

**DATE:** June 19, 2018

**TO:** Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** Locally Developed Courses

**ORIGINATOR:** Ron MacNeil, Assistant Superintendent, Mike Suderman, Assistant Superintendent

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Janice Aubry, Laurie Houston

**REFERENCE:** [Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12, 2017-2018](#)  
[Ministerial Order on Student Learning \(#001/2013\)](#)  
[GA.BP - Student Programs of Study](#)  
[GAA.BP - Delivery of Student Programs of Study](#)  
[GK.BP - Student Assessment, Achievement and Growth](#)  
[GKB.AR - Standards for Evaluation](#)

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## ISSUE

Alberta Education requires that school authorities approve locally developed courses (LDCs) by a motion of the Board of Trustees prior to implementation in schools.

## BACKGROUND

The *Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12, 2017-2018* (pg.63) states that:

“School authorities have the flexibility to develop or acquire locally developed courses (LDCs) to address particular student and/or community needs. These learning opportunities complement, extend and/or expand upon provincial programs of study. LDCs may be used to:

- accommodate student needs and interests
- encourage and support innovative learning and teaching practices
- address unique community priorities
- encourage students who may be at risk of leaving school early
- promote successful transitions to further education by exposing students to advanced subject matter and learning environments”

LDCs also support District alternative programs and the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.

Junior and senior high school LDCs are currently approved on a four-year cycle by the developing school authority. Senior high school LDCs must also be authorized by Alberta Education. The maximum duration for Alberta Education authorization is currently four years. This approval and/or authorization process is governed by provincial and District policies.

All LDCs developed by Edmonton Public Schools have been written to ensure that they meet 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 provincial requirements and standards

Supplementary information related to all LDCs, such as assessment information, is available on the District intranet. 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.

## RELATED FACTS

- All District-developed LDCs in this report were developed collaboratively with District teachers, school administrators and central staff.
- Other school authorities in Alberta request to acquire 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:**

- **Arabic Language and Culture Three-year (3Y) 15-25-35**
- **Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)**
- **Art and Design: Ceramics 7-8-9**
- **Art and Design: Drawing 7-8-9**
- **Art and Design: Painting 7-8-9**
- **Art and Design: Photography 7-8-9**
- **Competencies in Math 15**
- **Guitar 15-25-35**
- **Learning Strategies 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Portfolio Art 35 (3 and 5)**
- **Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)**

## OPTIONS

Based on the information provided in this report, the following options are considered most appropriate:

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 and ANALYSIS

- LDCs provide unique opportunities to accommodate student needs and interests, encourage innovation in learning and teaching practices, address community priorities, engage students who are at risk of leaving school early and/or promote successful transitions to further education.
- Many LDCs support District alternative programming.
- LDCs support the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.

**NEXT STEPS**

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will submit a request to Alberta Education for authorization to offer the high school LDCs in Edmonton Public Schools. If authorization is obtained, the Administration will make these LDCs available for use in the District.

**ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES**

ATTACHMENT I Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 19, 2018

ATTACHMENT II Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2018

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## Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 19, 2018

### **Arabic Language and Culture Three-year (3Y) 15-25-35**

Arabic Language and Culture Three-year (3Y) 15-25-35 is a 5 credit course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently not being delivered by any District schools.

Arabic Language and Culture Three-year (3Y) 15-25-35 is intended for students who are beginning their study of Arabic language and Arabic-speaking cultures in senior high school. This course series provides the opportunity for students to learn to use Arabic in a variety of situations and for a variety of purposes. Students in Arabic Language and Culture Three-year (3Y) 15-25-35 will develop an understanding of historical and contemporary elements of Arab-speaking cultures, which may enhance their ability to be effective global citizens.

### **Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)**

Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) is a 5 credit course series developed by Northern Lights School Division. It is currently being delivered at one District school and had an enrolment of 157 students as of February 21, 2018.

The Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) course series is intended for students who begin their study of Arabic language and Arabic-speaking cultures in Kindergarten or Grade 1 and continue their study into high school. This course series provides the opportunity for students to learn to use Arabic in a variety of situations and for a variety of purposes. Students in Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) will develop an understanding of historical and contemporary elements of Arab-speaking cultures, which may enhance their ability to be effective global citizens.

### **Art and Design: Ceramics 7-8-9**

Art and Design: Ceramics 7-8-9 is a new trimester course series developed by Edmonton Public Schools. This course series enables students to access an art and design course in a trimester context and is designed for delivery in approximately 25 hours of instruction.

Art and Design: Ceramics 7-8-9 provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design for ceramics. In this course series, students will explore the media, techniques and processes of ceramics as a means to communicate their artistic ideas. Art and Design: Ceramics 7-8-9 enables students to create ceramics for a range of purposes, including a collaborative exhibition or installation.

### **Art and Design: Drawing 7-8-9**

Art and Design: Drawing 7-8-9 is a new trimester course series developed by Edmonton Public Schools. This course series enables students to access an art and design course in a trimester context and is designed for delivery in approximately 25 hours of instruction.

Art and Design: Drawing 7-8-9 provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design for drawing. In this course series, students will explore the media, techniques and processes of drawing as a means to communicate their artistic ideas. Art and Design: Drawing 7-8-9 enables students to create drawings for a range of purposes, including a collaborative exhibition or installation.

**Art and Design: Painting 7-8-9**

Art and Design: Painting 7-8-9 is a new trimester course series developed by Edmonton Public Schools. This course series enables students to access an art and design course in a trimester context and is designed for delivery in approximately 25 hours of instruction.

Art and Design: Painting 7-8-9 provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design for painting. In this course series, students will explore the media, techniques and processes of painting as a means to communicate their artistic ideas. Art and Design: Painting 7-8-9 enables students to create paintings for a range of purposes, including a collaborative exhibition or installation.

**Art and Design: Photography 7-8-9**

Art and Design: Photography 7-8-9 is a new trimester course series developed by Edmonton Public Schools. This course series enables students to access an art and design course in a trimester context and is designed for delivery in approximately 25 hours of instruction.

Art and Design: Photography 7-8-9 provides students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design for photography. In this course series, students will explore the media, techniques and processes of photography as a means to communicate their artistic ideas. Art and Design: Photography 7-8-9 enables students to create photography for a range of purposes, including a collaborative exhibition or installation.

**Competencies in Math 15**

Competencies in Math 15 is a 5 credit course developed by Red Deer Public School District. It is currently being delivered at nine District schools and had an enrolment of 475 students as of February 21, 2018.

Competencies in Math 15 aims to improve student mastery of mathematical skills, concepts and ideas. Students will extend their knowledge beyond performing routine operations, and will be encouraged to explore a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts through critical thinking and exploration exercises. Students will be challenged to become engaged learners, critical thinkers and competent problem solvers.

**Guitar 15-25-35**

Guitar 15-25-35 is a 5 credit course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. It has not previously been offered in Edmonton Public Schools.

Guitar 15-25-35 provides the opportunity for students to learn instrumental technique, concepts and theory applied to both classical and modern musical forms. This course series extends the creative avenues available for students to learn how to express themselves musically and make meaning from listening to music. Students in Guitar 15-25-35 will have the opportunity to interpret the compositions of others and apply their developing performance skills to writing their own music and engaging in musical performance.

**Learning Strategies 15-25-35**

Learning Strategies 15-25-35 is a 3 and 5 credit course series developed by Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District. It is currently being delivered at 23 District schools and had an enrolment of 1,571 students as of February 21, 2018.

Learning Strategies 15-25-35 is designed to assist high school students in developing understandings, literacies, skills and values to be successful learners across all subject areas. Students will purposefully think about the learning process, their current study habits and how to become more effective and efficient learners. This course series seeks to encourage students to be ethical, adaptive and resilient consumers of information who have confidence when problem solving and managing their own learning.

### **Portfolio Art 35**

Portfolio Art 35 is a 3 and 5 credit course developed by Edmonton Catholic Separate School District. It has not previously been offered in Edmonton Public Schools.

Portfolio Art 35 is a course intended for students who plan to continue their studies at a post-secondary level. Portfolio Art will address the following three major areas: investigative skills, technical skills and the demonstration of creative skills. These areas reflect the expectations placed upon students for the evaluation and acceptance of a portfolio used for admittance into a post-secondary institution.

### **Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)**

Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) is a complete Kindergarten to Grade 12 course series developed by the Headway School Society of Alberta. This specific LDC has not previously been offered in Edmonton Public Schools.

The Punjabi Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) course series is intended for students who begin their study of Punjabi language and culture in Kindergarten or Grade 1 and continue their study into high school. This courses series provides opportunities for students to develop Punjabi language proficiency, as well as knowledge and appreciation of Punjabi cultures. This course series provides the opportunity for students to learn and use Punjabi in a variety of situations and for a variety of purposes, and to develop the knowledge and attitudes to be effective global citizens.

**Enrolment Data for  
Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2018**

Locally Developed Course Name/Series	Enrolments 2013-2018 as of February 21, 2018					Schools offering in 2017-18
	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)	119	137	143	142	157	Grace Martin
Competencies in Math 15	n/a	n/a	n/a	66	475	amiskwaciy Academy Braemar Harry Ainlay J. Percy Page Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard
Learning Strategies 15-25-35 (3 and 5 credit)	1,785	2,041	1,977	1,648	1,571	Academy at King Edward Argyll Centre Aspen Program Braemar Centre High Eastglen Edmonton Christian Harry Ainlay Hospital Campuses Institutional Services Schools J. Percy Page Jasper Place Learning Store at Blue Quill Learning Store at Londonderry Learning Store on Whyte Learning Store West Edmonton McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard Strathcona Transitions at the Y Vimy Ridge Academy W.P. Wagner