

DATE: May 28, 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)
American Sign Language (Language Arts) 15 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 25 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 35	LDC1878 LDC2878 LDC3878	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 15 Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 25 Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 35	LDC1931 LDC2931 LDC3931	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Arabic Language and Culture Three-Year (3Y) 15 Arabic Language and Culture Three-Year (3Y) 25 Arabic Language and Culture Three-Year (3Y) 35	LDC1330 LDC2330 LDC3330	5 credits (2022-2026)	2024–2025 to 2025–2026
Beading (Elder Chronicles) 15	LDC1014	3 credits (2023–2027)	2024–2025 to 2026–2027
Calculus (Advanced) 35	LDC3255	5 credits (2020-2025)	2024–2025
Capstone Seminar 25 Capstone Research 35	LDC2440 LDC3440	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Competencies in Science 15	LDC1516	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Directing 25 Directing 35	LDC2468 LDC3468	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028

Senior High LDCs (continued)

Course Name	Course Codes	Version	Approval Period (School Years)
Engineering and Design 15	LDC1147	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
ESL Expository English Level 1 15 ESL Expository English Level 2 15	LDC1271 LDC1276	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Reading Development 15 Reading Foundations 15	LDC1311 LDC1296	3 and 5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Statistics 35	LDC3195	5 credits (2024–2028)	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Treaties and Sovereignty 15	LDC1068	3 credits (2023–2027)	2024–2025 to 2026–2027

Elementary and Junior High School LDCs

Course Name	Course Codes	Approval Period (School Years)
American Sign Language and Deaf Culture 4 American Sign Language and Deaf Culture 5 American Sign Language and Deaf Culture 6	ELM4124 ELM5124 ELM6124	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
American Sign Language (Language Arts) Kindergarten American Sign Language (Language Arts) 1 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 2 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 3 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 4 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 5 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 6 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 7 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 8 American Sign Language (Language Arts) 9	KGN1020 ELM1120 ELM2120 ELM3120 ELM4120 ELM5120 ELM6120 JHS7040 JHS8040 JHS9040	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 7 Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 8 Arabic Language and Culture Six-Year (6Y) 9	JHS7379 JHS8379 JHS9379	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Bible Studies 1 Bible Studies 2 Bible Studies 3 Bible Studies 4 Bible Studies 5 Bible Studies 6 Bible Studies 7	ELM1430 ELM2430 ELM3430 ELM4430 ELM5430 ELM6430 JHS7012	2024–2025 to 2027–2028

Elementary and Junior High School LDCs (continued)

Course Name	Course Codes	Approval Period (School Years)
Bible Studies 8 Bible Studies 9	JHS8012 JHS9012	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Creative Writing 7 Creative Writing 8 Creative Writing 9	JHS7035 JHS8035 JHS9035	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
French Language Arts Late Immersion 7 French Language Arts Late Immersion 8	JHS7103 JHS8103	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Guitar 7 Guitar 8 Guitar 9	JHS7415 JHS8415 JHS9415	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Judaic Studies Kindergarten Judaic Studies 1 Judaic Studies 2 Judaic Studies 3 Judaic Studies 4 Judaic Studies 5 Judaic Studies 6	KGN0445 ELM1445 ELM2445 ELM3445 ELM4445 ELM5445 ELM6445	2024–2025 to 2027–2028
Punjabi Language and Culture 7 Punjabi Language and Culture 8 Punjabi Language and Culture 9	JHS7388 JHS8388 JHS9388	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 May 28, 2024
 ATTACHMENT II Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 28, 2024

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Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 28, 2024

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture (Grade 4 to Grade 6)

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture (Grade 4 to Grade 6) is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. This course sequence is replacing American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y), which is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 59 students, as of April 12, 2024.

American Sign Language and Deaf Culture (Grade 4 to Grade 6) 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 the 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. This course sequence has been developed for Grade 4 to Grade 6 to align with Division needs, as demonstrated by historical data.

American Sign Language (Language Arts) (Kindergarten to Grade 12)

American Sign Language (Language Arts) (Kindergarten to Grade 12) 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 106 students, as of April 12, 2024.

American Sign Language (Language Arts) (Kindergarten to Grade 12) is a course sequence that serves as an integral part of the American Sign Language (ASL) Bilingual program in Edmonton Public Schools. This course sequence enables the delivery of subject-area content, language instruction and cultural information concurrently, promoting effective language acquisition.

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 305 students, as of April 12, 2024.

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.

Arabic Language and Culture Three-Year (3Y) 15-25-35

Arabic Language and Culture Three-Year (3Y) is a 5-credit course sequence that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. This course has previously been offered in the Division; however, it is not currently approved for Division use.

Arabic Language and Culture Three-Year (3Y) 15-25-35 is intended for students who are beginning their study of Arabic and Arabic-speaking cultures in senior 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 Three-Year (3Y) 15-25-35 will develop an understanding of historical and contemporary elements of Arabic-speaking cultures.

A two-year approval is being requested as this course sequence is currently authorized by Alberta Education until August 31, 2026.

Beading (Elder Chronicles) 15

Beading (Elder Chronicles) 15 is a 3-credit course that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. This course has not previously been offered in the Division.

Beading (Elder Chronicles) 15 provides an opportunity for students to explore the craft of beading. In this course, students consider how designing and sewing beadwork is an expression of culture, art and personal enjoyment. In Beading (Elder Chronicles) 15, students will examine the practice of beading in a variety of diverse cultures.

A three-year approval is being requested as this course is currently authorized by Alberta Education until August 31, 2027.

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 five Division schools and had an enrolment of 2,034 students, as of April 12, 2024.

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.

Calculus (Advanced) 35

Calculus (Advanced) 35 is a 5-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 62 students, as of April 12, 2024.

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.

A one-year approval is being requested as Alberta Education has extended the approval period for this course until August 31, 2025.

Capstone Seminar 25 and Capstone Research 35

Capstone Seminar 25 and Capstone Research 35 are courses in a 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. This course sequence is replacing Capstone 25-35, which is currently being delivered at three Division schools and had an enrolment of 129 students, as of April 12, 2024.

In Capstone Seminar 25 and Capstone Research 35, students undertake independent research on self-selected topics, formulate evidence-based arguments, and present and defend research choices. In Capstone, the emphasis is on the development of skills that will enhance student success in post-secondary programs. Both courses provide 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™.

Competencies in Science 15

Competencies in Science 15 is a 5-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at five Division schools and had an enrolment of 245 students, as of April 12, 2024.

In Competencies in Science 15, students have the opportunity to develop and enhance their skills in the practices of science. For some students who may struggle to make sense of science due to gaps in previous learning, this course allows them more time to develop their ability to problem solve, make evidence-based decisions and obtain, evaluate and communicate information in a logical manner. The overall aim of this course is to deepen students' knowledge and skills in order to build a strong foundation for success in Science 10, other high school science courses, and post-secondary programs.

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 four Division schools and had an enrolment of 217 students, as of April 12, 2024.

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.

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 37 students, as of April 12, 2024.

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

Engineering and Design 15

Engineering and Design 15 is a 5-credit course that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is not currently being delivered in any Division schools, as of April 12, 2024.

In Engineering and Design 15, students explore the varied roles that engineers play in society, discover new career pathways and develop knowledge and skills in the field of engineering. Students will investigate topics in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through a series of projects that are relevant to their lives. Engineering and Design 15 provides opportunities for students to develop their problem-solving skills using the design cycle.

ESL Expository English Level 1 15 and ESL Expository English Level 2 15

ESL Expository English Level 1 15 and ESL Expository English Level 2 15 are 5-credit courses that were developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. These courses are replacing ESL Expository English 15-25, which is currently being delivered at six Division schools and had an enrolment of 298 students, as of April 12, 2024.

In ESL Expository English Level 1 15 and ESL Expository English Level 2 15, students examine and interact with a selection of general, academic, and topic-specific expository materials. They also engage in scaffolded language activities that provide opportunities for the development of learning strategies. Students in these courses examine the functions and forms of expository, academic English and demonstrate their knowledge through increasingly fluent, accurate and logical oral, visual, print and multimedia communication.

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 37 students, as of April 12, 2024.

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.

Guitar 7-8-9

Guitar 7-8-9 is a course sequence (semester and trimester) developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at nine Division schools and had an enrolment of 616 students, as of April 12, 2024.

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.

Judaic Studies (Kindergarten to Grade 6)

Judaic Studies (Kindergarten to Grade 6) is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. This course sequence is replacing Judaic Studies (Kindergarten to Grade 9), which is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 131 students, as of April 12, 2024.

Judaic Studies (Kindergarten to Grade 6) 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 6) is designed to meet the required 20 per cent course content addressing a comparative study of other major world religions. This course sequence has been developed for Kindergarten to Grade 6 to align with Division needs, as demonstrated by historical data.

Punjabi Language and Culture (Grade 7 to Grade 9)

Punjabi Language and Culture (Grade 7 to Grade 9) is a course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. This course sequence is replacing Punjabi Language and Culture Nine-year (9Y), which is currently being delivered at one Division school and had an enrolment of 127 students, as of April 12, 2024.

Punjabi Language and Culture (Grade 7 to Grade 9) 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. This course sequence has been developed for Grade 7 to Grade 9 to align with Division needs, as demonstrated by historical data.

Reading Development 15 and Reading Foundations 15

Reading Development 15 and Reading Foundations 15 are 3- and 5-credit courses that were developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. These courses are replacing Reading 15-25, which is currently being delivered at 11 Division schools and had an enrolment of 588 students, as of April 12, 2024.

In Reading Development 15, students will participate in literacy learning meant to strengthen their language comprehension and word recognition skills while continuing to build positive reading identities. Students will learn and apply reading strategies with an emphasis on synthesizing and evaluating while reading increasingly complex and connected texts.

In Reading Foundations 15, students will participate in learning meant to positively support their identities as readers within a rich literary environment. Students in this course will learn specific reading strategies and apply these to a variety of diverse and increasingly complex texts with an emphasis on predicting, inferring, making connections and summarizing.

Statistics 35

Statistics 35 is a 5-credit course developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at two Division schools and had an enrolment of 82 students, as of April 12, 2024.

Statistics 35 provides opportunities for students to engage in statistical thinking and analysis. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. The Statistics 35 course is designed to prepare students to potentially write the Advanced Placement™ (AP) Statistics exam, to ease students' transition to the first year of post-secondary study and to prepare them for success in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and other programs.

Treaties and Sovereignty 15

Treaties and Sovereignty 15 is a 3-credit course that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. This course has not previously been offered in the Division.

In Treaties and Sovereignty 15, students have an opportunity to gain an understanding of treaty and treaty rights from a First Nations perspective. In this course, students will examine historical and contemporary perspectives on the treaty-making process, modern-day treaties and long-lasting impacts of assimilationist policies, such as the Indian Act.

A three-year approval is being requested as this course is currently authorized by Alberta Education until August 31, 2027.

Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on May 28, 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	
American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Nine-year (9Y) *Revised to American Sign Language and Deaf Culture (Grade 4 to Grade 6)	32	40	47	59	Tevie Miller
American Sign Language (Language Arts) K-12	22	55	69	106	Alberta School for the Deaf
Arabic Language and Culture Six-year (6Y)	23	206	289	305	Killarney Queen Elizabeth
Bible Studies (Grade 1 to Grade 9)	1,528	1,545	1,621	2,034	Edmonton Christian NE Edmonton Christian West Kensington Meadowlark Christian Millwoods Christian
Calculus (Advanced) 35	75	51	34	62	Strathcona
Capstone 25-35 *Renamed Capstone Seminar 25 and Capstone Research 35	31	79	102	129	Dr. Anne Anderson Strathcona W. P. Wagner
Competencies in Science 15	154	163	262	245	Braemar J. Percy Page M. E. LaZerte Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard
Creative Writing 7-8-9	64	131	46	217	Balwin Dickinsfield S. Bruce Smith Thelma Chalifoux
Directing 25-35	58	64	46	37	Victoria
Engineering and Design 15	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	None

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	
ESL Expository English 15-25 *Renamed ESL Expository English Level 1 15 and ESL Expository English Level 2 15	102	61	96	298	Eastglen Harry Ainlay Jasper Place McNally Ross Sheppard W. P. Wagner
French Language Arts Late Immersion 7-8	38	35	40	37	McKernan
Guitar 7-8-9	35	0	438	616	Britannia Dickinsfield Eilerslie Campus Kate Chegwin Londonderry Major General Griesbach Steele Heights T. D. Baker Thelma Chalifoux
Judaic Studies (Kindergarten to Grade 9) *Revised to Judaic Studies (Kindergarten to Grade 6)	97	106	125	131	Talmud Torah
Punjabi Language and Culture Six-year (6Y) *Revised to Punjabi Language and Culture (Grade 7 to Grade 9)	44	94	108	127	Kate Chegwin
Reading 15-25 *Revised to Reading Development 15 and Reading Foundations 15	230	284	358	588	Alberta School for the Deaf Braemar Centre High Dr. Anne Anderson Eastglen Jasper Place Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard
Statistics 35	66	57	69	82	Jasper Place Strathcona