

DATE: November 3, 2015

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses

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

RESOURCE STAFF: Janice Aubry, 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](#)
[The Common Curriculum Frameworks for International Languages](#)

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

All LDCs developed by Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB) have 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 vision of an educated Albertan as an engaged thinker and ethical citizen with an entrepreneurial spirit;
- contain a rationale, philosophy, and general and specific learning outcomes aligned with the provincial standards and guidelines; and
- contain updated, current content.

Locally developed second language courses (language arts and language and culture courses) are consistent with the appropriate framework within the [The Common Curriculum Frameworks for International Languages](#).

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 EPSB each year.
- EPSB 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 EPSB until August 2019:

- **American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y)**
- **American Sign Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12**
- **Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35 (3)**
- **Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)**
- **Arabic Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12**
- **Dance 15-25-35 (3)**
- **Hebrew Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12**
- **Works in Translation (IB) 35**

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 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 November 3, 2015
ATTACHMENT II	Enrolments for Expiring Locally Developed Courses

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Summaries of LDCs Submitted for Approval on November 3, 2015

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND DEAF CULTURE NINE-YEAR (9Y)

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y) is a course series that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at Tevie Miller Heritage School. It has a total enrolment of 33 students as of September 30, 2015. The 15-25-35 levels of this course series expire in August 2016. The Grade 4 to 9 levels do not expire until August 2018. The complete American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y) is being presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in order to align the expiry dates of this course series.

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y) is designed for hearing, hard of hearing or Deaf students who are beginning their study of American Sign Language (ASL) and who have little or no ASL proficiency upon entry into this course series at the Grade 4 level. American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y) typically begins in Grade 4 and is designed to extend through nine years to the end of Grade 12.

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y) provides opportunities for students to develop ASL proficiency as well as knowledge and appreciation of Deaf culture. Studying ASL provides students with an increased awareness of and sensitivity to cultural and linguistic diversity. Outcomes from the American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y) course series foster the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote insight into Deaf culture and equip students with the ability to communicate with people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Proficiency in ASL enhances the economic and career potential of students.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE ARTS KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12

American Sign Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12 is a course series that has been previously developed, authorized and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at Alberta School for the Deaf. It has a total enrolment of 48 students as of September 30, 2015.

American Sign Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12 is a course series that serves as an integral part of the American Sign Language (ASL) Bilingual Program in EPSB. ASL bilingual programming establishes an environment in which both ASL and English languages are used for purposes of communication, learning and personal satisfaction. American Sign Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12 enables the delivery of subject-area content, language instruction and cultural information, promoting effective language acquisition and cultural competence. Acquiring ASL opens up important doors for Deaf students to communicate with others. Outcomes from the American Sign Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12 course series foster the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote insight into Deaf culture and equip students with the ability to communicate directly with people who are Deaf and hard of hearing. Proficiency in ASL enhances the economic and career potential of students.

APPLIED GRAPHIC ARTS 15-25-35 (3)

Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35 (3) is a 9-credit course series that has been previously developed, authorized and delivered by EPSB. It is designed for students who are beginning their study of Applied Graphic Arts in high school. It is currently being delivered at Strathcona High School. It

has a total enrolment of 107 students as September 30, 2015. The 5-credit version of the Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35 course series was approved at the May 19, 2015 board meeting

Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35 (3) provides students with opportunities to communicate visually through the study of the elements and principles of design, image-making, typography, history of graphic design, conceptual problem solving, and critical thinking. The emphasis of Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35(3) is on the student becoming an informed creator of solutions to visual problems.

ARABIC LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SIX-YEAR (6Y)

Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) is a course series that has been previously developed, approved and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at two District schools and has an enrolment of 189 students as of September 30, 2015. The Grade 7 to 9 levels of this course series expire in August 2016. The 15-25-35 levels of this course series expire in August 2017. The complete Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) is being presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in order to align the expiry dates of this course series.

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

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

ARABIC LANGUAGE ARTS KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12

Arabic Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12 is a course series that has been previously developed, authorized and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at five District schools. It has a total enrolment of 1,125 students as of September 30, 2015.

Arabic Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12 is a locally developed course series that serves as an integral part of the Arabic Bilingual Program in EPSB. Arabic bilingual programming establishes an environment in which both English and Arabic languages are used for purposes of communication, learning and personal satisfaction. The Arabic Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12 course series enables the delivery of subject-area content, language instruction and cultural information, promoting effective language acquisition and intercultural competence. Outcomes from this course series foster the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote the development of effective global citizens and enhance the economic and career potential of students.

DANCE 15-25-35 (3)

Dance 15-25-35 (3) is a 9-credit course series that is not yet being delivered in District schools. The 15-credit version of the Dance 15-25-35 course series was approved at the May 19, 2015 board meeting. It had been developed in collaboration with staff from Calgary Board of Education and Edmonton Catholic Schools, with EPSB serving as the lead school district. This new Dance 15-25-35 (3) course series was developed in response to a request from Edmonton Catholic Schools for a 9-credit version; it was determined to be best for EPSB to develop this 9-credit version based on the 15-credit Dance 15-25-35, to ensure close alignment between the two course series.

Dance 15-25-35 (3) is intended for students beginning their study of dance and who have had little or no experience with dance upon entry into the course series. Dance 15-25-35 (3) provides opportunities for students who would like to pursue dance beyond the Alberta Physical Education Program of Studies. It also offers students the opportunity to study dance as an integral part of fine and performing arts programs. This course series is intended to provide students with the foundations of dance. It is designed to foster in students an understanding and appreciation of, curiosity about, and a lifelong interest in dance. It is also designed to expose learners to a broad range of artistic and aesthetic experiences from a variety of dance genres and traditions. In Dance 15-25-35 (3), students will have the opportunity to develop:

- physical, social and emotional skills;
- technical proficiency;
- contemporary and historical appreciation; and
- positive self-concepts.

HEBREW LANGUAGE ARTS KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12

Hebrew Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12 is a course series that has been previously developed, authorized and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered at Talmud Torah School. It has a total enrolment of 136 students as of September 30, 2015.

Hebrew Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12 is a locally developed course series that serves as an integral part of the Hebrew Bilingual Program in EPSB. Hebrew bilingual programming establishes an environment in which both English and Hebrew languages are used for purposes of communication, learning and personal satisfaction. The Hebrew Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12 course series enables the delivery of subject-area content, language instruction and cultural information, promoting effective language acquisition and intercultural competence. Outcomes from this course series foster the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote the development of effective global citizens and enhance the economic and career potential of students.

WORKS IN TRANSLATION (IB) 35

Works in Translation (IB) 35 is a 3-credit course that has been previously developed, authorized and delivered by EPSB. It expires in August 2016. It is currently being delivered in eight District high schools. It has a total enrolment of 384 students as of September 30, 2015.

Works in Translation (IB) 35 is a locally developed course that enables students in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme to meet the IB requirements for Language A:

Studies in Language and Literature that are beyond the provincial curriculum. Works in Translation (IB) 35 provides additional instruction and opportunities for in-depth study and analysis of literary texts.

Works in Translation (IB) 35 is intended to provide students with opportunities to expand their knowledge and appreciation of world literature. This course supports students in the development of a range of competencies, such as critical thinking and demonstrating global and cultural understanding, as they analyze diverse literary texts. The emphasis of Works in Translation (IB) 35 is for students to study world literature in depth to develop broadened critical and cultural perspectives.

Enrolments for Expiring Locally Developed Courses

Locally Developed Course Name/Series	Schools	Total Student Enrolment 2014-2015	Total Student Enrolment as of Sept. 30, 2015
American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y)	Tevie Miller Heritage	22	33
American Sign Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12	Alberta School for the Deaf	48	48
Applied Graphic Arts 15-25-35 (3)	Strathcona	95	107
Arabic Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12	Calder	1073	1125
	Glengarry		
	Killarney		
	Malmo		
	Queen Elizabeth		
Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)	Killarney	158	189
	Queen Elizabeth		
Hebrew Language Arts Kindergarten to Grade 12	Talmud Torah	152	136
Works in Translation (IB) 35	Harry Ainlay	338	384
	Jasper Place		
	Lillian Osborne		
	M.E. LaZerte		
	McNally		
	Old Scona		
	Ross Sheppard		
	Victoria School of the Arts		