First things first
When making the move to high school, the most important step is choosing a school that suits YOU.
So take a moment to think:
What are your goals? Your interests?

Write them down!

My goals:

My interests:

Answering these questions will help guide your decisions over the next few months as you:

- research your options
- apply to a school
- choose your courses
There are lots of steps between finishing Grade 9 and starting your first day of high school. Here’s what you can do now to stay on track!

- **Research your options**  
  Start now

- **Attend school open houses**  
  Starting in February

- **Choose your courses**  
  March to April

- **Apply to a school**  
  By 4 p.m. on April 15

- **Prepare for school**  
  During summer break

- **Get course confirmation**  
  During summer break

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**  
For most schools, it’s September 2
Take time to find information about schools you’re interested in and choose one that suits you.

Check out school websites and social media
Find a list of high schools at epsb.ca/schools/findaschool/list/seniorhigh. Explore school websites to learn more about what you can look forward to, including:
- programs and courses
- athletics and clubs
- services for students
- registration dates
- news and events

School social media accounts will give you a snapshot of student life and exciting ways to get involved.

Review school program guides
High school program guides are full of information about school programs, courses, clubs and services. Review these guides to learn about each school’s programs and what makes it unique. Watch for them at your school or pick one up at a high school open house.

Attend school open houses
Our schools come alive when their open houses start in February! It’s your chance to get an all-access pass to see what different high schools are like. Explore the hallways and classrooms, chat with teachers and students to learn about programs, and get a glimpse of where your locker and classes might be. Be wowed by science experiments, dance performances, theatrical presentations, musical ensembles and so much more.

Find open house dates at openhouse.epsb.ca.
Apply to a school
Don’t forget to apply by April 15!

Consider your designated school
Every home address in Edmonton has a designated school (though your designated school isn’t always the one closest to your home). If you register by 4 p.m. on April 15, you’re guaranteed a spot at your designated school. If you register or change your choice after April 15, your options of where to attend high school may be limited.

Find your designated school at epsb.ca/schools/findaschool.

Don’t want to attend your designated school?
You can attend any other District high school, as long as:
• the school has space available
• you meet any entrance criteria the school might have (Old Scona)

Schools with limited space
If a high school does not have enough space for all students who want to attend, new applicants from outside the school’s designated attendance area are chosen by random selection. If you aren’t selected to attend your preferred high school, remember you can attend your designated high school or any other high school that still has space available.

If you have questions about random selection, talk to a school counsellor, assistant principal or principal, or visit epsb.ca/schools/register/randomselection.

Looking for a school with a particular program?

French immersion or bilingual programs
If you’re currently enrolled and will continue your studies in a French immersion or bilingual program, you’re guaranteed admission to high schools that offer those programs if you register by April 15.

High schools with entrance criteria
If you’re applying to Old Scona, you must meet certain entrance criteria, write an entrance exam and submit an application by 4 p.m. on February 21. Visit epsb.ca/schools/register/entrancecriteriaschools for more information.

Learn more about our regular, alternative and special education programming at epsb.ca/programs.
Not sure which school to choose?
This is a big decision. Talk to your family and teachers, visit school open house events, and meet with a counsellor or assistant principal at your school to help you decide what’s best for you.

Registration vs. pre-enrolment

Are you new to Edmonton Public Schools?

YES
REGISTER
Visit the office at your preferred school to register as a new student.
Visit epsb.ca/schools/register/highschoolregistration to download the Student Registration form and find out which documents you can use to confirm your address and legal name.
You can register at any of our schools throughout the year, but applying after April 15 may limit your options.

NO
PRE-ENROL
Tell your parents about pre-enrolment.
Your parents need to sign in to their SchoolZone account to select your preferred school between March 9 and April 15.

Need help?
Contact your current school principal.

APPLY BY APRIL 15

For more information about high school registration, visit epsb.ca/schools/register/highschoolregistration.
Choose your courses
Create a plan that works for you.

A lesson in vocabulary

Course credits
To earn credits in a course, you need to complete the course with a mark of at least 50%. Each course is assigned a number of credits (usually 3 or 5), and credits can only be earned once in any course.

Full-year vs. semestered courses
Some courses run all year from September to June. Others are semestered, which means you complete the full course in half a school year. Many high schools offer flexible programming schedules. Contact the schools that interest you to learn more.

Course numbering
A course number typically tells you both the grade level and level of academic challenge.

- Grade 10 courses are numbered 10 through 15 (for example, Science 10 and Science 14).
- Grade 11 courses are numbered 20 through 25 (for example, Biology 20).
- Grade 12 courses are numbered 30 through 35 (for example, Mathematics 31).

Math 20-1
level of academic challenge, not used for all courses (the smaller the number, the more challenging the course)
grade level (Grade 11)
**Course sequences**

Course numbers are arranged in sequences. For example, an English Language Arts (ELA) course sequence might involve taking English Language Arts 10-1 in Grade 10, English Language Arts 20-1 in Grade 11 and English Language Arts 30-1 in Grade 12.

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**Prerequisites**

A prerequisite is something you need to do or know before doing or learning something else. Most Grade 11 and 12 courses have prerequisites. Usually you need to earn a grade of at least 50% in a prerequisite course to take the next course in a sequence.

For example, you’ll need **at least 50%** in Social Studies 10-1 to take Social Studies 20-1.

If you earn less than 50%, you may choose to:
- repeat the course or
- with your principal’s approval, continue to the next level in a less challenging course sequence (if available) and earn credits retroactively

For example, if you earn less than 50% in Social Studies 10-1, but continue to Social Studies 20-2 and complete the course (with at least 50%), you will earn credits for Social Studies 10-2 and Social Studies 20-2.
Course options

From fine arts to languages to career and technology courses, there are hundreds of optional courses offered at high schools. Check school websites or program guides and visit open houses to see what they offer.

Whether you plan to go to a university, college or technical school or transition directly to the working world after high school, the courses you choose should help you work toward your goals, interests and capabilities. Your previous marks can be part of the information that helps you decide which courses are right for you.

Save the date!

In March and April, some high schools visit junior highs to help students choose courses. Get organized ahead of time by talking to your parents, teachers or counsellors about which courses work for you.

High schools offer extended hours

Students will have more access to courses when high schools expand their timetables in September 2020.

Many high schools are adding new time slots to the start and end of each school day to offer more flexibility for students. These extended hours could make it easier for you to get into the academic courses you want. The time you spend in class and the credits you need won’t increase.

Whether you’re working, volunteering or participating in sports or other activities, you’ll have more choice in how you schedule your day.

Check with the schools you’re considering to find out more about their course schedules.
Diploma exams are tests given to Alberta high school students who are taking 30-level diploma examination courses. Final marks in these courses are a blend of school and diploma exam marks.

Diploma exams are required in:
- English Language Arts 30-1 and 30-2
- Social Studies 30-1 and 30-2
- Mathematics 30-1 and 30-2
- Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30 and Science 30
- French Language Arts 30-1

To obtain an Alberta High School Diploma, you must earn at least 100 credits by taking required courses plus other courses that interest you and help you achieve your goals.

**English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2**

**Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2**

**Mathematics 20-1 or 20-2 or 20-3**

**Science 20 or 24 or Biology 20 or Chemistry 20 or Physics 20**

**Physical Education 10**

**Career and Life Management (CALM)**

Earn 10 credits or more, in any combination, from:

- Career and Technology Studies (CTS)
- Fine arts
- Second languages
- Physical Education 20 and/or 30
- Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) courses
- Knowledge and Employability courses

Earn 10 credits or more in any 30-level course (in addition to a 30-level English Language Arts and 30-level Social Studies), in any combination, from:

- 30-level Mathematics or Science or fine arts or second languages or CTS or Physical Education
- 30-level locally developed courses
- 30-level Work Experience
- 30-level Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)
- 30-level Knowledge and Employability courses
- Advanced level (3000 series) in CTS courses
- 30-level Green Certificate Program courses
- Special Projects 30

More information: [alberta.ca/education](http://alberta.ca/education).
Core courses

English Language Arts  Words for the wise.

Studying English Language Arts (ELA) involves much more than learning how to read and write. The two aims of the high school English Language Arts program are to:

- provide you with an understanding and appreciation of a broad range of texts
- enable you to use language for many purposes

English Language Arts focuses on six areas: listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing.

There are two main course sequences in English Language Arts (ELA):

- **English 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1**
- **English 10-2, 20-2 and 30-2**

Both focus on interpreting texts and refining your ability to show that you understand those texts. Additionally, both sequences meet diploma requirements upon completion of the 30-level course. However, ELA 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1 place more emphasis on understanding complex texts, and students who take this course sequence will create and analyze a variety of increasingly sophisticated literary texts.

Some post-secondary programs accept English Language Arts 30-2 for entry. Make sure you’re familiar with entrance requirements for the programs you’re considering. Talk to your school counsellor to make sure your chosen course sequence is right for you.

Both the -1 and -2 English Language Arts course sequences can be used to apply for the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement.
Social Studies explores how people are connected to each other and the world. By studying past and present issues, you’ll learn about diversity and respecting multiple perspectives. The goal is to help you decide your future as an engaged and responsible citizen within your local and global communities.

Social Studies 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1
Social Studies 10-2, 20-2 and 30-2

There are two main course sequences in Social Studies:
- Social Studies 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1
- Social Studies 10-2, 20-2 and 30-2

In both sequences, students explore the meaning and effects of globalization, nationalism and ideologies. Additionally, both sequences meet diploma requirements upon completion of the 30-level course. However, the expectations for Social Studies 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1 put more emphasis on complex concept development, critical thinking and skill development.

Many post-secondary schools accept Social Studies 30-2 for entry. Make sure you’re familiar with entrance requirements for the post-secondary programs you’re considering. Talk to your counsellors to make sure your chosen course sequence is right for you.

Both the -1 and -2 Social Studies course sequences can be used to apply for the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement.
Mathematics  Here’s where it should all add up.

Math counts! In every aspect of your life, you use numbers, problem solving and spatial reasoning to help make decisions. The more you learn about how math systems work, the better you will be at making choices that help yourself and others.

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- a 10- and 20-level math course to earn at least 10 credits

**Mathematics 10C** (Combined) is the starting point for both course sequences and will prepare you for entry into post-secondary programs that require advanced math skills. You must typically have 50% in Math 9 to enter this course.

**Mathematics 20-1** and **30-1** are precalculus courses designed to prepare you for entry into post-secondary studies involving calculus, such as engineering, business and certain sciences.

**Mathematics 20-2** and **30-2** prepare you for post-secondary studies in programs that do not involve calculus.

**Mathematics 10-3, 20-3** and **30-3** provide you with the foundational understanding and critical-thinking skills for entry into many trades and for direct entry into the workforce.

**Mathematics 31** is a calculus course that prepares you for post-secondary programs that recommend or require high school calculus for entrance. You can take Mathematics 31 at the same time as Mathematics 30-1. See your school counsellor for more information.

Both the -1 and -2 Math course sequences can be used to apply for the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement.

*Math 30-1 is a prerequisite or corequisite for Math 31.*
Science inspires a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world. Studying the relationships between science, technology and society can help you understand how and why things work. You might even make discoveries that improve yourself and the world.

Science 10 is the prerequisite for all the academic sciences. In other words, you need to complete Science 10 before advancing to other science courses. Science 10 provides you with an overview of the biological, chemical, physical and earth sciences, as well as an awareness of the connections between them.

Biology 20 and 30 explore how living organisms interact with each other and within their systems. Biology 20 focuses on energy and matter exchange and is a prerequisite for Biology 30. Biology 30 emphasizes adaptation and change.

Chemistry 20 and 30 examine matter and how it interacts on a molecular level. You’ll get a chance to explore and understand the natural world and see chemistry’s great influence on your everyday life.

Physics 20 and 30 examine matter and energy and their interactions. You will study the underlying physics principles behind natural events.

Science 20 and 30 explore concepts related to physics, biology, chemistry and earth sciences. Biology 20, Chemistry 20 or Physics 20 can be used as prerequisites for Science 30.

Science 14 and 24 include topics in biology, chemistry and physics you can apply in your daily life. These courses allow you to meet the credit requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma for approved science coursework.

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to complete:

- Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics at the 20 level OR both Science 14 and 10

It is possible to progress from any one of these 20-level courses to Science 30.
Physical Education  

Physical Education classes are a great way to foster a healthy and active lifestyle. Their central theme—daily active living—explores four main concepts: movement activities, health benefits, interacting positively with others and personal responsibility.

**Physical Education 10** (3 or 5 credits) is one of the requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma. Physical Education gives you the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to lead an active, healthy lifestyle.

**Physical Education 20** and **30** (3 or 5 credits) are optional courses and involve increased exposure to life-skill activities and leadership experience. The skills developed in these courses help you make choices that lead to an active, healthy lifestyle.

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Career and Life Management (CALM)  

Career and Life Management (CALM) helps you develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for well-being in our rapidly changing society. You will learn to make well-informed decisions in all aspects of your life.

**CALM** is organized around three main themes:
- self-awareness and health
- resources related to independent living
- career and life choices

Students will participate in independent assignments, group projects and discussions. Guest speakers may visit the class to provide information on a wide range of health and wellness issues.
**Academic programs**

Many high schools offer academic programs that focus on preparing you for university. If you are considering an academic program, certain courses will differ from those in a regular high school program. The challenging programming is designed to give you a strong foundation for academic post-secondary studies, and could earn you university credit for certain courses. Check with your school counsellor to learn more before planning your courses.

**Advanced Placement**

Advanced Placement (AP) courses help students develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. The AP program is recognized by hundreds of universities in more than 60 countries. AP is offered at:

- Eastglen
- Edmonton Christian
- J. Percy Page
- Jasper Place
- Millwoods Christian
- Queen Elizabeth
- Strathcona
- W.P. Wagner

More info: [apcanada.collegeboard.org](http://apcanada.collegeboard.org)

**International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme is designed to develop inquiring minds, an international perspective and effective work habits. IB qualification is recognized internationally and accepted by more than 100 universities worldwide. IB is offered at:

- Harry Ainlay
- Lillian Osborne
- M.E. LaZerte
- McNally
- Old Scona Academic
- Ross Sheppard
- Victoria

More info: [ibo.org](http://ibo.org)
Off-campus education

Off-campus education allows you to explore job interests and learn more about potential careers.

Courses include:
• Work Study
• Workplace Readiness 10-4
• Workplace Practicum 20-4 and 30-4
• Work Experience 15, 25 and 35
• Career Internship 10
• Registered Apprenticeship Program
• Green Certificate Program

Off-campus learning experiences require students to complete a minimum of 1 credit (25 hours) of safety training.

Registered Apprenticeship Program

The Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) allows you to:
• work as an apprentice to earn credits toward a high school diploma (5 credits for every 125 hours of work, to a maximum of 40 credits or 1,000 hours)
• accumulate hours toward your ticket in one of Alberta’s 50 designated trades
• transition into a full-time apprenticeship program when you graduate
• complete health and safety training
• earn a competitive wage

If your high school offers 3400-level Career and Technology Studies courses, you can use them toward your first year of technical training in a trade.

More info: tradesecrets.alberta.ca

Work Experience

Work Experience 15, 25 and 35 give you the chance to explore possible careers and get credits for paid or volunteer work. One credit is earned for every 25 hours of experience. You may earn 3 to 10 credits at each level, but a maximum of 15 may be counted toward the 100-credit requirement for a diploma.

While many schools offer the Registered Apprenticeship Program and Work Experience, a variety of off-campus courses may suit your needs. Talk to a school counsellor to find your best fit.

Some employers even pay students for their work!
Knowledge and Employability
Earning a Certificate of High School Achievement

Students enrolled in Knowledge and Employability (K&E) courses can take advantage of community partnerships to prepare for employment, further studies, active citizenship and lifelong learning. K&E courses give you the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities at school and off-campus, maximizing your chances for success in whatever you choose to do.

Earn a **Certificate of High School Achievement** when you complete 80 credits in a combination of K&E and other courses.

**OR**

Earn an **Alberta High School Diploma** if you meet the requirements listed on page 8.

**K&E courses are for you if:**
- you plan to complete a Certificate of High School Achievement (rather than an Alberta High School Diploma)
- your goals include succeeding in school to better prepare for the workplace
- you achieve your greatest success through hands-on learning activities

Some students start in K&E courses and then shift to other high school courses. To make the transition, consult with your school counsellor and parents or guardians. Transitions will be decided based on your needs, goals and achievements. You may also transition to training opportunities and continuing education (which includes some colleges and apprenticeship programs).
Your high school plan

Use what you learn from this guide to make decisions about your studies for the next three years. By planning ahead, you can make sure your studies meet requirements and serve your goals and interests.

Sample plan

The sample plan gives you a sense of the courses required to get an Alberta High School Diploma.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 10</th>
<th>Grade 11</th>
<th>Grade 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COURSE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL CREDITS**

Recommended credits: 40

Recommended credits: 35 minimum

Recommended credits: 30 minimum

Checklist

Make sure you:

- choose core and option courses needed for your program*
- have the prerequisites you need
- consider what you need in order to apply for post-secondary studies and achieve your career goals

* Career and Life Management (CALM) and Physical Education are not core courses, but are required for an Alberta High School Diploma, so don’t forget to add them to your list!
Get organized with myBlueprint
myBlueprint provides you with tons of online resources to explore and plan your life both inside and outside school. Use it to build course plans at the school of your choice and track your graduation progress. You can also take surveys and explore your personality, interests and more, and then see what courses, jobs and post-secondary programs might be a great fit.

What does your future hold?
Career Pathways helps you think about, explore and plan what your life might look like beyond school. Through a mix of programming, resources and learning opportunities, Career Pathways can help you learn more about your interests, gain academic and practical skills to support your long-term goals and connect you with community partners.

Here are just a few Career Pathways opportunities available to you:

- **Campus EPSB** helps you gain hands-on experience and industry credentials while you earn high school credits. That means you could be at a different high school for a semester taking a course that reflects your current interests and future ambitions.
- **Connecting Occupational Opportunities (CO-OP)** matches you with an employer so you can spend a semester gaining work experience while exploring an industry of your choice.
- **Dual credit** opportunities allow you to get a jumpstart by earning high school credits while also earning credits toward a post-secondary program.

Visit [epsb.ca/ourdistrict/topics/careerpathways](https://epsb.ca/ourdistrict/topics/careerpathways) to learn more about programming, resources and learning opportunities.

Sign in to your student account at [schoolzone.epsb.ca](https://schoolzone.epsb.ca) and click on Apps or visit [myBlueprint.ca/epsb](https://myBlueprint.ca/epsb).
Prepare for school
Rise and shine for your first day!

Need a ride to school?
Some students drive themselves to school while others catch rides with family or take public transit. Check takeets.com to see if there’s an Edmonton Transit System (ETS) route that will take you to school.

Watch for your course confirmation
During the summer break, you’ll receive confirmation of your courses. Sign in to SchoolZone to check your courses and let your high school know if you need to change any classes.
You may also be invited to attend an orientation day or registration day where you’ll pick up your timetable, get textbooks and smile for your student ID photo.

Save the date!
The first day for most schools is September 2!
Ways I can take care of my mental health:

- Feeling overwhelmed?

It’s important for all of us to take time to care for our own mental well-being. Our mental and emotional health helps us develop our unique potential, cope with life’s stresses, build healthy relationships and contribute to our community.

But it’s not always easy to stay balanced as we face the ups and downs of life. High school is both exciting and challenging. You may experience issues with school work, getting along with other students or problems not directly related to school. It’s OK to ask for help.

Mental health is a priority for staff and students at our schools. School staff will know how to offer you support or guide you to the right place. Talk to staff at the schools you’re considering to learn about the supports they have for students.

You can also find supports at epsb.ca/schools/goingtoschool/studentconduct/support.

Special education programming

Every student is unique, with different strengths and challenges. We offer a range of environments within our high schools to support all students in their learning and to help nurture their social, emotional, intellectual and physical well-being.

If you have unique learning needs that may require specialized supports and services to help you achieve success, visit the high schools you’re considering or contact them to ask questions about how they can support your learning.

Discover more about our special education programming options at epsb.ca/programs/specialeducation.
Get awards, scholarships and bursaries

Each high school offers awards to recognize students’ outstanding accomplishments and contributions. There are awards for:
- academics
- the arts
- athletics
- citizenship, leadership and community service
- environmental and social justice

Contact your high school to learn about specific awards.

Level up your leadership

Each spring, high schools have a chance to choose two Student Senators to represent their school. Student Senators connect with other students, in all grades, and then share their ideas and concerns about education with District leaders. Bring your unique perspective and experiences to the Student Senate, and help make sure all students have a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

Learn more at epsb.ca/ourdistrict/board/studentsenate.
Supports for student success (continued)

My goals for after high school:

How I will get there:

Summer school
Summer school can help you complete required courses, free up space in your timetable for next year, upgrade marks or finish your diploma to pursue post-secondary courses. You can choose from a variety of 10-, 20- and 30-level subjects and finish courses in under four weeks. Daytime and evening classes are offered in a variety of locations around Edmonton.

For more information, speak with your high school counsellor, call Metro Continuing Education at 780-428-1111 or visit metrocontinuingeducation.ca.

Planning post-secondary studies
Student Services or an assistant principal at your future high school can help you plan for post-secondary studies. You’ll want to become familiar with admission requirements for the post-secondary schools you’re considering. Check each school’s website for up-to-date requirements, registration deadlines and program info.

Find lists of post-secondary institutions, planning resources and more at:
- alberta.ca/education
- eae.alberta.ca
- alis.alberta.ca
High schools with designated attendance areas:

- Eastglen
- Harry Ainlay
- J. Percy Page
- Jasper Place
- Lillian Osborne
- M.E. LaZerte
- McNally
- Queen Elizabeth
- Ross Sheppard
- Strathcona
- Victoria
- W.P. Wagner

Specialized high school programs without designated attendance areas:

- Alberta School for the Deaf
- Academy at King Edward (multiple campuses)
- amiskwaciy Academy
- Argyll Centre
- Braemar
- Centre High Campus
- Edmonton Christian
- L.Y. Cairns
- Learning Store at Blue Quill
- Learning Store at Northgate
- Learning Store West Edmonton
- Learning Store on Whyte Avenue
- Metro Continuing Education
- Millwoods Christian
- Old Scona Academic
- Vimy Ridge Academy

Use the Find a School tool to search for your designated school. You can also search by school name, program or keyword.

epsb.ca/fast
Find the most up-to-date version of this information at epsb.ca.

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