

DATE: June 24, 2025

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, Vicki de Haan, Thomas Gillard, Laurie Houston

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, 2024–2025* 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, 2024)

LDCs also support alternative programs in Edmonton Public Schools and the Division Strategic Plan, with a particular focus on Priorities 1 and 2.

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 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.
- 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 locally developed courses be approved for use in Edmonton Public Schools:

Course Name	Course Codes	Version	Approval Period (School Years)
Academic Achievement through English Language Development 35	LDC3149	3 and 5 Credits (2021–2026)	2025–2026
Chemistry (Advanced) 35	LDC3138	3 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Extended Essay 35	LDC3609	3 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Forensic Studies 25 Forensic Studies 35	LDC2256 LDC3256	3 Credits 3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility 15 Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility 25 Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility 35	LDC1509 LDC2509 LDC3509	3 and 5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Theory of Knowledge (Higher) 25 Theory of Knowledge (Higher) 35	LDC2152 LDC3152	3 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029
Workplace Essential Skills 25 Workplace Essential Skills 35	LDC2743 LDC3743	5 Credits (2025–2029)	2025–2026 to 2028–2029

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 Division use for the applicable approval period.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 24, 2025

ATTACHMENT II Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 24, 2025

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Summaries of Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 24, 2025

Academic Achievement through English Language Development 35

Academic Achievement through English Language Development 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 two Division schools and had an enrolment of 53 students as of March 25, 2025.

Academic Achievement through English Language Development 15-25-35 is currently offered in the Division; however, it will be replaced with Academic Achievement through English Language Acquisition - Beginner 15 and Intermediate 15, effective September 1, 2025. In order to allow students to complete the course sequence, Alberta Education has granted a one-year authorization to Academic Achievement through English Language Development 35.

Chemistry (Advanced) 35

Chemistry (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 27 students as of March 25, 2025.

Chemistry (Advanced) 35 provides students with an opportunity to engage with additional content and concepts beyond the Chemistry 20-30 Program of Study. In this course, students engage in data analysis, interpretation of facts and critical thinking. Throughout this course, students are encouraged to develop laboratory and analytical skills in a collaborative environment. As well, this course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement™ (AP) Chemistry exam.

Extended Essay 35

Extended Essay 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 six Division schools and had an enrolment of 102 students as of March 25, 2025.

Extended Essay (IB) 35 is an in-depth study of a focused topic presented as a formal piece of academic writing. This course gives students an opportunity to engage in personal research on a topic of their own choosing. Extended Essay 35 assists students in meeting one of the core requirements of the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma.

Forensic Studies 25-35

Forensic Studies 25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at 10 Division schools and had an enrolment of 251 students as of March 25, 2025.

Forensic Studies 25-35 provides an opportunity for both science-minded and creative thinking students to apply scientific principles to real-world scenarios. In this course sequence, students refine their science process skills as they engage in an inquiry-driven exploration of the various techniques and processes used in forensics. Through the exploration of possible career pathways in forensics, students develop an accurate and realistic picture of the rigour of the discipline of forensics.

Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility 15-25-35

Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility 15-25-35 is a 3- and 5-credit course sequence that was developed by another school jurisdiction and will be acquired through Alberta Education. It is currently being delivered at 16 Division schools and had an enrolment of 2,767 students as of March 25, 2025.

Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35 provides students with opportunities to explore leadership and develop leadership skills and abilities while making a difference in their school and community. This course sequence provides students with guided opportunities to learn and grow as leaders and to develop a stronger sense of their social responsibilities. Throughout Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility 15-25-35, students explore cultural awareness, local and global citizenship and ethics.

Theory of Knowledge (Higher) 25-35

Theory of Knowledge (Higher) 25-35 is a 3-credit course sequence 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 114 students as of March 25, 2025.

Theory of Knowledge (Higher) 25-35 aims to make students aware of how they gain and utilize knowledge. Throughout this course sequence, students are encouraged to become more acquainted with the complexities of knowledge and to recognize the need to act responsibly in our complex world. Theory of Knowledge (Higher) 25-35 assists students in meeting one of the core requirements of the International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma.

Workplace Essential Skills 25-35

Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 is a 5-credit course sequence developed by Edmonton Public Schools. It is currently being delivered at 13 Division schools and had an enrolment of 188 students as of March 25, 2025.

Workplace Essential Skills 25-35 is designed to provide opportunities for students to develop workplace skills that are essential as they prepare to enter the world of work and/or technical training. This course sequence supports the development of a variety of competencies, including critical thinking, problem solving, literacy and numeracy skills. Workplace Essential Skills focuses on the workplace environment, providing students with opportunities to engage in relevant and real-life learning in different workplace contexts.

Enrolment Data for Locally Developed Courses Submitted for Approval on June 24, 2025

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2021–2025 as of March 25, 2025				Schools offering in 2024–2025 as of March 25, 2025
	21–22	22–23	23–24	24–25	
Academic Achievement through English Language Development 15-25-35	238	375	386	427	Centre High Eastglen Queen Elizabeth W. P. Wagner
Chemistry (Advanced) 35	21	50	50	27	J. Percy Page Queen Elizabeth
Extended Essay 35	103	127	110	102	Harry Ainlay Lillian Osborne M. E. LaZerte McNally Old Scona Ross Sheppard
Forensic Studies 25-35	549	548	315	251	J. Percy Page Learning Store West Edmonton Learning Store at Blue Quill Learning Store at Londonderry Learning Store on Whyte Lillian Osborne Millwoods Christian Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard Vimy Ridge Academy
Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility 15-25-35	1,531	1,913	2,226	2,767	amiskwaciy Academy Dr. Anne Anderson Eastglen Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack Harry Ainlay J. Percy Page Jasper Place M. E. LaZerte McNally Old Scona Queen Elizabeth Ross Sheppard Strathcona Victoria

Locally Developed Course/ Course Sequence Name	Enrolments 2021–2025 as of March 25, 2025				Schools offering in 2024–2025 as of March 25, 2025
	21–22	22–23	23–24	24–25	
Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility 15-25-35 (continued)	1,531	1,913	2,226	2,767	Vimy Ridge W. P. Wagner
Theory of Knowledge (Higher) 25-35	130	137	132	114	Harry Ainlay Lillian Osborne M. E. LaZerte McNally Old Scona Ross Sheppard Victoria
Workplace Essential Skills 25-35	103	76	149	188	Centre High Harry Ainlay Institutional Services Schools J. Percy Page Learning Store at Blue Quill Learning Store at Londonderry Learning Store on Whyte M. E. LaZerte McNally Ross Sheppard Strathcona Transitions at the Y Victoria