

**DATE:** June 9, 2020

**TO:** Board of Trustees

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

**SUBJECT:** Locally Developed Courses

**ORIGINATOR:** Ron MacNeil, Assistant Superintendent

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

**REFERENCE:** [Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12, 2019-2020](#)  
[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, 2019-2020* (p. 66) states that:

“School authorities have the flexibility to develop or acquire locally developed courses to address particular student and/or community needs. These learning opportunities complement, extend and/or expand upon provincial programs of study. Locally developed courses 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 alternative programs in Edmonton Public Schools and the District Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.

Junior and senior high school LDCs are usually 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. However, there may be circumstances that result in Alberta Education granting an authorization of one, two or three years. This approval and/or authorization process is governed by provincial and Division policies.

All LDCs developed by Edmonton Public Schools are written to ensure that they meet student, school, community and program needs, as well as provincial and Division requirements. This includes ensuring that these courses:

- contain a sequence introduction (formerly philosophy), a statement outlining what student needs are addressed (formerly rationale) and specific learning outcomes aligned with provincial requirements and standards
- contain updated, current content

Supplementary information related to all LDCs, such as assessment information, is available on the Division 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 Division-developed LDCs in this report were reviewed and revised collaboratively with Division 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.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 31, 2024:**

- **Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9**
- **Biology (Advanced) 35 (3)**
- **Creative Writing 7-8-9**
- **Islamic Studies 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9**

**That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools until August 31, 2021:**

- **Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9**
- **Band 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Extended Essay (IB) 35 (3)**
- **Forensic Science Studies 35 (5)**
- **Forensic Studies 25-35 (3)**
- **Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility (3 and 5)**
- **Musical Theatre 15-25-35 (5)**
- **Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Workplace Essential Skills 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 alternative programming in Edmonton Public Schools.
- 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 make these LDCs available for the 2020-2021 school year.

**ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES**

- ATTACHMENT I      Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 9, 2020  
ATTACHMENT II     Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2020

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## Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 9, 2020

### **Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9**

Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by the Calgary Board of Education and adapted by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 17 students as of March 5, 2020.

Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9 is a course sequence that provides students with opportunities to expand their understanding of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples of Canada, their history and their relationship with Canada. Students will explore historical events and their impact on First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and communities. Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9 provides students with opportunities to learn skills they need to engage in meaningful and respectful conversations with First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives and experiences.

### **Band 15-25-35**

Band 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by the Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at three Division schools and had an enrolment of 73 students as of March 5, 2020.

Band 15-25-35 is designed as an extension of the Instrumental Music 10-20-30 Program of Studies. This course sequence offers students opportunities to refine and extend their musicianship through rehearsal and performance in an ensemble setting. Band 15-25-35 builds upon and extends the foundational knowledge, attitudes and skills through the collaborative rehearsal and performance of historical and culturally diverse repertoire.

### **Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9**

Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at four Division schools and had an enrolment of 2,043 students as of March 5, 2020.

Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9 is a course sequence that is designed for both Christian and non-Christian students and supports Christian alternative programming in the Division. This course sequence provides students with opportunities to study the teachings and stories of the Bible and to explore Christian beliefs and values. Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9 is designed to meet the required 20 per cent course content addressing a comparative study of other major world religions.

### **Biology (Advanced) 35**

Biology (Advanced) 35 is a 3-credit course developed by the Calgary Board of Education. It is replacing Biology (AP) 35, which is currently being delivered at four Division schools and had an enrolment of 100 students as of March 5, 2020.

Biology (Advanced) 35 is designed to be an extension of the Biology 20-30 Program of Studies and provides students with opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of biological principles and further develop their laboratory skills. In this course, students will connect what is being studied with the world that surrounds them. As well, Biology (Advanced) 35 is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement™ (AP) Biology exam.

### **Creative Writing 7-8-9**

Creative Writing 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at five Division schools and had an enrolment of 118 students as of March 5, 2020.

Creative Writing 7-8-9 provides opportunities for students to refine their creative writing skills and abilities beyond those developed through the English Language Arts (7-9) Program of Studies. This course sequence encourages students to see creative writing as a unique way of thinking and as a means of constructing and conveying meaning. Creative Writing 7-8-9 provides students with opportunities to make connections between their own writing, the writing of others and the broader world around them.

### **Extended Essay (IB) 25-35**

Extended Essay (IB) 25-35 is a 3-credit course sequence developed by the St. Albert School Division. It is currently being delivered at seven Division schools and had an enrolment of 170 students as of March 5, 2020.

Extended Essay (IB) 35 provides an opportunity for students to undertake research in a specific International Baccalaureate subject. Through engagement in a systematic process of research appropriate to the subject area, students will enhance their research and communication skills. For students pursuing the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, the Extended Essay is a required component.

### **Forensic Science Studies 35**

Forensic Science Studies 35 is a 5-credit course developed by the Pembina Hills School Division. It is currently being delivered at two Division schools and had an enrolment of 14 students as of March 5, 2020.

Forensic Science Studies 35 offers students an opportunity to explore and further understand how basic scientific concepts apply specifically to the unique field of forensic science. These scientific principles are then applied and authenticated through the examination of realistic scenarios and engagement in concrete learning activities. This course supports online and outreach programs throughout Alberta.

### **Forensic Studies 25-35**

Forensic Studies 25-35 is a 3-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at 13 Division schools and had an enrolment of 438 students as of March 5, 2020.

Forensic Studies 25-35 is an inquiry-based course sequence intended to be accessible to both science-minded and creative thinking students who would like to apply scientific principles in real world settings. This course sequence presents students with an opportunity to take a course that is of interest to them, while also developing a realistic understanding of forensics evidence-gathering techniques, the ethical complexities which confront experts using forensics evidence, and the rigour of the discipline of forensics.

### **Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35**

Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by the Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at 11 Division schools and had an enrolment of 262 students as of March 5, 2020.

Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 is designed as an extension of the Instrumental Music 10-20-30 Program of Studies. This course sequence enables students to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of instrumental jazz and hone their musical skills through study and performance. Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 offers students the opportunity to study the jazz idiom as a subject in its own right, in a small ensemble setting.

### **Islamic Studies 15-25-35**

Islamic Studies 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course newly developed by Edmonton Public Schools.

Islamic Studies 15-25-35 is a locally developed course sequence designed for both non-Muslim and Muslim students. The primary goal of Islamic Studies 15-25-35 is to provide students with knowledge about the history and basic teachings of Islam and the customs of the Prophet Muhammad based on the Qur'an. Islamic Studies 15-25-35 is designed to meet the required 20 per cent course content addressing a comparative study of other major world religions.

### **Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9**

Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 120 students as of March 5, 2020.

Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9 is a course sequence that plays a prominent role in Hebrew Bilingual alternative programming in Edmonton Public Schools. This course sequence emphasizes integration of knowledge and appreciation for Jewish values, traditions, Hebrew language, and the Land of Israel. Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9 is designed to meet the required 20 per cent course content addressing a comparative study of other major world religions.

### **Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35**

Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by the Golden Hills School Division. It is currently being delivered at 11 Division schools and had an enrolment of 2,066 students as of March 5, 2020.

Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to explore leadership, develop leadership skills and abilities, and to grow and develop as individuals while making a difference in their school and community. Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35 focuses on the development of key values, attitudes, and ethics for leadership and for responsible citizenship in the future.

### **Musical Theatre 15-25-35**

Musical Theatre 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by the Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at nine Division schools and had an enrolment of 336 students as of March 5, 2020.

Musical Theatre 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to study musical theatre and is intended for students who seek the challenge of working through the creative process to performance. Students in Musical Theatre 15-25-35 examine the historical, cultural and social aspects of the musical theatre genre. This course sequence assists in preparing students for post-secondary experiences and life-long theatre experiences, both amateur and professional, in the role of performer as well as in the enjoyment of being an audience member.

**Vocal Jazz 15-25-35**

Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by the Calgary Board of Education. It is currently being delivered at four Division schools and had an enrolment of 100 students as of March 5, 2020.

Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to explore the human voice and experience the skills necessary to understand and communicate musically, culminating with performance opportunities. This course sequence provides opportunities for students to refine musicianship through skill development, creativity, personal practice, rehearsal and performance. In Vocal Jazz 15-25-35, students study the jazz idiom as a subject in its own right, in a small ensemble setting.

**Workplace Essential Skills 25-35**

Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at four Division schools and had an enrolment of 174 students as of March 5, 2020.

Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 provides students with opportunities to develop workplace skills that are essential as they prepare to enter the world of work and/or technical training. In this course sequence, students are encouraged to reflect on their individual strengths and workplace readiness. Through an examination of various workplace texts and contexts, students in Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 have opportunities to develop critical thinking, problem solving, literacy and numeracy skills.

## Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2020

Locally Developed Course/Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2016-2020 as of March 5, 2020				Schools offering in 2019-2020 as of March 5, 2020
	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	
Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9	71	92	154	17	Spruce Avenue
Band 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	169	205	144	73	Lillian Osborne McNally W.P. Wagner
Bible Studies Grade 1 to Grade 9	1,931	1,980	2,003	2,043	Edmonton Christian NE Edmonton Christian West Meadowlark Christian Millwoods Christian
Biology (AP) 35 (3)	93	94	101	100	J. Percy Page Jasper Place Queen Elizabeth W.P. Wagner
Creative Writing 7-8-9	32	137	104	118	Academy at King Edward Highlands Kenilworth Laurier Heights S. Bruce Smith
Extended Essay (IB) 25-35 (3)	145	126	131	170	Harry Ainlay Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Old Scona Ross Sheppard Victoria
Forensic Science Studies 35 (5)	299	375	32	14	Braemar Harry Ainlay
Forensic Studies 25-35 (3)	n/a	n/a	704	438	Argyll Centre Braemar Eastglen Harry Ainlay Hospital Campuses Learning Store Londonderry Learning Store on Whyte Learning Store West Edmonton

					Lillian Osborne McNally Millwoods Christian Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard
Instrumental Jazz 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	333	310	264	262	Harry Ainlay Jasper Place Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Old Scona Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard Strathcona Victoria W.P. Wagner
Judaic Studies Kindergarten to Grade 9	103	106	118	120	Talmud Torah
Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	485	1,328	1,422	2,066	amiskwaciy Academy Argyll Centre J. Percy Page Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Millwoods Christian Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard Strathcona Victoria
Musical Theatre 15-25-35 (5)	379	422	337	336	Eastglen J. Percy Page Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte Millwoods Christian Old Scona Ross Sheppard Strathcona Victoria
Vocal Jazz 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	50	74	105	100	Harry Ainlay Jasper Place Old Scona Victoria

Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 (3 and 5)	345	375	270	174	Learning Store at Blue Quill Learning Store at Londonderry Learning Store on Whyte Transitions at the Y
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