

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES

Background

The Division believes in the need to develop and authorize courses locally in order to promote and cultivate the unique interests and abilities of students, to foster educational improvement and excellence through innovation at the local level, and to meet the unique needs of our local communities.

Procedures

1. Locally Developed Courses (LDCs) shall be consistent with Alberta Education requirements.
 - 1.1 Courses must be instructed and assessed by a teacher.
 - 1.2 There are no tuition fees.
 - 1.3 Courses may only be completed by regular instruction.
 - 1.4 Students are not permitted to challenge LDCs.
 - 1.5 The prerequisite waiver provision does not apply.
2. High School:
 - 2.1 Courses must be approved by Alberta Education and the Division's Board of Trustees before they can be used in the classroom.
 - 2.2 Retroactive credits cannot be applied.
 - 2.3 Second Language LDC exemptions: These courses, which **do not** include French/English/ESL, may be completed by challenges or junior high methods and may receive high school credit for waived prerequisite credits if the higher course is completed.
 - 2.4 Courses are not to be used for out-of-province/out-of-country evaluations. If no equivalent Alberta approved senior high school course is available, unassigned credits may be awarded.
3. Junior High School:
 - 3.1 Approval of courses will be through the Superintendent or designate.
 - 3.2 Courses must reinforce learnings in language arts, mathematics, science and social studies, as well as provide learning opportunities in other subject areas.
 - 3.3 Courses must align with the vision of an educated Albertan as an engaged thinker, ethical citizen with an entrepreneurial spirit.
 - 3.4 Consideration should first be given to whether or not existing junior high option alternatives could be used to address the identified need.
 - 3.5 Courses should not replace activities that are a normal part of extra-curricular or co-curricular programs offered by the school, or community programs offered by individuals or organization

Reference: Section 18(1), 53(2) Education Act
Guide to Education, ECS to Grade 12
Alberta Education - Locally Developed Courses Policy

Reviewed: February 2023