

**DATE:** June 23, 2015

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Locally Developed Courses

**ORIGINATOR:** Mary Michailides, Assistant Superintendent, Support for Schools

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Janice Aubry, Diane Brunton, Melody Kostiuk

**REFERENCE:** [Alberta Education - Guide to Education](#)  
[GA.BP - Student Programs of Study](#)  
[GAA.BP - Delivery of Student Programs](#)  
[GK.BP- Student Assessment, Achievement and Growth](#)  
[GKB.AR- Standards for Evaluation](#)

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**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.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) until August 2019:**

**LDCs Acquired From Other School Authorities:**

- **Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 35-3 (replacing Advanced Acting 35-5)**
- **Class V Driver Training 35-3**
- **Journalism 15, 25, 35**
- **Performing Arts 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Physics (AP) 35**

**LDCs Developed by EPSB:**

- **Dance Composition 35**
- **Discovery Option 7-8-9**
- **Islamic Studies 7-8-9**
- **World History 7-8-9 (replacing World History 7 and World History 8)**

**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; and
- 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 authorized and/or renewed by Alberta Education. This process is governed by District and provincial policies.

Of the LDCs recommended in this report, the following course series have been authorized by Alberta Education and acquired from the following school authorities:

- Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 35-3 (acquired from Calgary School District No. 19)
- Class V Driver Training 35-3 (acquired from Northern Lights School Division No. 69)
- Journalism 15-25-35 (acquired from Calgary Board of Education)
- Performing Arts 15-25-35 (5) (acquired from Grande Yellowhead Public School Division No. 77)
- Physics (AP) 35 (acquired from West Island College Society of Alberta)

Of the LDCs recommended in this report, the following have been developed by Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB):

- Dance Composition 35
- Discovery Option 7-8-9
- Islamic Studies 7-8-9
- World History 7-8-9

Dance Composition 35 will be submitted to Alberta Education for authorization once approved by the EPSB Board of Trustees.

All LDCs developed by EPSB 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 *Inspiring Education* and 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; and
- contain updated, current content.

Supplementary information for teachers related to all LDCs, such as assessment information, possible references 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 that are developed by the District were reviewed and revised collaboratively with District teachers and central staff.

- Other school authorities in Alberta request to acquire many LDCs from EPSB each year.
- EPSB acquires several LDCs from other school authorities in the province.
- School authorities may not amend or adapt the content in LDCs acquired from other school authorities without prior written consent.

**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 to those developed by the District.
3. Do not approve the LDCs.

**CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS**

- LDCs support the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.
- Most of the LDCs recommended for approval in this report have District student enrolments for 2014-2015.
- 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.
- Physics (AP) 35 supports students in the Advanced Placement Program to meet the Advanced Placement Physics curricular requirements that are beyond the provincial programs of study through the provision of the additional learner outcomes.

**NEXT STEPS**

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will:

- Submit Dance Composition 35 to Alberta Education for approval. If approved, the Administration will make that LDCs available for September 2015; and
- Make the acquired LDCs and the junior high LDCs available for September 2015.

**ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES**

ATTACHMENT I Summaries of LDCs Submitted For Approval on June 23, 2015

ATTACHMENT II 2014 -2015 Enrolments for LDCs as of June 10, 2015, Submitted June 23, 2015

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## Summaries of LDCs Submitted for Approval on June 23, 2015

### ACQUIRED COURSES

#### **ADVANCED ACTING/TOURING THEATRE 35-3 (replacing Advanced Acting 35-5)**

Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 35-3 includes both a 9 credit and a 15 credit course series. This LDC has been acquired from Calgary School District No. 19 and had been developed to replace Advanced Acting 35-5, which expires August 2015. Advanced Acting 35-5 was previously acquired from Calgary Catholic School District, approved and delivered by EPSB. Advanced Acting 35-5 is currently being delivered in eight District schools and has a total enrolment of 300 students in 2014-2015.

Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 35-3 is designed to develop an appreciation of theatre as an innovative form of performance art and communication that reflects diverse social, cultural and global perspectives. Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 35-3 expands upon the skills learned through Drama 10-20-30 and offers students opportunities to study acting as a theatre performance-based course. Performance acting allows students to develop their creative, intuitive, spontaneous and imaginative potential. Students are encouraged to explore various career possibilities and to seek additional opportunities to participate in acting within their local communities.

#### **CLASS V DRIVER TRAINING 35 -3**

Class V Driver Training 35-3 is a 3 credit course acquired from Northern Lights School Division No. 69. It expires in 2016. Class V Driver Training 35-3 is a new course to EPSB that is being acquired to support a new initiative at Centre High Campus.

Class V Driver Training 35-3 is a combined classroom instruction and practical driving course that prepares students to acquire a Class 5 driving license. The course enables students to apply acquired knowledge through a student centered practical driving experience.

Driver training is offered through collaboration between the school, Alberta Transportation and the local driver training industry. In-school driver training helps offset the cost of taking training privately thus encouraging inclusive and equitable access to this programming.

Students who pass the course receive a certificate of completion recognized by the Alberta insurance industry.

#### **PERFORMING ARTS 15-25-35 (5)**

Performing Arts 15-25-35 (5) is a 15 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered by EPSB. Performing Arts 15-25-35 (5) is acquired from Grande Yellowhead Public School Division No. 77. It is intended for students who have had experience in drama, music and dance. It expires August 2015. It is currently being delivered at Victoria School and has a total enrolment of 27 students in 2014-2015.

Performing Arts 15-25-35 (5) provides students with enrichment opportunities to study dance, music and drama. Performing Arts 15-25-35 (5) is intended for students who seek the challenge of working through the creative process to performance. It assists in preparing students for post-secondary experiences and life-long theatre experiences, both amateur and professional, in the

role of performer as well as in the enjoyment of being an audience member.

### **PHYSICS (AP) 35-3**

Physics (AP) 35-3 is a 3 credit course that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2015. It is currently being delivered at Queen Elizabeth School and has a total enrolment of 16 students in 2014-2015. It has been acquired by West Island College Society of Alberta for use in District schools.

Physics (AP) 35-3 is a locally developed course that allows students in the Advanced Placement Program (AP) to meet the program requirements that are beyond the provincial curriculum through additional instruction and opportunities to further study experimental sciences. The Physics (AP) 35-3 course allows students to develop critical thinking and reasoning skills, allowing them to cultivate their understanding of physics and science practices. The emphasis of Physics (AP) 35-3 is on the development of skills relating to scientific literacy, critical thinking and problem solving as students critically analyze evidence to form conclusions.

### **DEVELOPED BY EPSB**

### **DANCE COMPOSITION 35**

Dance Composition 35 is a 5 credit course that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2015. This course is currently being delivered at Vimy Ridge Academy and has an enrolment of 10 students in 2014-2015. It is a course that supports alternative programming at Vimy Ridge Academy and is acquired by other school authorities in the province.

Dance Composition 35 is intended for students who have had previous dance instruction, and have engaged in intensive study of dance and dance choreography which enables them to further develop, appreciate and critique their own skills. Dance Composition 35 provides opportunities for students to study dance choreography in depth and to present a final work to an audience. In this course students will have the opportunity to experience the role of choreographer from concept and idea development, to audition, to the rehearsal process, to the production designs, and finally to the actual performance in a safe, supportive environment. Dance Composition 35 provides opportunities for students to explore possible career interests and pathways that could capitalize on their knowledge, skills and abilities as a dancer.

### **DISCOVERY OPTION 7-8-9**

Discovery Option 7-8-9 has been previously developed, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2015. This course is currently being delivered in 17 District schools and has an enrolment of 1,201 students in 2014-2015.

Discovery Option 7-8-9 is designed for students who are interested in opportunities to develop research, critical thinking and inquiry skills as they pursue in depth topics of interest and importance to them. The intent of this option is to allow students school time to extend beyond their studies of the regular curriculum. It supports students in the development of a range of competencies, of core and other option classes but may extend out of the range of any of these areas. This course is student project-based, where the teacher guides students towards active

learning, in depth research and problem solving. Discovery Option 7-8-9 emphasizes the importance of self-management, responsibility, and independence to foster student growth.

### **ISLAMIC STUDIES 7-8-9**

Islamic Studies 7-8-9 is a course series that has been previously developed, authorized and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2015. It is designed for students in junior high school and is currently being delivered at Killarney School. It has a 2014-2015 enrolment of 239 students.

Islamic Studies 7-8-9 is designed for both Muslim and non-Muslim students. It is intended to provide students with opportunities to develop an understanding of Islam and foster the exploration of their own Islamic beliefs, values, and understanding. This course series supports the understanding that Islam promotes cooperation and harmony with people of other cultures and religions to promote the co-existence and common goals between Muslims and non-Muslims in the Western world.

Islamic Studies 7-8-9 meets the required 20 per cent course content addressing a comparative study of other major religions. Its aim is to develop respect for and promote understanding of individual and minority group differences, and develop an understanding and appreciation of the beliefs, customs, practices, literature and traditions of other major world religions.

### **JOURNALISM 15, 25, 35**

Journalism 15, 25, 35 is a 15 credit course that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered in EPSB. Journalism 15, 25, 35 is acquired from the Calgary Board of Education and expires in 2015. Journalism 15 is currently being delivered at Ross Sheppard High School and has a 2014-2015 enrolment of 12 students.

This course series provides students with opportunities to explore and create original texts for a public audience in a variety of journalistic media. The emphasis of this course series is on student-selected projects that are challenging, engaging and relevant to the school community.

### **WORLD HISTORY 7-8-9 (replacing World History 7 and World History 8)**

World History 7-8-9 is a course series in which the first two levels have been previously developed, approved and delivered by EPSB as World History 7 and World History 8. These two courses expire in August 2015 and are currently being delivered in four District schools with a 2014-2015 enrolment of 465 students. The Grade 9 level of the course series is newly developed and extends the learnings and experiences of the previous grade levels.

World History 7-8-9 is intended to provide students with opportunities to study history beyond the Alberta Social Studies curriculum. This course series aims to support students to be able to use information about past events, using multiple accounts and perspectives.

World History 7-8-9 provides opportunities for students to develop critical and historical thinking skills and supports them in the development of a range of competencies, such as knowing how to learn, managing information and applying multiple literacies. This course series treats the study of history as an interdisciplinary subject, and aims to provide students with the historical, cultural and literary knowledge necessary to be responsible citizens in a pluralistic and multicultural Canadian society.

**2014 -2015 Enrolments for LDCs as of June 10, 2015  
Submitted for Approval on June 23, 2015**

<b>Locally Developed Course Name/Series</b>	<b>Schools</b>	<b>Total Student Enrolment 2014-2015</b>
Advanced Acting 35-5 (this includes 15-25-35)	Edmonton Christian	300
	Harry Ainlay	
	M.E Lazerte	
	McNally	
	Queen Elizabeth	
	Ross Sheppard	
	Victoria	
	W.P Wagner	
Class V Driver Training 35 (new)	n/a	0
Dance Composition 35	Vimy Ridge Academy	10
Discovery Option 7-8-9	Amiskwaciy Academy	1,201
	Argyll Centre	
	Balwin	
	Britannia	
	Crestwood	
	Dan Knott	
	Hillcrest	
	John D. Bracco	
	Killarney	
	Lawton	
	Londonderry	
	Mary Butterworth	
	Meadowlark Christian	
	Riverbend	
	Roslyn	
Steele Heights		
T.D. Baker		
Islamic Studies 7-8-9	Killarney	239
Journalism 15, 25, 35	Ross Sheppard	12 (Journalism 15)
Performing Arts 15-25-35 (5)	Victoria School	27
Physics (AP) 35	Queen Elizabeth	16
World History 7 and World History 8	Allendale	465
	Edith Rogers	
	Major-General Griesbach	
	Stratford	