

DATE: March 31, 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](#)

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. 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.

RECOMMENDATION

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

- **American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y)**
- **Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)**
- **Calculus (Advanced) 35 (5)**
- **Capstone 25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Dance Performance 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Directing 25-35 (5)**
- **French as a Second Language Grade 1 to Grade 9**
- **French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8**
- **Guitar 7-8-9 (Semester and Trimester)**
- **Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 (3 and 5)**
- **Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)**

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 March 31, 2020
- ATTACHMENT II Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2020

LH:lb

Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on March 31, 2020

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y)

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y) is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools that includes 5-credit courses at the high school level. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 46 students as of February 4, 2020.

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y) is designed for hearing, hard of hearing or Deaf students who are beginning their study of American Sign Language (ASL) in Grade 4. This course sequence provides opportunities for students to develop ASL proficiency as well as knowledge and appreciation of Deaf culture. The American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y) course sequence fosters the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote insight into Deaf culture and equip students with the ability to communicate with people who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)

Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools that includes 5-credit courses at the high school level. It is currently being delivered at two Division schools and had an enrolment of 147 students as of February 4, 2020.

Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) is a course sequence designed for students who are beginning their study of Arabic and who have little or no Arabic language proficiency upon entry into this course sequence in Grade 7. This course sequence provides opportunities for students to develop Arabic language proficiency as well as knowledge and appreciation of Arabic cultures, while gaining a deeper insight into their own culture and language. The Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) course sequence fosters the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote the development of effective global citizens.

Calculus (Advanced) 35

Calculus (Advanced) 35 is a 5-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is replacing Calculus (AP) 35, which is currently being delivered at three Division schools and had an enrolment of 80 students as of February 4, 2020.

Calculus (Advanced) 35 provides opportunities for students to explore the concepts, methods and applications of high-level calculus. This course is intended to ease students' transition to the first year of post-secondary study and to prepare them for success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs. As well, this course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement™ (AP) Calculus BC exam.

Capstone 25-35

Capstone 25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is replacing Capstone (AP) 25-35, which is currently being delivered at two Division schools and had an enrolment of 50 students as of February 4, 2020.

Capstone 25-35 is a course sequence that prepares students for a constantly changing world by focusing on critical thinking skills applied to interdisciplinary topics. In this course sequence, students research and evaluate topics of their own choosing to develop their own, strong evidence-based arguments that include multiple viewpoints and perspectives. Capstone 25-35 also provides

students enrolled in Advanced Placement™ Capstone with the necessary knowledge, skills, time and support to meet the requirements of the AP Capstone Diploma™ or the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

Dance Performance 15-25-35

Dance Performance 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at five Division schools and had an enrolment of 173 students as of February 4, 2020.

Dance Performance 15-25-35 is a process-driven, production-based course sequence that provides students with an enriched dance experience. This course sequence is designed to expose learners to a broad range of artistic and aesthetic experiences, as they participate as members of a dance ensemble. The goal of Dance Performance 15-25-35 is to foster an understanding and appreciation of the role of a dance performer within a production.

Directing 25-35

Directing 25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 57 students as of February 4, 2020.

Directing 25-35 provides opportunities for students to explore the role of the theatre director as the creative leader of a theatrical production, from the inception of the idea, through the process of rehearsal, to the culminating theatrical performance. This course sequence is designed to provide an intensive practical and artistic experience for students who seek the challenge of interpreting, designing and facilitating a theatrical production. Directing 25-35 provides a theatre experience extending beyond the Drama 10-20-30 Program of Studies.

French as a Second Language Grade 1 to Grade 9

French as a Second Language Grade 1 to Grade 9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at 13 Division schools and had an enrolment of 3,688 students as of February 4, 2020.

French as a Second Language Grade 1 to Grade 9 is a course sequence that provides opportunities for students to develop French language proficiency beginning in Grade 1. In addition, students in this course sequence gain knowledge about and appreciation of Francophone cultures. French as a Second Language Grade 1 to Grade 9 provides opportunities and support for students to explore their own cultural backgrounds, experiences and identities, as well as those of members of the school community, the local community and other communities of the world.

French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8

French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 54 students as of February 4, 2020.

French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8 serves as an integral part of the Late French Immersion program in Edmonton Public Schools. This course sequence complements the existing provincial French Language Arts program of studies by enabling students to begin French Immersion programming at Grade 7 and integrate gradually into the provincial French Language Arts course at the Grade 9 level. French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8 facilitates the concurrent delivery of subject area content,

language instruction and cultural information, which promotes effective language acquisition.

Guitar 7-8-9

Guitar 7-8-9 is a semester and trimester course sequence newly developed by Edmonton Public Schools.

Guitar 7-8-9 provides opportunities for students to express themselves musically through the specific medium of guitar. In this course sequence, students will apply critical thinking to gain an understanding of the relationship between melody, harmony and rhythm and how these elements of music are conveyed through the application of guitar techniques. Students in Guitar 7-8-9 will benefit from opportunities to develop their collaborative skills through performance in guitar duets and ensembles.

Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35

Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at six Division schools and had an enrolment of 196 students as of February 4, 2020.

Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to extend their theatre experience beyond the foundational skills offered through the Drama 10-20-30 Program of Studies. Through the improvisational performance process, students have the opportunity to artistically explore theatre in the immediate present. Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 develops the performer's ability to observe, create, interpret and respond artistically as they communicate thoughts and ideas and discover their personal voice as an improviser.

Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)

Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools that includes 5-credit courses at the high school level. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 108 students as of February 4, 2020.

Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) is a course sequence designed for students who are beginning their study of Punjabi and who have little or no Punjabi language proficiency upon entry into this course sequence in Grade 7. This course sequence provides opportunities for students to develop Punjabi language proficiency as well as knowledge and appreciation of Punjabi culture, while gaining a deeper insight into their own culture and language. Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) fosters the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote the development of effective global citizens.

Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2020

Locally Developed Course/Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2016-2020 as of February 4, 2020				Schools offering in 2019-2020 as of February 4, 2020
	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	
American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y)	33	31	32	46	Tevie Miller
Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)	202	117	129	147	Killarney Queen Elizabeth
Calculus (AP) 35 (5)	105	84	87	80	Jasper Place Queen Elizabeth Strathcona
Capstone (AP) 25-35 (3 and 5)	83	71	62	50	Strathcona W.P. Wagner
Dance Performance 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	132	124	110	173	M.E. LaZerte Millwoods Christian Queen Elizabeth Victoria Vimy Ridge Academy
Directing 25-35 (5)	77	75	59	57	Victoria
French as a Second Language Grade 1 to Grade 9	3,024	3,060	3,513	3,688	Coronation Glenora Horse Hill Kameyosek Lymburn Meyokumin Mount Pleasant Northmount Pollard Meadows Richard Secord Rutherford Stratford Victoria
French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8	52	52	55	54	McKernan
Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 (3 and 5)	160	232	184	196	Lillian Osborne McNally Ross Sheppard

					Strathcona Victoria W.P. Wagner
Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)	36	161	118	108	Kate Chegwin