

**DATE:** May 8, 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](#)

---

## 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.

Senior high school LDCs are currently approved on a four-year cycle by the developing school authority and must be approved by the Board of Trustees and 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 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 provincial requirements and standards
- contain updated, current content

Supplementary information for teachers related to all LDCs, such as assessment information, is available to District 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.

## RELATED FACTS

- All District-developed LDCs in this report were reviewed and revised 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:**

- **ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25**
- **ESL Introduction to Science 15**
- **Introduction to the Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway 35**
- **Mathematics (IB) 25**
- **Pre-Engineering 25-35**
- **Special Needs Educational Assistant: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35**

## 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 the senior high school LDCs developed by the District to Alberta Education for authorization. If authorization is obtained, the Administration will make those LDCs available for District use.

**ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES**

ATTACHMENT I Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 8, 2018

ATTACHMENT II Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2018

LH:ac

## **Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 8, 2018**

### **ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25**

ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25 is a 5 credit course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at 10 District schools and had an enrolment of 375 students as of February 21, 2018.

ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25 provides students with English language development while simultaneously creating and sharing knowledge upon which Canadian cultural, historical, geographical and political concepts are built.

Alberta Education has approved a one-year extension to the authorization of this version of ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25.

### **ESL Introduction to Science 15**

ESL Introduction to Science 15 is a 5 credit course developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at six District schools and had an enrolment of 164 students as of February 21, 2018.

ESL Introduction to Science 15 provides English language learners with the opportunity to build communicative competence with the English language while attaining the scientific awareness needed to function as effective members of society. This course provides English language learners with English language development while simultaneously creating and sharing knowledge upon which scientific concepts are built.

Alberta Education has approved a one-year extension to the authorization of this version of ESL Introduction to Science 15.

### **Introduction to the Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway 35**

Introduction to the Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway 35 is a 5 credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one District school and had an enrolment of 32 students as of February 21, 2018.

Introduction to the Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway 35 provides students with the opportunity to learn about the roles and responsibilities of effective educational assistants. Students in this course will develop the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary to support teachers and learners, implement activities and make informed decisions that will enrich the educational experience of all learners. As well, this locally developed course allows students planning for post-secondary and/or careers, an opportunity to explore their passions, interests and skills while making personal connections to career possibilities.

### **Mathematics (IB) 25**

Mathematics (IB) 25 is a 3 credit course developed by Red Deer Public School District. It has not been offered previously in Edmonton Public Schools.

This course assists students to extend their knowledge beyond performing routine operations through challenging them to be engaged thinkers. Students are encouraged to explore a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts through critical thinking, exploration exercises and placing an emphasis on

mathematical reasoning. This course was created in order to provide the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program content that is not offered in the Alberta Education Mathematics Program of Studies. This course will fulfill the requirements for Mathematical Studies Standard Level (SL) as outlined by IB.

### **Pre-Engineering 25-35**

Pre-Engineering 15-25-35 is a 5 credit course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at two District schools and had an enrolment of 108 students as of February 21, 2018.

Pre-Engineering 15-25-35 targets those students who are considering engineering as a career option, but who have many questions relative to the essence of this field. There are two goals that are hoped to be achieved through this course series. The first is to equip students to make sound decisions regarding their personalized career pathway in the field of engineering prior to and following graduation from high school. The second is to provide students with learning experiences within the field of engineering previously available only at the post-secondary level.

The locally developed course series Pre-Engineering 15-25-35 will be expiring on August 31, 2018 and Pre-Engineering 15 will be discontinued as of September 1, 2018. To permit students who are currently taking Pre-Engineering to complete the course series, the original authorization end dates have been modified. Alberta Education has authorized a one-year extension for Pre-Engineering 25 and a two-year extension for Pre-Engineering 35.

### **Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35**

Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35 is a 5 credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one District school and had an enrolment of 42 students as of February 21, 2018.

Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35 provides an opportunity for students to explore the barriers and challenges that may be present for learners in an inclusive classroom. In this course, students will have opportunities to research, explore and gain familiarity with both current and emerging assistive and adaptive technologies related to educational assistant work. This course focuses on technologies that support learners by facilitating the creation and sharing of learning in an inclusive classroom.

**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	
ESL Introduction to Canadian Studies 15-25	299	403	383	368	375	Centre High Eastglen Harry Ainlay J. Percy Page Jasper Place Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard
ESL Introduction to Science 15	97	109	122	128	164	Eastglen Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard
Introduction to the Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway 35	n/a	12	13	33	32	Centre High
Pre-Engineering 15-25-35	152	170	131	130	108	J. Percy Page W.P. Wagner
Special Needs Educational Assistant Career Pathway: Assistive and Adaptive Technology 35	n/a	14	18	24	42	Centre High