

**Provincial Curriculum Development**

Alberta School Boards Association  
Fall Provincial Issues Forum

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Student Learning Standards

Alberta Government

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**Provincial Curriculum Development**

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**Alberta is Updating Provincial Curriculum**

- To better prepare students for future success
- Developed over six years across six subjects areas in Kindergarten to Grade 12:
  - Arts Education
  - Language Arts (English, French, Français)
  - Mathematics
  - Social Studies
  - Sciences
  - Wellness Education
- Simultaneously in English and in French

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### Curriculum Development Prototyping: What We Learned

- Why the process of prototyping?
  - Opportunity to “test out” potential design features of new curriculum
  - Capture the creativity of the field regarding process and products
  - Engage diverse education stakeholders
- What was affirmed?
  - Common design for curriculum
  - More focused learning outcomes
  - Emphasis on literacy and numeracy and cross-curricular competencies

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### New Curriculum: What is Staying the Same?

- Alberta Education develops provincial curriculum.
- Teachers, using provincial curriculum, will continue to plan learning experiences based on their professional judgement.
- There will continue to be subjects and grade levels, and **learner outcomes** that focus on conceptual and procedural knowledge in each subject.

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### New Curriculum: Greater Consistency and Coherence

CURRENT	NEW
Inconsistent and informal standards to develop and review curriculum	Consistent and clearly stated Principles and associated Standards to develop and review curriculum
Stand-alone subject design (different approaches to developing learning outcomes)	Common approach to design (including developing learning outcomes) across subjects
Limited inclusion of Francophone cultures and perspectives	Inclusion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit and Francophone cultures and perspectives across all subjects and grades, as appropriate
Hundreds of learning outcomes	Fewer but more focused learning outcomes
Literacy, numeracy and cross-curricular competencies are not explicit or consistent across subjects	Explicit cross-curricular competencies and supports for literacy and numeracy across all subjects and grades

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**Background: The Guiding Framework**

- builds on strengths of current provincial curriculum;
- includes Vision and Values for students;
- is grounded in six Principles with associated Standards;
- is based on reviews of research and results of stakeholder consultations over past years and prototyping;
- includes interjurisdictional comparisons;
- has common architecture and design that will enable a student-centred direction; and
- has been generally very positively received by education stakeholders.




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**Common Design and Student Centred Direction**

- Ensures consistency across the K-12 curriculum and makes it easier for teachers to:
  - plan across subjects, especially when teaching multiple subjects across grade levels;
  - go more in-depth and bring more local/community connections so the curriculum is more engaging and responsive to student needs;
  - reduce planning time; and
  - provide a more cohesive program, improve overall learning experiences for students.

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**Curriculum Development Application**

- Provincial curriculum will be developed through a digital platform.
- This platform will be a “one window” access to subject-specific programs of study, resources and assessment.
- The platform will support the move to a shorter curriculum development cycle and an improved evergreening process.

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### TABLE DISCUSSION

- How will the *Guiding Framework* and the Curriculum Development Application enhance teaching and learning in your school authorities?
- Share back with the large group

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### Moving Forward – Curriculum Development Process




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### Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Task/Activity	
Shaping Phase Confer	<b>Needs assessment</b> invites feedback about the strengths and gaps of current programs of study (Fall 2016)
	<b>Write and validate K-12 subject introductions, K-12 scope and sequences</b> Expert Working Groups – members selected for their related expertise; ATA, Post-Secondary, School Jurisdictions (October 2016– June 2017)
Developing Phase Collaborate	<b>Write the subject learning outcomes K-12</b> that bring together the subject conceptual and procedural knowledge, the competencies and literacy and numeracy (September 2017–January 2018)
	<b>Validation of draft programs of study K-4</b> Focus Groups – members selected for their related expertise (May–August 2018)
	<b>Validation of draft programs of study K-4</b> Online survey and face-to-face conversations (May – August 2018)
Ministerial Approval of K-4 Programs of Study in six subjects (December 2018)	
Implementing Phase Collaborate	<b>Create a Provincial Implementation Model</b> to be applied across all of the subjects (Begin April 2017)

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**TABLE DISCUSSION**

- How can school boards support stakeholder engagement;
  - Online Survey and Face-to-Face Sessions: Part A Introductions and Part B needs assessment
  - Expert Working Groups
  - Validation of scope and sequence
  - Creation of a Provincial Implementation Model
- Share back with the large group

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**Timelines for Development**

- Kindergarten to Grade 4 by end of 2018
- Grades 5 to 8 by end of 2019
- Grade 9 and High School developed in phases from 2020 to 2022
- Current curriculum remains in effect until new curriculum is implemented
- Implementation dates have yet to be set

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**Next Steps**

- Complete online survey: Part A and B
- Complete face-to-face fall meetings with up to 1800 participants
- Expert Working Groups begin development of curriculum, building on strengths of current curriculum – October 3 and 4, 2016
- Feedback on curriculum received through correspondence will be used, as appropriate
- Assessment will be actively considered while developing curriculum

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