	5,275	4,712	Steele Heights T. D. Baker Thelma Chalifoux Vimy Ridge Academy Westminster
Physics (IB) 35	171	139	124	164	Harry Ainlay Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte Old Scona Ross Sheppard
Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)	0	27	11	28	Meyokumin
Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35	30	25	14	20	Centre High
Speech and Debate 15-25-35	127	142	70	97	Old Scona
Technical Theatre 15-25-35	200	173	120	192	Harry Ainlay J. Percy Page Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Millwoods Christian Ross Sheppard Strathcona