

DATE: June 18, 2024

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Locally Developed Courses

ORIGINATOR: Kathy Muhlethaler, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional and Strategic Division Supports

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

REFERENCE [Guide to Education: ECS to Grade 12](#)
[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, 2023–2024* 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
- engage 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” (Alberta Education, 2023)

LDCs also support alternative programs in Edmonton Public Schools and the Division Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priority 1.

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 description of student needs that are addressed through the LDC and learning outcomes that are aligned with provincial requirements and standards.

Junior and senior high school LDCs must be approved by a Board motion prior to offering the locally developed courses in the Division. Senior high school LDCs must also be approved by Alberta Education.

The maximum duration for Alberta Education approval is currently four years. However, there may be circumstances that result in Alberta Education granting an approval of one, two or three years. Alberta Education may grant approval to 3- and/or 5-credit versions of LDCs.

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 LDCs approved by Alberta Education are available for acquisition at no cost.
- Edmonton Public Schools acquires LDCs developed by other school authorities in the province. LDCs may be acquired at any point in the four-year approval period that was granted by Alberta Education.
- Other school authorities in Alberta acquire LDCs developed by Edmonton Public Schools.
- The Division-developed LDCs in this report were reviewed and revised collaboratively with Division teachers, school administrators and central staff.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following elementary, junior high and senior high school locally developed courses be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:

Senior High School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Version	Approval Period (School Years)
Biology (Advanced) 35	LDC3202	3 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Dance Performance 15 Dance Performance 25 Dance Performance 35	LDC1299 LDC2299 LDC3299	3 and 5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
English Literature 35	LDC3169	3 and 5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15	LDC1350	5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Improvisational Theatre 15 Improvisational Theatre 25 Improvisational Theatre 35	LDC1551 LDC2551 LDC3551	3 and 5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 15 Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 25 Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 35	LDC1785 LDC2785 LDC3785	5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Theatre Performance 15 Theatre Performance 25 Theatre Performance 35	LDC1367 LDC2367 LDC3367	5 credits (2024-2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028

Elementary and Junior High School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Approval Period (School Years)
French as a Second Language 1 French as a Second Language 2 French as a Second Language 3 French as a Second Language 4 French as a Second Language 5 French as a Second Language 6 French as a Second Language 7 French as a Second Language 8 French as a Second Language 9	ELM1210 ELM2210 ELM3210 ELM4210 ELM5210 ELM6210 JHS7351 JHS8351 JHS9351	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Hebrew Language Arts Kindergarten Hebrew Language Arts 1 Hebrew Language Arts 2 Hebrew Language Arts 3 Hebrew Language Arts 4 Hebrew Language Arts 5 Hebrew Language Arts 6	KGN0140 ELM1140 ELM2140 ELM3140 ELM4140 ELM5140 ELM6140	2024–2025 to 2027–2028

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 Priority 1.

NEXT STEPS

Upon approval of this recommendation, the Administration will make these LDCs available for Division use for the applicable approval period.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 18, 2024

ATTACHMENT II Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 18, 2024

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Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 18, 2024**Biology (Advanced) 35**

Biology (Advanced) 35 is a 3-credit course that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is currently being delivered at two Division schools and had an enrolment of 45 students, as of April 12, 2024.

Biology (Advanced) 35 is designed to enrich and extend the topics covered in the Biology 20-30 Program of Studies and provides opportunities for students to deepen their understanding of scientific processes, hone their reasoning skills and develop enduring understandings about the natural world. This course is intended to ease students' transition to the first year of post-secondary study and to prepare students to potentially write the Advanced Placement™ (AP) Biology exam.

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 two Division schools and had an enrolment of 51 students, as of April 12, 2024.

Dance Performance 15-25-35 is process-driven and production-based course sequence that provides students with an enriched dance experience. This course sequence is designed to provide students with the opportunity to participate as a collaborative member of an ensemble within a full-scale dance production. The overall goal of Dance Performance 15-25-35 is to foster an understanding and appreciation of the role of a dance performer within a production.

English Literature 35

English Literature 35 is a 3- and 5-credit course that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is currently being delivered at six Division schools and had an enrolment of 297 students, as of April 12, 2024.

English Literature 35 provides opportunities for students to study literary texts beyond the scope of the English Language Arts 10-20-30 Program of Studies. In this course, students engage in guided literary and comparative analysis anchored in the application of literary criticism and theory. English Literature 35 course enables students in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme to meet the requirements of the Language A: literature course.

ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15

ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15 is a 5-credit course that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is currently being delivered at seven Division schools and had an enrolment of 298 students, as of April 12, 2024.

ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15 focuses on multiple approaches to learning language functions, forms and vocabulary specific to mathematics and challenges students to increase their receptive and expressive language skills. In this course, students build communicative competence with academic English language while developing foundational mathematical skills and an understanding of basic mathematics concepts.

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 15 Division schools and had an enrolment of 2,551 students, as of April 12, 2024.

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.

Hebrew Language Arts (Kindergarten to Grade 6)

Hebrew Language Arts (Kindergarten to Grade 6) is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 130 students, as of April 12, 2024.

Hebrew Language Arts (Kindergarten to Grade 6) serves as an integral part of the Hebrew Bilingual program in Edmonton Public Schools. Hebrew bilingual programming establishes an environment in which both English and Hebrew languages are used for purposes of communication, learning and personal satisfaction. This course sequence enables the delivery of subject-area content, language instruction and cultural information concurrently, promoting effective language acquisition.

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 four Division schools and had an enrolment of 142 students, as of April 12, 2024.

Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35 provides opportunities for students to develop their skills in improvisational theatre beyond the foundational skills offered through the Drama 10-20-30 Program of Studies. In this course sequence, students are encouraged to take creative risks and explore avenues for creative expression. During the improvisational process, both in rehearsal and live performance, students engage in problem solving, critical thinking and reflective analysis.

Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 15-25-35

Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 15-25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at two Division schools and had an enrolment of 200 students, as of April 12, 2024.

Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 15-25-35 provides an opportunity for both Muslim and non-Muslim students to study the history of Islam during the pre-Islamic, Meccan, and Medinan periods. As well, the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammed and the basic teachings of Islam based on the Qur'an are examined. Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 15-25-35 meets provincial requirements by including 20 per cent course content addressing a comparative study of other major world religions.

Theatre Performance 15-25-35

Theatre Performance 15-25-35 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 29 students, as of April 12, 2024.

Theatre Performance 15-25-35 provides a process-driven, production-based theatre experience for students beyond the Drama 10-20-30 Program of Studies. The goal of this course sequence is to foster both an understanding of the elements of a theatrical production and an understanding and appreciation of the role of a performer within a production. In Theatre Performance 15-25-35, students participate in a collaborative ensemble, within a theatrical production, in front of an audience.

Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 18, 2024

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2020–2024 as of April 12, 2024				Schools offering in 2023–2024 as of April 12, 2024
	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	
Biology (Advanced) 35	63	44	22	45	J. Percy Page Queen Elizabeth
Dance Performance 15-25-35	79	64	54	51	Victoria Vimy Ridge Academy
English Literature 35	331	233	323	297	Harry Ainlay Lillian Osborne M. E. LaZerte Old Scona Ross Sheppard Victoria
ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15	125	172	240	298	Centre High M. E. LaZerte McNally Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard Victoria W. P. Wagner
French as a Second Language (Grade 1 to Grade 9)	1,600	2,403	2,517	2,551	Coronation Horse Hill Kameyosek Lansdowne Lymburn Malcolm Twedde Meyokumin Mount Pleasant Northmount Pollard Meadows Richard Secord Rutherford Stratford Victoria Waverley
Hebrew Language Arts (Kindergarten to Grade 6)	98	106	124	130	Talmud Torah

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2020–2024 as of April 12, 2024				Schools offering in 2023–2024 as of April 12, 2024
	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	
Improvisational Theatre 15-25-35	92	89	108	142	McNally Ross Sheppard Strathcona Victoria
Religious Studies: Islamic Studies 15-25-35	38	94	96	200	M. E. LaZerte Queen Elizabeth
Theatre Performance 15-25-35	30	31	33	29	Victoria