

DATE: June 7, 2022

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses

ORIGINATOR: Kathy Muhlethaler, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE STAFF: Marnie Beaudoin, Laurie Houston, Bob Morter, Ann Parker

REFERENCE: [Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12, 2021–2022](#)
[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, 2021-2022* (p. 62) 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 Division 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 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, a statement outlining what student needs are addressed 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

- The 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.
- Edmonton Public Schools acquires LDCs from other school authorities in the province.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following LDCs be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2026:

- **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**
- **Exploration of Film 7-8-9**
- **Indigenous Studies 7-8-9**
- **Learning Strategies 15-25-35 (3 and 5 credits)**

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 Division 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 2022–2023 school year.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

- ATTACHMENT I Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 7, 2022
ATTACHMENT II Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2022

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Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 7, 2022

Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)

Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) is a course sequence developed by the Northern Lights School Division that includes 5-credit courses at the high school level. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 157 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y) 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 sequence 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 Arabic-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 course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at three Division schools and had an enrolment of 198 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Art and Design: Ceramics 7-8-9 provides students with the opportunity to enhance their visual arts literacy as they develop their understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design for ceramics. In this course sequence, students explore a variety of media, techniques and processes used in the creation of ceramics. Students in Art and Design: Ceramics 7-8-9 will conceptualize and create ceramics for a range of purposes, including a collaborative exhibition.

Art and Design: Drawing 7-8-9

Art and Design: Drawing 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at eight Division schools and had an enrolment of 987 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Art and Design: Drawing 7-8-9 provides students with the opportunity to enhance their visual arts literacy as they develop their understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design for drawing. In this course sequence, students explore a variety of media, techniques and processes used in the creation of drawings. Students in Art and Design: Drawing 7-8-9 will conceptualize and create drawings for a range of purposes, including a collaborative exhibition.

Art and Design: Painting 7-8-9

Art and Design: Painting 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at two Division schools and had an enrolment of 419 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Art and Design: Painting 7-8-9 provides students with the opportunity to enhance their visual arts literacy as they develop their understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design for painting. In this course sequence, students explore a variety of media, techniques and processes used in the creation of paintings. Students in Art and Design: Painting 7-8-9 will conceptualize and create paintings for a range of purposes, including a collaborative exhibition.

Art and Design: Photography 7-8-9

Art and Design: Photography 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at seven Division schools and also as an online option. This course sequence had an enrolment of 1,032 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Art and Design: Photography 7-8-9 provides students with the opportunity to enhance their visual arts literacy as they develop their understanding of the elements of art and the principles of design for photography. In this course sequence, students explore a variety of media, techniques and processes used in the creation of photography. Students in Art and Design: Photography 7-8-9 will conceptualize and create photographs for a range of purposes, including a collaborative exhibition.

Exploration of Film 7-8-9

Exploration of Film 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at 27 Division schools and also as an online option. This course sequence had an enrolment of 4,776 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Exploration of Film 7-8-9 provides an opportunity for students to explore film, both as an art form and a means of communication, with an emphasis on the various techniques and approaches used by filmmakers to convey meaning. In this course sequence, students broaden their understanding by viewing and analyzing films from a variety of time periods and cultures. In this course sequence, students use their foundational knowledge of cinematic techniques to create a multimedia product.

Indigenous Studies 7-8-9

Indigenous Studies 7-8-9 is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is replacing Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9, which is currently being delivered at three Division schools and had an enrolment of 367 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Indigenous Studies 7-8-9 provides a positive, meaningful opportunity for students to enhance their foundational knowledge and understanding of the rich and vibrant diversity of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada. Through an exploration of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit languages, traditions, cultures and histories, students will broaden their understanding of topics that are important in Canada and the world, such as cultural identity, environmental stewardship and the importance of considering diverse ideas and perspectives.

Learning Strategies 15-25-35

Learning Strategies 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by the Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School Division. It is currently being delivered at 27 Division schools and had an enrolment of 1,692 students, as of March 21, 2022.

Learning Strategies 15-25-35 provides students with an opportunity to explore a range of strategies that have direct applications to learning scenarios in the classroom and beyond. In this course sequence, students develop literacies, skills and values that can be applied to learning in all high school subject areas and in other learning contexts.

Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Expiring in 2022

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2018–2022 as of March 21, 2022				Schools offering in 2021–2022 as of March 21, 2022
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	
Aboriginal Studies 7-8-9 (Renamed: Indigenous Studies 7-8-9)	126	5	187	367	amiskwaciy Academy Bessie Nichols Edith Rogers
Arabic Language and Culture Twelve-year (12Y)	136	147	107	157	Grace Martin
Art and Design: Ceramics 7-8-9	37	110	89	198	Alex Janvier Bessie Nichols Dickinsfield
Art and Design: Drawing 7-8-9	418	392	408	987	Academy at King Edward Edith Rogers Meadowlark Christian Steele Heights Svend Hansen T.D. Baker Thelma Chalifoux Vimy Ridge Academy
Art and Design: Painting 7-8-9	127	103	98	419	Edith Rogers Kim Hung
Art and Design: Photography 7-8-9	431	373	304	1,032	A. Blair McPherson David Thomas King Esther Starkman Kensington McKernan Online Reg K-9 Ottewell Stratford
Exploration of Film 7-8-9	662	602	8,771	4,776	A. Blair McPherson Academy at King Edward Allendale D.S. MacKenzie David Thomas King Dickinsfield Donald R. Getty Edith Rogers Edmonton Christian West

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2018–2022 as of March 21, 2022				Schools offering in 2021–2022 as of March 21, 2022
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	
Exploration of Film 7-8-9 (continued)	662	602	8,771	4,776	Esther Starkman Highlands Hillcrest Hilwie Hamdon Ivor Dent Kate Chegwin Kenilworth Londonderry Major General Griesbach McKernan Meadowlark Christian Millwoods Christian Online Reg K-9 Riverbend Rosslyn Spruce Avenue Steele Heights T.D. Baker Vimy Ridge Academy
Learning Strategies 15-25-35	1,949	1,968	1,493	1,692	Academy at King Edward amiskwaciy Academy Argyll Centre Aspen Program Centre High Dr. Anne Anderson Eastglen Edmonton Christian High Harry Ainlay Hospital Campuses Institutional Service Schools J. Percy Page Jasper Place Learning Store at Blue Quill Learning Store at Londonderry Learning Store on Whyte Learning Store West Edmonton Lillian Osborne M.E. LaZerte McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2018–2022 as of March 21, 2022				Schools offering in 2021–2022 as of March 21, 2022
	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	
Learning Strategies 15-25-35 (continued)	1,949	1,968	1,493	1,692	Strathcona Transitions at the Y Victoria Vimy Ridge Academy W.P. Wagner