

DATE: May 22, 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.

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.

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

- 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:

- **Advanced Dance 25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Astronomy 15-25-35**
- **ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9**
- **ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9**
- **ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9**
- **Sculpting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35**
- **Technical Theatre 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**

OPTIONS

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

1. Approve the LDCs as presented.
2. 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 May 22, 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 May 22, 2018

Advanced Dance 25-35

Advanced Dance 15-25-35 is a 3 and 5 credit course series developed by Lethbridge School District. It is currently being delivered at two District schools and had an enrolment of 45 students as of February 21, 2018.

Advanced Dance 15-25-35 is designed to offer students experiential learning in the presentation of dance in performance. Students are exposed to the knowledge, skills, techniques, attitudes and behaviours applicable to dance performance. Advanced Dance 15-25-35 builds on the foundation of Dance 15-25-35 and is a developmental progression for students to learn, develop and refine skills discrete to the study of dance in performance.

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

Astronomy 15-25-35

Astronomy 15-25-35 is a 3 credit course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. Astronomy 15 is currently being delivered at two District schools and had an enrolment of 52 students as of February 21, 2018.

Astronomy 15-25-35 provides students with the opportunity to analyze and assess the connections between celestial observations, human exploration, creativity, innovation and technological advancements. Throughout the course series, students will enhance their scientific literacy and numeracy by applying active observation and documentation skills.

ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9

ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9 is a course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at three District schools and had an enrolment of 116 students as of February 21, 2018.

ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9 provides opportunities for English language learners at the intermediate English language proficiency level to examine and practice using the academic language required for participation, progression and achievement in the study of English language arts. Students in this course series will strengthen their skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing for a variety of academic purposes. This course series provides students with the background knowledge necessary for successful integration into grade-level English language arts classes.

ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9

ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9 is a course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at one District school and had an enrolment of four students as of February 21, 2018.

In ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9, English language learners examine and practice using the academic language required for participation, progression and achievement in the study of the sciences. This course series provides English language learners at beginning levels of language proficiency with the

language instruction and practice necessary for successful integration and continued learning in grade-level science classes.

ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9

ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9 is a course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. Currently, it is not being delivered by any District schools.

ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9 provides English language learners with the opportunity to build communicative competence with the English language while attaining the cultural, social and political awareness needed for success in Canadian classrooms and participation in Canadian society. This course series provides beginner and intermediate English language learners with explicit language instruction as they develop the academic language skills required for successful integration into junior and senior high school social studies courses.

Sculpting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35

Sculpting (Advanced Techniques) 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 38 students as of February 21, 2018.

Sculpting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35 offers an extension of Art 10, 20, 30 and provides students with an advanced opportunity to consider spatial concerns and solve three-dimensional problems related to mixed media, installation, performance and environmental sculpture. In the course series, students will develop an understanding of the sculpting process through the study of form and space, art history and the manipulation, assembly and transformation of a variety of materials.

Technical Theatre 15-25-35

Technical Theatre 15-25-35 is a 3 and 5 credit course series developed by Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at seven District schools and had an enrolment of 164 students as of February 21, 2018.

Technical Theatre 15-25-35 offers students the opportunity to engage in non-acting roles that are required to realize complex theatre performances. Students will explore multiple technical roles, including stage management, sound, lighting, set and props, as well as costumes and makeup. This course series may act as a stepping stone for students wishing to consider a career in the non-performing technical components of theatre production, film and event production.

**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	
Advanced Dance 15-25-35 (3 and 5 credit)	n/a	27	29	33	45	Queen Elizabeth Victoria
Astronomy 15	n/a	n/a	n/a	56	52	Jasper Place Millwoods Christian
ESL Accelerated English 7-8-9	n/a	0	0	13	116	Hillcrest Steele Heights Westlawn
ESL Introduction to Science 7-8-9	0	0	0	0	4	Alberta School for the Deaf
ESL Introduction to Social Studies 7-8-9	n/a	26	63	85	0	None
Sculpting (Advanced Techniques) 15-25-35	29	22	17	33	38	Jasper Place W.P. Wagner
Technical Theatre 15-25-35 (3 and 5 credit)	n/a	17	60	160	164	Harry Ainlay J. Percy Page Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte Millwoods Christian Ross Sheppard Strathcona