

DATE: February 16, 2016

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director, Governance, Strategic Services and Support for Schools

RESOURCE STAFF: Janice Aubry, Melody Kostiuk

REFERENCE: [Alberta Education - Guide to Education](#)
[Ministerial Order on Student Learning \(#001/2013\)](#)
[GA.BP - Student Programs of Study](#)
[GAA.BP - Delivery of Student Programs](#)
[GK.BP- Student Assessment, Achievement and Growth](#)
[GKB.AR- Standards for Evaluation](#)

ISSUE

Alberta Education requires that all locally developed courses (LDCs) be approved by the Board of Trustees prior to submission to Alberta Education and implementation in schools.

BACKGROUND

LDCs are courses that are developed or acquired and authorized by school authorities to provide students with learning opportunities that complement provincial programs of study. LDCs provide unique opportunities for students to explore a range of interests in subject areas or extend the learning outcomes in provincial programs. These courses accommodate special interests and abilities of students, support District alternative programs, and address local, community or parental interests. LDCs support the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.

Alberta Education supports the local development and authorization of junior high school and senior high school complementary courses which do not duplicate provincially authorized courses. These courses serve to:

- further develop and cultivate the unique interests and abilities of students
- foster educational improvement and excellence through innovation at the local level
- meet the unique needs of a local community

LDCs are approved and/or renewed on a four year cycle by the developing school authority. In the case of high school courses, the courses must also be approved and/or renewed by Alberta Education. This process is governed by District and provincial policies.

All LDCs developed by Edmonton Public Schools have also been revised to ensure they meet current 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 rationale, philosophy, and general and specific learning outcomes aligned with the provincial requirements and standards
- contain updated, current content

Supplementary information for teachers related to all LDCs, such as assessment information and possible resources, will be made available to teachers on an internal website. 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.

Descriptions of each course, including current enrolments, are provided in Attachment I.

RELATED FACTS

- All LDCs in this report were reviewed and revised collaboratively with District teachers and central staff.
- Other school authorities in Alberta request to acquire many LDCs from Edmonton Public Schools each year.
- Edmonton Public Schools acquires a number of LDCs from other school authorities in the province.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 2020:

- **Creative Writing 7-8-9**
- **Dance Performance 15-25-35 (3)**
- **Dance Performance 15-25-35**
- **Directing 25-35**
- **Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 (3)**
- **Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35**
- **Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)**
- **Statistics (AP) 35-5**
- **Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 (3)**

OPTIONS

The following options are selected for consideration as they are deemed the most admissible:

1. Approve the LDCs as presented.
2. Approve the LDCs, with amendments.
3. Do not approve the LDCs.

CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS

- LDCs support the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.
- LDCs provide unique opportunities for students to explore a range of interests in subject areas, extend the learning outcomes in provincial programs, and/or accommodate special interests and abilities of students.
- Many LDCs support District alternative programming and career pathways.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will submit the high school LDCs to Alberta Education for approval. If approved, the Administration will make those LDCs available for September 2016.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Summaries of LDCs Submitted For Approval on February 16, 2016
ATTACHMENT II Enrolments for Expiring Locally Developed Courses

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Summaries of LDCs Submitted for Approval on February 16, 2016

CREATIVE WRITING 7-8-9

Creative Writing 7-8-9 is a course that has been previously developed, authorized, and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered in two District junior high schools and had an enrolment of 44 students as of January 11, 2016.

Creative Writing 7-8-9 provides opportunities for students to refine their creative writing skills and abilities beyond those developed through the Alberta English Language Arts (K-9) Program of Studies. This course series encourages students to see creative writing as a unique way of thinking, and as a means of constructing and conveying meaning. This is a practical course in which students explore different literary genres, techniques and types of language use through their own writing to develop a better understanding of themselves, their peers, and the art of language. It enables students to understand language processes, elements, and conventions as they read, write and discuss their own and other's writing. Creative Writing 7-8-9 provides students with opportunities to make connections between their own writing, the writing of others, and the broader world around them.

DANCE PERFORMANCE 15-25-35 (3) AND DANCE PERFORMANCE 15-25-35

Dance Performance 15-25-35 (3) is a 9 credit course series and Dance Performance 15-25-35 is 15 credit course series that have both been previously developed, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. Both course series expire in August 2016. Dance Performance 15-25-35 (3) is currently being delivered at Millwoods Christian School with an enrolment of 17 students as of January 11, 2016. Dance Performance 15-25-35 is currently being delivered at four Edmonton high schools and had an enrolment of 87 students as of January 11, 2016.

Dance Performance 15-25-35 is a process-driven, production-based course series which provides students with a dance experience extending beyond the Alberta Physical Education (K-12) Program of Studies. These course series provide opportunities for students to develop performance skills and techniques through the exploration of complex knowledge, attitudes, values and behaviours associated with the professional performing artist. Dance Performance 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to build meaningful relationships with peers and members of the professional arts community.

DIRECTING 25-35

Directing 25-35 is a 10 credit course series that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at Victoria School of the Arts and had an enrolment of 62 students as of January 11, 2016.

Directing 25-35 is a course series developed to meet the unique needs of students in a fine arts alternative program. This course series provides opportunities for students to explore the role of the theatre director as the creative leader of a theatrical production from the inception of an idea, through the development process of rehearsal, to the culminating performance. This course series also provides opportunities for students to build skills, confidence and leadership as they work collaboratively with others to interpret, design and facilitate a theatrical production.

IMPROVISATIONAL THEATRE 15-25-35 (3) AND IMPROVISATIONAL THEATRE 15-25-35

Improvisational Theater 15-25-35 (3) is a 9 credit course series and Improvisational Theater 15-25-35 is a 15 credit course series that have both been previously developed, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. Both expire in August 2016. Improvisational Theater 15-25-35 (3) is currently being

delivered at Victoria School of the Arts and had an enrolment of eight students as of January 11, 2016. Improvisational Theater 15-25-35 is currently being delivered at three Edmonton high schools and had an enrolment of 75 students as of January 11, 2016.

Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to extend their theatre experience beyond the foundational skills offered through the Alberta Drama 10, 20, 30 Program of Studies. Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to engage, collaborate and gain multiple perspectives through participation in a variety of improvisational settings. Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to develop their ability to observe, create, interpret and respond creatively through the improvisational performance process.

PUNJABI LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SIX-YEAR (6Y)

Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) is a course series that has been previously developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016. Due to coding inconsistencies, accurate historical enrollment data is not available. It is anticipated that Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) will be offered at Kate Chegwin School for the 2016-2017 school year.

The Grade 7 to 9 levels of this course series expire in 2016. The 15-25-35 levels of this course series expire in 2017. The complete Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) course series is being presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in order to align the expiry dates of this course series.

Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) is a course series designed for students who are beginning their study of Punjabi and who have had little or no Punjabi language proficiency upon entry into this course series at the Grade 7 level. Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) typically begins in Grade 7 and designed to extend through six years to the end of Grade 12.

Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) provides opportunities for students to develop Punjabi language proficiency as well as knowledge and appreciation of Punjabi culture, while gaining a deeper insight into their own culture and language. Studying Punjabi provides students with an increased awareness of and sensitivity to cultural and linguistic diversity. Outcomes from the Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) course series enable the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote the development of effective global citizens and enhance the economic and career potential of students.

STATISTICS (AP) 35-5

Statistics (AP) 35-5 is a 5 credit course that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools at schools that provide the Advanced Placement (AP) alternative program. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at two District schools and as of January 11, 2016 had an enrolment of 79 students.

Statistics (AP) 35-5 is designed for students in the Advanced Placement (AP) alternative program at Edmonton Public Schools. Statistics (AP) 35-5 provides students with the opportunity to learn about statistics beyond Mathematics 31. This course provides students with opportunities to explore a multi-representational approach to statistics, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically and verbally. Statistics (AP) 35-5 is designed to prepare students to potentially write the Statistics AP Exam, to ease students' transition to the first year of post-secondary study and to prepare them for success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs.

WORKPLACE ESSENTIAL SKILLS 25-35 (3)

Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 (3) is a 6 credit course series that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at the Hospital Campuses, Transitions at the Y, and the Learning Stores at Blue Quill, Circle Square, Londonderry, West Edmonton and on Whyte. It had an enrolment of 39 students as of January 11, 2016. The 5 credit version of Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 course series was approved at the January 19, 2016 Board meeting.

Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 (3) is a course series developed to provide students at risk of not completing high school with the basic skills required in the workplace, preparing them for employment and lifelong citizenship. This course series focuses on the workplace environment, providing students with opportunities to develop the fundamental knowledge, skills and attitudes they require to pursue further studies, training and employment.

Enrolments for Expiring Locally Developed Courses

Locally Developed Course Name/Series	Schools offering in 2015-2016	Total Student Enrolment 2014-2015	Total Student Enrolment as of January 11, 2016
Creative Writing 7-8-9	Highlands	315	44
	S. Bruce Smith		
Dance Performance 15-25-35 (3)	Millwoods Christian	0	17
Dance Performance 15-25-35	Eastglen	120	87
	Queen Elizabeth		
	Victoria School of the Arts		
	Vimy Ridge Academy		
Directing 25-35	Victoria School of the Arts	52	62
Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 (3)	Victoria School of the Arts	8	8
Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35	Ross Sheppard	86	75
	Strathcona		
	Victoria School of the Arts		
Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)	Kate Chegwin	not available	not available
Statistics (AP) 35-5	Jasper Place	63	79
	Strathcona		
Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 (3)	Hospital Campuses	64	39
	Learning Store at Blue Quill		
	Learning Store at Circle Square		
	Learning Store at Londonderry		
	Learning Store on Whyte		
	Learning Store West Edmonton Mall		
	Transitions at the Y		