



DATE: December 13, 2016

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Course: Forensic Science Studies 35-5

ORIGINATOR: Nancy Petersen, Acting for Executive Director, Governance, Strategic Services and Support for Schools

RESOURCE

STAFF: Janice Aubry, Ania Ossowska

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 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 authorized 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.

Supplementary information for teachers related to all LDCs, such as assessment information and possible resources, is 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.

Forensic Science Studies 35-5 is a 5 credit course that was acquired through Pembina Hills Regional Division #7 and expired in August 2016. This course is currently being delivered to seven students at Braemar School through a partnership with Alberta Distance Learning Centre and 29 students at Harry Ainlay School are enrolled in the course next semester. A description of Forensic Science Studies 35-5 is provided in Attachment I.

RELATED FACTS

- The 3 credit version of Forensic Science Studies 35 was developed by Edmonton Public Schools and was approved at the May 6, 2014 Board meeting for use in District schools until August 2018.
- 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 LDC be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 2020:

- **Forensic Science Studies 35-5**

OPTIONS

The following options are selected for consideration as they are deemed the most admissible:

1. Approve the LDC as presented.
2. Do not approve the LDC.

CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS

- This LDC supports the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.
- This LDC provides a unique opportunity for students to explore their interests in Forensic Science, extends the learning outcomes of the sciences programs of study, and accommodates the special interests and abilities of students.
- The availability of this course has been important in supporting Braemar School students to meet their high school graduation requirements.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will proceed to request that Alberta Education approve this course for use in Edmonton Public Schools.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Summary of Forensic Science Studies 35-5

ATTACHMENT II Past and Current Enrolments for Forensic Science Studies 35-5

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Summary of Forensic Science Studies 35-5

FORENSIC SCIENCE STUDIES 35-5

Forensic Science Studies 35-5 is a 5 credit course acquired from Pembina Hills Regional Division #7 and has been previously delivered in Edmonton Public Schools. If approved, the course will expire in August 2020. Currently there are student enrolments at Braemar School and Harry Ainlay School. The 3 credit version of Forensic Science Studies 35 was developed by Edmonton Public Schools and was approved at the May 6, 2014 Board meeting for use in District schools.

The General Outcomes of Forensic Science Studies 35-5 are as follows:

1. Students will appreciate the value of forensic science in criminal investigations.
2. Students will acknowledge that various scientific disciplines such as biology, chemistry and physics are involved in the field of forensic science.
3. Student will develop a basic understanding of the fundamental forensic science techniques.
4. Students will recognize the history of the field of forensic science and that it continues to expand and be refined.
5. Students will acknowledge that forensic scientific evidence is not 100% accurate due to human error in the collection and interpretation/assessment of evidence.
6. Students will appreciate the experience of forensic science/crime investigation experts discussing their area of expertise.

Past and Current Enrolments for Forensic Science Studies 35-5

School	Student Enrolment from 2013-2015	Student Enrolment 2015-2016	Student Enrolment as of November 2016
Braemar	30	12	7
Eastglen	50	12	-
Harry Ainlay	8	-	29
Learning Store on Whyte	1	-	-
McNally	2	-	-
Metro Continuing Education	8	8	-
	<i>Total: 99</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>36</i>