

DATE: June 14, 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 that are developed by the District were reviewed and revised collaboratively with District teachers, school administrators 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.
- School authorities may not amend or adapt the content in LDCs acquired from other school authorities without prior written consent.

RECOMMENDATION

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

- **Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9**
- **Film Studies 15-25-35**
- **Foundations in Industry Workplace Safety 35**
- **French as a Second Language Grade 1 to Grade 9**
- **Theatre Performance 15-25-35 (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 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.
- 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 developed by the District 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 June 14, 2016
ATTACHMENT II Enrolments for Expiring Locally Developed Courses

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Summaries of LDCs Submitted for Approval on June 14, 2016

ABORIGINAL STUDIES 7-8-9

Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9 is a course series acquired from Calgary Board of Education and adapted for use in District schools. It expires in August 2020. Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9 has not been previously delivered in Edmonton Public Schools. This course series is planned for initial delivery at John D. Bracco and Highlands junior high schools.

Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9 is a course series that provides students with opportunities to expand their understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of Canada, their history and their relationship with Canada. Students will explore historical events and their impact on First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and communities. Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9 provides students with opportunities to learn the skills they need to engage in meaningful and respectful conversations about First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences.

FILM STUDIES 15-25-35

Film Studies 15-25-35 is a 9 and 15 credit course series that has been previously acquired, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. It is acquired from Calgary Board of Education and expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at five District schools and had an enrolment of 328 students as of January 11, 2016. The Film Studies 15-25-35 course series is currently being authorized by Alberta Education for the 2016-2017 school year and will expire in August 2017.

The focus of Film Studies 15-25-35 is on the exploration of film as an artistic form of expression. This course is designed to provide innovative and unique ways for students to engage in the study of this art form as well as the technological and literary aspects of the medium.

Film Studies 15-25-35 provides students will opportunities to engage with the artistic aspect of the film medium. Students will study film which encompasses narrative, technical and artistic elements; therefore this course is designed as the artistic bridge to connect the literary elements within Language Arts and the technological elements within Career and Technology Studies.

FRENCH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE GRADE 1 TO GRADE 9

French as a Second Language Grade 1 to Grade 9 is a new course series developed for schools offering a Grade 1 entry point for French language programming, including Cogito program schools. This course series replaces the French as a Second Language (Three Year) K-Grade 3 Program Articulation of the French as a Second Language Program of Studies and the French as a Second Language Cogito Scope and Sequence, which are both currently being used in District schools. The French as a Second Language Cogito Scope and Sequence is currently being delivered at eight District Cogito program schools and as of April 2016 had an enrolment of 1,828 students. The French as a Second Language (Three Year) K-Grade 3 Program Articulation of the French as a Second Language Program of Studies is being delivered at five District schools and as of April 2016 had an enrolment of 1,075 students.

French as a Second Language Grade 1 to Grade 9 is a course series that provides opportunities for students to develop French language proficiency beginning in Grade 1, as well as knowledge and appreciation of Francophone cultures. In addition, this course series provides opportunities for students to develop an awareness of and sensitivity to cultural and linguistic diversity.

FOUNDATIONS IN INDUSTRY WORKPLACE SAFETY 35

Foundations in Industry Workplace Safety 35 is a 5 credit course that has not been previously delivered in Edmonton Public Schools. It is acquired from Grande Yellowhead Public School Division and expires in 2019. This course series is planned for initial delivery at Centre High.

The Foundations in Industry Workplace Safety 35 course is designed to provide students with a foundational understanding and awareness of the legislative requirements and responsibilities under seven standard industry safety courses. These safety courses include H2S Alive, Confined Spaces, WHMIS 2015, Ground Disturbance, Detection and Control of Flammable Substances, Fall Protection Awareness and Transportation of Dangerous Goods. The Foundations in Industry Workplace Safety 35 course provides opportunities for students to apply theoretical knowledge to multiple employment sectors. The Foundations in Industry Workplace Safety 35 course may also help students prepare for permanent certification within each of the seven industry safety courses.

THEATRE PERFORMANCE 15-25-35 (3)

Theatre Performance 15-25-35 (3) is a 9 credit course series that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by Edmonton Public Schools. It expires in August 2016. The 5 credit version of Theatre Performance 15-25-35 was approved at the February 16, 2016 Board meeting. District approval for Theatre Performance 15-25-35 (3) is recommended by Alberta Education to enable its use in two external school districts that have requested to acquire this course series from Edmonton Public Schools.

Theatre Performance 15-25-35 (3) provides opportunities for students to extend their theatre experience beyond the foundational skills offered through the provincial Drama 10-20-30 Program of Studies. This course series is designed to foster students' development of performance skills and techniques through the exploration of knowledge, attitudes, values and behaviours associated with the professional performing artist. Students are provided with opportunities to develop their ability to observe, create, interpret and respond creatively through participation in a full-scale collaborative production.

Enrolments for Expiring Locally Developed Courses

Course Name/Series	Schools offering in 2015-2016	Total Student Enrolment 2014-2015	Total Student Enrolment as of April, 2016
Film Studies 15-25-35	Jasper Place	298	328
	Lillian Osborne		
	Ross Sheppard		
	McNally		
	Victoria		