

DATE: May 16, 2023

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses

ORIGINATOR: Kathy Muhlethaler, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional and Strategic Division Supports

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

REFERENCE [Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12, 2022–2023](#)
[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, 2022–2023* 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
- engage 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” (Alberta Education, 2022)

LDCs also support alternative programs in Edmonton Public Schools and the Division Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priority 1.

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 that these courses contain a sequence introduction, a description of student needs that are addressed through the LDC and learning outcomes that are aligned with provincial requirements and standards.

Junior and senior high school LDCs must be approved by a Board motion prior to offering the locally developed courses in the Division. 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. Alberta Education may grant authorization to 3- and/or 5-credit versions of LDCs.

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

- All LDCs authorized by Alberta Education are available for acquisition at no cost.
- Edmonton Public Schools acquires LDCs developed by other school authorities in the province.
- Other school authorities in Alberta acquire LDCs developed by Edmonton Public Schools.
- The Division-developed LDCs in this report were reviewed and revised collaboratively with Division teachers, school administrators and central staff.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following junior and senior high school locally developed courses be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:

Senior High School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Version (including authorization period)	Approval Period
Ceramics 15 Ceramics 25 Ceramics 35	LDC1867 LDC2867 LDC3867	5 credits (2023–2027)	September 1, 2023–August 31, 2027
Dance 15 Dance 25 Dance 35	LDC1413 LDC2413 LDC3413	3 and 5 credits (2023–2027)	September 1, 2023–August 31, 2027
Dance Composition 35	LDC3477	5 credits (2023–2027)	September 1, 2023–August 31, 2027
Data Visualization 15	LDC1218	5 credits (2021–2025)	September 1, 2023–August 31, 2025
Engineering and Design 15	LDC1147	5 credits (2020–2024)	September 1, 2023–August 31, 2024
Unified English Braille Code 15	LDC1012	5 credits (2023–2027)	September 1, 2023–August 31, 2027

Junior High School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Approval Period
Inquiry and Research 7 Inquiry and Research 8 Inquiry and Research 9	JHS7030 JHS8030 JHS9030	September 1, 2023–August 31, 2027
Islamic Studies 7 Islamic Studies 8 Islamic Studies 9	JHS7585 JHS8585 JHS9585	September 1, 2023–August 31, 2027
Study Skills and Learning Strategies 7 Study Skills and Learning Strategies 8 Study Skills and Learning Strategies 9	JHS7051 JHS8051 JHS9051	September 1, 2023–August 31, 2027

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 Priority 1.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will make these LDCs available for the 2023–2024 school year.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

- ATTACHMENT I Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 16, 2023
- ATTACHMENT II Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 16, 2023

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Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 16, 2023

Ceramics 15-25-35

Ceramics 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It has been renamed from Ceramics (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35, which is currently being delivered at four Division schools and had an enrolment of 680 students, as of March 21, 2023.

Ceramics 15-25-35 provides an opportunity for students to explore and experiment with tools, techniques and processes to create ceramics. In this course sequence, students express their thoughts and ideas through visual imagery, examine and apply historical and contemporary design elements and processes, and solve artistic and functional design problems. In Ceramics 15-25-35, an emphasis is placed on demonstrating safe and respectful collaboration within a shared studio space.

Dance 15-25-35

Dance 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at ten Division schools and had an enrolment of 501 students, as of March 21, 2023.

Dance 15-25-35 is designed for students who are beginning their study of dance and have little or no experience with dance upon entry into this course sequence. This course sequence is intended to provide learners with a broad range of artistic and aesthetic experiences in a variety of dance genres. Dance 15-25-35 also contributes to preparing students for a range of exciting and rewarding careers in the arts, as well as careers in which they can draw upon the skills, knowledge and attitudes acquired through dance.

Dance Composition 35

Dance Composition 35 is a 5-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at two Division schools and had an enrolment of 15 students, as of March 21, 2023.

Dance Composition 35 is designed for students who have previously studied dance and wish to extend and enrich their study to include the processes of choreography. In this course, students have the opportunity to experience the role of choreographer from concept development through the processes of audition, rehearsal, production design, and finally, to the actual performance presented to an audience. In Dance Composition 35 students have the opportunity to consider how the study of choreography supports professional pursuits.

Data Visualization 15

Data Visualization 15 is a 5-credit course developed by the Rundle College Society. This course has not previously been offered in the Division.

In Data Visualization 15, students explore the process of data extraction and analysis to create graphical representations that communicate a cogent story. Students in this course will design and create multiple forms of data visualizations. Data Visualization 15 provides students with the opportunity to explore possible career applications of data visualization in the fields of computer science and mathematics.

A two-year approval is being requested as this course is currently authorized by Alberta Education until August 31, 2025. It is being acquired to support STEM programming.

Engineering and Design 15

Engineering and Design 15 is a 5-credit course developed by the Rundle College Society. This course has not previously been offered in the Division.

In Engineering and Design 15, students explore the varied roles that engineers play in society, discover new career pathways and develop knowledge and skills in the field of engineering. Students will investigate topics in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through a series of projects that are relevant to their lives. Engineering and Design 15 provides opportunities for students to develop their problem-solving skills using the design cycle.

A one-year approval is being requested as this course is currently authorized by Alberta Education until August 31, 2024. It is being acquired to support STEM programming.

Inquiry and Research 7-8-9

Inquiry and Research 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It has been renamed from Inquiry Option 7-8-9, which is currently being delivered at 16 Division schools and had an enrolment of 1,722 students, as of March 21, 2023.

Inquiry and Research 7-8-9 provides students with the opportunity to undertake in-depth research and use technologies and tools to learn, innovate, collaborate and communicate. 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. Students in Inquiry and Research 7-8-9 have the opportunity to further develop their information management skills, with a focus on the responsible and ethical use of information and technology.

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 Division school and had an enrolment of 307 students, as of March 21, 2023.

Islamic Studies 7-8-9 is a locally developed course sequence designed for both non-Muslim and Muslim students. For non-Muslim students, this course sequence provides the opportunity to develop an understanding of Islam as a major world religion. For Muslim students, this course sequence fosters the exploration of their own Islamic values, beliefs and understanding. 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. In addition to fostering an understanding of Islam, this course sequence supports the development of attitudes, skills, and knowledge that prepare students to be effective global citizens.

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 19 Division schools and had an enrolment of 1,222 students, as of March 21, 2023.

In Study Skills and Learning Strategies 7-8-9, students develop skills, strategies and processes that can help them to become more effective learners. Through explicit instruction, guided practice, ongoing feedback and self-reflection, students acquire and apply a range of strategies to maximize their achievement across subject areas. In Study Skills and Learning Strategies 7-8-9, students have opportunities to acquire skills and attitudes that may assist them in meeting the academic demands of junior high school and eventually in making a successful transition to senior high school.

Unified English Braille Code 15

Unified English Braille Code 15 is a 5-credit course developed by the Calgary School Division. It is not currently being delivered in Division schools, as of March 21, 2023.

Unified English Braille Code 15 encourages students to develop competencies in braille reading and writing. Students will connect with literacy materials in an accessible format in order to develop their knowledge of braille. As they explore curriculum themes, develop projects and research topics of personal interest, students will apply their knowledge of braille to other curricular areas. This course will provide students with the opportunities to learn the tools, technology and related skills for reading and writing braille at a high level of proficiency.

Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 16, 2023

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2019–2023 as of March 21, 2023				Schools offering in 2022–2023 as of March 21, 2023
	19–20	20–21	21–22	22–23	
Ceramics (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 (Renamed Ceramics 15-25-35)	430	419	613	680	McNally Ross Sheppard Victoria W. P. Wagner
Dance 15-25-35	724	390	455	501	Argyll Centre Dr. Anne Anderson Eastglen Jasper Place Lillian Osborne M. E. LaZerte McNally Queen Elizabeth Strathcona Victoria
Dance Composition 35	11	19	21	15	Jasper Place Vimy Ridge Academy
Inquiry Option 7-8-9 (renamed Inquiry and Research 7-8-9)	546	2,164	1,312	1,722	Argyll Centre Balwin Bessie Nichols Donald R. Getty Edith Rogers Hillcrest Ivor Dent Kim Hung Major General Griesbach Mary Butterworth Meadowlark Christian Michael Phair Riverbend S. Bruce Smith T. D. Baker Thelma Chalifoux
Islamic Studies 7-8-9	233	238	337	307	Killarney
Study Skills and Learning Strategies 7-8-9	309	1,086	1,143	1,222	Alberta School for the Deaf Alex Janvier Donald R. Getty

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2019–2023 as of March 21, 2023				Schools offering in 2022–2023 as of March 21, 2023
	19–20	20–21	21–22	22–23	
Study Skills and Learning Strategies 7-8-9 (continued)	309	1,086	1,143	1,222	Hardisty Highlands Hillcrest John D. Bracco Kate Chegwin Kenilworth Killarney Kim Hung kisêwâtisiwin Laurier Heights Michael Phair Millwoods Christian S. Bruce Smith Svend Hansen Thelma Chalifoux Vimy Ridge Academy
Unified English Braille Code 15	N/A	N/A	0	0	None