

DATE: May 6, 2025

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, Vicki de Haan, Thomas Gillard, Laurie Houston

REFERENCE [Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12](#)
[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, 2024–2025* 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, 2024)

LDCs also support alternative programs in Edmonton Public Schools and the Division Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.

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. LDCs may be acquired at any point in the authorization period that was granted by Alberta Education.
- 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 senior high school and elementary school locally developed courses be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:

Senior High School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Version	Approval Period (School Years)
Academic Achievement through English Language Acquisition - Beginner 15 Academic Achievement through English Language Acquisition - Intermediate 15	LDC1481 LDC1482	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Artificial Intelligence 25 Artificial Intelligence 35	LDC2026 LDC3026	5 Credits (2025–2027)	2025–2026 to 2026–2027
Band 15 Band 25 Band 35	LDC1439 LDC2439 LDC3439	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Calculus (Advanced) 35	LDC3255	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Design Thinking for Innovation 15-25-35	LDC1131 LDC2131 LDC3131	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Film and Media Art 15 Film and Media Art 25 Film and Media Art 35	LDC1092 LDC2092 LDC3092	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Instrumental Jazz 15 Instrumental Jazz 25 Instrumental Jazz 35	LDC1431 LDC2431 LDC3431	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence 15	LDC1026	5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2026–2027

Senior High School LDCs (continued)

Course Name	Course Codes	Version	Approval Period (School Years)
Medicine Wheel 15	LDC1172	3 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Musical Theatre Performance 15 Musical Theatre Performance 25 Musical Theatre Performance 35	LDC1858 LDC2858 LDC3858	5 Credits (2023–2026)	2025–2026
Smudging (Elder Chronicles) 15	LDC1015	3 Credits	2025–2026 to 2026–2027
Vocal Jazz 15 Vocal Jazz 25 Vocal Jazz 35	LDC1433 LDC2433 LDC3433	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029

Elementary School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Approval Period (School Years)
Creative Movement 1 Creative Movement 2 Creative Movement 3 Creative Movement 4 Creative Movement 5 Creative Movement 6	ELM1560 ELM2560 ELM3560 ELM4560 ELM5560 ELM6560	2025–2026 to 2028–2029

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 Division use for the applicable approval period.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 6, 2025

ATTACHMENT II Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 6, 2025

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Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 6, 2025

Academic Achievement through English Language Acquisition - Beginner 15 and Intermediate 15

Academic Achievement through English Language Acquisition - Beginner 15 and Intermediate 15 are 3- and 5-credit courses that were developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. This course sequence is replacing Academic Achievement through English Language Development 15-25-35, which is currently being delivered at four Division schools and had an enrolment of 427 students as of March 25, 2025.

Academic Achievement through English Language Acquisition - Beginner 15 and Intermediate 15, provide English as an Additional Language (EAL) students with opportunities to build and extend academic language proficiency and overall communicative competence across all aspects of literacy and within various subject areas. In these courses, students develop academic language through the exploration and practice of language functions, forms and vocabulary.

Artificial Intelligence 25-35

Artificial Intelligence 25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. This course sequence has not previously been offered in the Division.

Artificial Intelligence 25-35 is designed for students who would like to explore various facets of artificial intelligence (AI) and consider the impact of AI on individuals and society. In this course sequence, students have the opportunity to enhance their digital literacy skills and their ability to engage critically with various AI technologies. In Artificial Intelligence 25-35, students have the opportunity to develop a nuanced understanding of the implications and possibilities of AI and greater insight into the importance of thinking critically and ethically about the technologies they use.

A two-year approval is being requested as Alberta Education has granted it an authorization period aligned with that of Introduction to Artificial Intelligence 15.

Band 15-25-35

Band 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is currently being delivered at four Division schools and had an enrolment of 84 students as of March 25, 2025.

Band 15-25-35 provides students with the opportunity to develop, apply and refine their knowledge of the rehearsal process and performance techniques in a large ensemble setting. In this course sequence, students engage with diverse repertoire and enhance their interpretive skills. As members of a large ensemble, students in Band 15-25-35 have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of diverse cultures, historical periods and styles of master composers and arrangers.

Calculus (Advanced) 35

Calculus (Advanced) 35 is a 3- and 5-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at three Division schools and had an enrolment of 71 students as of March 25, 2025.

In Calculus (Advanced) 35, students engage in an in-depth exploration of the concepts, methods and applications of calculus. This course is intended to support students' transition to post-secondary studies and to prepare them for success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs. As well, this course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement™ (AP) Calculus AB and BC exams.

Creative Movement (Grade 1 to Grade 6)

Creative Movement (Grade 1 to Grade 6) is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at three Division schools and had an enrolment of 822 students as of March 25, 2025.

Creative Movement (Grade 1 to Grade 6) provides opportunities for students to engage in creative movement beyond the Alberta Physical Education Program of Studies. While movement skills are taught in various ways through physical education, Creative Movement (Grade 1 to Grade 6) enables students in elementary school to explore body awareness through creative movement and dance. The goal of this course sequence is to foster an understanding and appreciation of creative expression through movement.

Design Thinking for Innovation 15-25-35

Design Thinking for Innovation 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is currently being delivered at five Division schools and had an enrolment of 453 students as of March 25, 2025.

In Design Thinking for Innovation 15-25-35, students engage in the exploration of design thinking, innovation and creative development. In this course sequence, students identify real-world problems and create interdisciplinary projects that allow them to demonstrate their technical and inventive skills. Throughout Design Thinking for Innovation 15-25-35, the emphasis is on engaging, exploring, articulating and creating innovative solutions to increasingly complex challenges.

Film and Media Art 15-25-35

Film and Media Art 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is currently being delivered at nine Division schools and had an enrolment of 477 students as of March 25, 2025.

Film and Media Art 15-25-35 is intended to provide learning experiences where students investigate, explore and create film and media art from an artistic perspective. Students in this course sequence will engage in deepening their knowledge of film through the authentic exploration of the medium. In Film and Media Art 15-25-35, students will explore contemporary and historical art forms and create art that integrates narrative, technical and artistic elements.

Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35

Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is currently being delivered at 10 Division schools and had an enrolment of 297 students as of March 25, 2025.

Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to develop their skills in music performance beyond the foundational skills offered through the Instrumental Music 10-20-30 Program of Studies. In this course sequence, students will develop their critical listening skills and practice as musicians by engaging with jazz repertoire and performance. Students in Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 are encouraged to take creative risks and explore avenues for creative expression within the jazz idiom.

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence 15

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence 15 is a 5-credit course that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. This course has not previously been offered in the Division.

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence 15 provides an opportunity for students to explore the history of artificial general intelligence and its various subfields. In this course, students will consider how AI theories and concepts can be applied across various scenarios. Introduction to Artificial Intelligence 15 provides an opportunity for students to explore the transformative influence of artificial intelligence in today's world. This course is a prerequisite for Artificial Intelligence 25-35.

Medicine Wheel (Elder Chronicles) 15

Medicine Wheel (Elder Chronicles) 15 is a 3-credit course sequence acquired through Alberta Education. This course has not previously been offered in the Division.

In Medicine Wheel (Elder Chronicles) 15, students will explore the Medicine Wheel, which for millennia has been seen in North and South American cultures as a powerful way to pass on traditions vital to their worldview. As a teaching and learning tool, the Medicine Wheel may be seen as a holistic model to explain a shared worldview and show people how to build a healthy life by applying practical principles that have evolved into traditions and customs from the four directions.

Musical Theatre Performance 15-25-35

Musical Theatre Performance 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is currently being delivered at eight Division schools and had an enrolment of 234 students as of March 25, 2025.

Musical Theatre Performance 15-25-35 provides an interactive environment of integrated study in dance, drama, technical theatre and vocal music for students who seek the challenge of working through the creative process to performance. Students in this course sequence will examine the historical, cultural and social aspects of the musical theatre genre.

A one-year approval is being requested as this course sequence has been given an extension by Alberta Education.

Smudging (Elder Chronicles) 15

Smudging (Elder Chronicles) 15 is a 3-credit course sequence acquired through Alberta Education. This course has not previously been offered in the Division.

Smudging (Elder Chronicles) 15 provides an opportunity for students to learn smudging skills in cultural and non-cultural contexts. This course provides students with the opportunity to examine diverse cultural practices that incorporate the burning of incense into a ritual of wellbeing.

A two-year approval is being requested as this course sequence is currently authorized by Alberta Education until August 31, 2027.

Vocal Jazz 15-25-35

Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 18 students as of March 25, 2025.

Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to develop the unique qualities and skills of jazz musicians. In this course sequence, students develop understandings related to complex harmonic structures and rhythms, microphone and vocal techniques, vocal blend and stylistic interpretation. Through the practice and performance of jazz repertoire, students explore diverse historical periods and styles.

Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 6, 2025

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2021–2025 as of March 25, 2025				Schools offering in 2024–2025 as of March 25, 2025
	21–22	22–23	23–24	24–25	
Academic Achievement through English Language Development 15-25-35	238	375	386	427	Centre High Eastglen Queen Elizabeth W. P. Wagner
Band 15-25-35	66	73	48	84	Jasper Place McNally Ross Sheppard Victoria
Calculus (Advanced) 35	51	34	62	71	McNally Queen Elizabeth Strathcona
Creative Movement (Grade 1 to Grade 6)	616	702	816	822	Highlands Victoria Virginia Park
Design Thinking for Innovation 15-25-35	233	442	410	453	Dr. Anne Anderson Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack Lillian Osborne Victoria W. P. Wagner
Film and Media Art 15-25-35	344	381	383	477	Academy at King Edward Argyll Centre Eastglen Jasper Place Lillian Osborne McNally Millwoods Christian Ross Sheppard Victoria
Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35	166	177	270	297	Harry Ainlay Jasper Place Lillian Osborne M. E. LaZerte McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2021–2025 as of March 25, 2025				Schools offering in 2024–2025 as of March 25, 2025
	21–22	22–23	23–24	24–25	
Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 (continued)	166	177	270	297	Strathcona Victoria W. P. Wagner
Musical Theatre Performance 15-25-35	164	181	226	234	Eastglen J. Percy Page Lillian Osborne M. E. LaZerte Millwoods Christian Ross Sheppard Strathcona Victoria
Vocal Jazz 15-25-35	34	27	18	18	Victoria