

Literacy

Draft K–6 curriculum

Mastering reading and writing to build a foundation for learning

Literacy in draft K–6 curriculum

Literacy lies at the heart of excellence in all school subjects. It underscores all core competencies and is necessary for civic, economic, and cultural participation. By mastering reading and writing, children gain the foundational skills necessary for personal excellence. The new curriculum will expect teachers to coach children to constantly improve their literacy skills.

Literacy is primarily taught in English language arts and literature, French first language and literature, or French immersion language arts and literature classes. Early grades will be taught to read using proven best practices. This means that reading and writing will be taught with explicit instruction in sounding out words (phonics) and how to use proper grammar.

A focus on quality literature will help *all* students to learn an appreciation of language, not just those from highly literate homes.

In addition, literacy is woven throughout every subject and grade in the new K-6 curriculum. For example, in science class, students will learn to write clearly about their experiments.

Think critically and solve problems

Students will be required to examine important questions in all school subjects and - by drawing on knowledge across subjects - research effectively, think on their feet, and communicate in well-reasoned writing.

Separate fact from opinion

Students will engage with a variety of texts, both fiction and non-fiction. In all subjects, students will learn to critically examine texts in order to separate fact from opinion as they learn to understand the natural and cultural world around them. They will learn to consider underlying truth in fiction and questionable facts in non-fiction. These skills will be developed across all subjects as their background knowledge grows through a common, knowledge-rich curriculum.

Communicate in varied contexts

Students will learn to respectfully and clearly communicate in writing in a variety of contexts across all subjects. Students will learn the importance of knowing their audience and writing within a variety of conventions, both digital and non-digital. This awareness of contexts and conventions will help them be more discerning readers.

Find out more at alberta.ca/curriculum