

DATE: May 6, 2014

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses – District Developed and Acquired Elementary, Junior High and Senior High

ORIGINATOR: Mark Liguori, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE STAFF: Diane Brunton, Sandy Forster

REFERENCE: [Alberta Education - Guide to Education](#)
[Locally Developed Courses: Report and Strategic Directions 2013](#)

ISSUE

Edmonton Public Schools’ locally developed courses, at elementary, junior high and high school levels, as well as courses acquired from other Alberta school jurisdictions, must be renewed regularly for continued use. The duration of the new renewal cycle is four years, a change from the previous three year cycle. All locally developed courses require re-authorization approval from the Board of Trustees. High school courses must also be vetted and approved through Alberta Education to ensure continued alignment with current curriculum outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

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

a. New courses developed by Edmonton Public Schools

Course Name	Level - Credit	Approval Period
Global Perspectives Through the Arts (IBCC)	35 (5 credit)	September 2014 – August 2018
Introduction to the Special Needs Education Assistant Career Pathway	35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway: Assistive and Adaptive Technology	35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Sport, Exercise and Health Science	25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 – August 2018

b. New courses acquired by Edmonton Public Schools

Course Name	Level - Credit	Approval Period
Art (IB) Red Deer School District No. 104	25 (3 credit)	September 2014 to August 2016
Journalism Calgary School District No. 19	15/25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2015
Mathematics (IB) Calgary School District No. 19	35 (3 credit)	September 2014 to August 2016
Outdoor Education	25	September 2014 to August 2015

Black Gold Regional Div. No. 18	(3 credit)	
Perspectives of the Human Condition Westmount Charter School Society	15/25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2015
Sport Psychology Calgary School District No. 19	25 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2015
Technical Theatre Calgary School District No. 19	15/25/35 (3/5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Yoga Calgary School District No. 19	15/25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2016

c. Renewal of courses developed by Edmonton Public Schools

Course Name	Level - Credit	Approval Period
American Sign Language and Culture – 3Y	15/25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Beginner Music - Choral	15 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Beginner Music - Instrumental Music	15 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Drawing (Advanced Techniques)	15/25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Forensic Science Studies	25/35 (3 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Speech and Debate	15 (3 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
American Sign Language and Deaf Culture - 9Y	K - 9	September 2014 to August 2018
Arabic Language and Culture - 12Y	K-9	September 2014 to August 2018
ESL Support to Science	7 - 9	September 2014 to August 2018
ESL Support to Social Studies	7 - 9	September 2014 to August 2018
Explorations in Film	9	September 2014 to August 2018
Learning to Lead	8 - 9	September 2014 to August 2018
Practical Arts	7 - 9	September 2014 to August 2018
Punjabi Language & Culture	K - 3	September 2014 to August 2018

d. Renewal of courses acquired by Edmonton Public Schools

Course Name	Level - Credit	Approval Period
Abnormal Psychology Pembina Hills Regional Division #7	35 (3 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Advanced Dance Lethbridge School District # 51	15/25/35 (3/5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Arabic Language & Culture - 3Y Calgary School District # 19	15/25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Arabic Language and Culture – 12Y Northern Lights School Division #69	15/25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies Calgary School District # 19	15/25 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
ESL Introduction to Science Calgary School District # 19	15 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018

Course Name	Level - Credit	Approval Period
Learning Strategies Calgary Roman Catholic SS District #1	15/25/35 (3/5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Marine Biology Parkland School Division #70	35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Musical Theatre in Performance Fort McMurray Public Sch. Dist. # 2833	25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Pre-Engineering Calgary School District # 19	15/25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Professional Development in the Arts Calgary School District # 19	35 (3/5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Sculpting (Advanced Techniques) Calgary School District # 19	15/25/35 (5 credit)	September 2014 to August 2018
Accelerated English (ESL Level 3) Calgary School District # 19	7 – 9	September 2014 to August 2018

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.

Locally developed courses and resources must be approved and renewed every four years by the developing board. In the case of high school courses, the courses also must be assessed and approved by Alberta Education. The process is governed by Alberta Education policies. All courses developed align to policy guidelines including:

- courses are to be completed within the year they are started;
- a certificated teacher is required for instruction;
- unique hours of instruction are required for each course; and
- the 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. Courses are written and prepared through collaboration with classroom teachers and school administrations.

RELATED FACTS

Courses acquired from other school jurisdictions commence after March 31st to permit the authoring district to complete the approval process with Alberta Education prior to the acquiring process.

CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS

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

Elementary and junior high locally developed courses are approved by the Board of Trustees for use in the District.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will complete the process to validate these courses and have them accessible to students in 2014-2015. Valid course codes will be available in PowerSchool by June 30, 2014, and course outline documents will be posted in [Staffroom](#) by August 15, 2014.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

N/A

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