

DATE: January 21, 2014

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses for Semester Two

ORIGINATOR: Mark Liguori, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE STAFF: Diane Brunton, Tami Dowler-Coltman, Sandra Erickson, Sandy Forster, Stacy Fysh, Rick Paulitsch, Natalie Witte

REFERENCE: [Alberta Education - Guide to Education](#)
[Alberta Education Policy 1.2.1 - Locally Developed/Acquired and Authorized Junior and Senior High School Complementary Courses](#)

ISSUE

District schools have requested additional acquired locally developed courses be approved to meet the needs of students at their schools.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following locally developed courses and resources be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:

New courses acquired by Edmonton Public Schools

Course Name	Level - Credit	Approval Period
Abnormal Psychology (Pembina Hills Regional Division #7)	35 (5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2014
Advanced Dance (from Lethbridge School District #51)	15 (3 or 5 credit) 25 (3 or 5 credit) 35 (3 or 5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2014
Band (Calgary School District #19)	25 (5 credit) 35 (5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2016
Forensic Science Studies (Pembina Hills Regional Division #7)	35 (5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2016
Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility (Golden Hills School Division #75)	15 (3 or 5 credit) 25 (3 or 5 credit) 35 (3 or 5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2016
Musical Theatre in Performance (Fort McMurray Public School District #2833)	25 (5 credit) 35 (5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2014
Performing Arts (Grande Yellowhead Public School Division #77)	15 (3 or 5 credit) 25 (3 or 5 credit) 35 (3 or 5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2015
Popular Culture (Parkland School Division #70)	25 (3 or 5 credit) 35 (3 or 5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2016
Professional Development in the Arts (from Calgary School District #19)	35 (3 or 5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2014

Course Name	Level - Credit	Approval Period
Rock and Pop (St. Albert Public School District #5565)	15 (5 credit) 25 (5 credit) 35 (5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2015
Triathlon (Red Deer Public District #104)	25 (5 credit) 35 (5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2015
Vocal Jazz (Calgary School District #19)	15 (3 or 5 credit) 25 (3 or 5 credit) 35 (3 or 5 credit)	February 2014 – August 2016

BACKGROUND

Locally developed courses (LDCs) 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 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 and address local, community or parental interests. Districts may develop their own courses, or they may seek permission to acquire courses developed by other districts.

Alberta Education supports the local development and authorization of junior high and senior high school complementary courses which do not duplicate provincially authorized courses, to further develop and cultivate the unique interests and abilities of students; and to foster educational improvement and excellence through innovation at the local level to meet the unique needs of a local community.

Locally developed courses and resources are approved and renewed on a three year cycle by the developing board. In the case of high school courses, the courses also must be approved and renewed by Alberta Education. The process is governed by Alberta Education policies. All courses developed align to policy guidelines such as:

- courses are completed within the year they are started;
- a certificated teacher is required for instruction;
- unique hours of instruction are required for each course; and
- waiver of prerequisites provision cannot apply to locally developed courses.

Locally developed courses are created to meet specific identified schools' needs. The costs of developing a course varies greatly with differing topics, external requirements, number of courses in sequence, established frameworks, and complexity of stakeholders.

RELATED FACTS

Advance Dance and Professional Development in the Arts have been requested by Victoria School of the Arts.

Abnormal Psychology has been requested by Braemar School.

Band; Forensic Science Studies; Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility; Musical Theater in Performance; Performing Arts; Popular Culture; Rock and Pop; Triathlon and Vocal Jazz have been requested by Ross Sheppard School.

CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS

Locally developed courses are submitted for approval for a maximum of three years. Courses acquired from other jurisdictions are subject to an approval period based on the original three year cycle for the authoring jurisdiction.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will complete the process to validate these courses and have them available to students in Semester Two (2013-2014).

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

N/A

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