

Guide to Education

ECS TO GRADE 12

Summary of Key Changes

For the 2008/2009 School Year

Page/Section	Change
Throughout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Guide</i> has a new look. It is a two-column document and features Alberta Education's new visual identity. • Boldfaced print has been removed for ease of reading the two-column document. • The <i>Guide</i> is posted on the Ministry of Education web site in PDF format with bookmarks and hyperlinks to primary source documents in order to facilitate location of information. • The most significant change is that the <i>Guide</i> is now the key policy repository and main link to other requirements and information critical to the delivery of education programs in Alberta. The goal of this change is to reduce duplication and enable users of the PDF version of the <i>Guide</i> to link to other primary source documents. • Content from the <i>K–12 Learning System Policy, Regulations and Forms Manual</i> has been moved to the <i>Guide</i>. • The <i>K–12 Learning System Policy, Regulations and Forms Manual</i> and most of its contents will continue to exist on the Ministry's website as a reference for users until the transition to the <i>Guide</i>, as the key policy repository document, is complete. • The names and codes of courses have been updated to reflect current designations and names and course codes were deleted if courses were withdrawn.

Page/Section	Change
Pages 19–20 Policies	All policies related to the implementation of education programs and the operation of schools are located in this section. The policies are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily Physical Activity Policy• Educational Placement for Students with Special Needs Policy• English as a Second Language Policy• Human Sexuality Education Policy• Services for Students and Children Policy• Special Education Policy• Student Evaluation Policy• Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Policy• Use and Reporting of Results on Provincial Assessments Policy.
Page 21 Standards	All Standards documents are located in this section. The Standards are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Goals and Standards Applicable to the Provision of Basic Education in Alberta• Standards for the Provision of Early Childhood Special Education• Standards for the Provision of Special Education to Students in Alberta• Teaching Quality Standard Applicable to the Provision of Basic Education in Alberta.
Pages 26–27 Adult Programming in the Basic Education System	Information is added from the <i>K–12 Learning System Policy, Regulations and Forms Manual</i> outlining the conditions under which adult programs can be offered by a school board.
Page 29 Early Childhood Services	Information is added to clarify the role of Early Childhood Services and to clarify that Kindergarten is part of the Early Childhood Services continuum.
Page 30 Program Option for Remote Areas	A new section is added to provide information on Early Childhood Services program options for children who live in remote areas.
Page 30 Access to Minimum Hours of Instruction Grade 1 to Grade 9	The statement on access to the minimum hours of instruction is changed to include Grade 1, for the purpose of clarifying that access to a minimum of 950 hours of instruction is the expectation for most Grade 1 students.
Pages 30, 37 Definition of Instruction	The definition of instruction refers to Alberta certificated teachers to clarify that teachers must be certificated in Alberta to teach in the province.

Page/Section	Change
Page 46	
Aboriginal Language and Culture Courses	Information is added to clarify that the development of a local Aboriginal and culture course, other than Blackfoot or Cree, is possible as long as it meets provincial requirements and is consistent with <i>The Common Curriculum Framework for Aboriginal Language and Culture Programs, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education</i> , 2000.
Pages 46–47	
French as a Second Language Courses	Updates on French as a Second Language courses are added. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of September 2008, the nine-year (Grades 4 to 12) and three-year (Grades 10 to 12) course sequences are available for provincial implementation.• French 13 has been phased out and will not be offered in the 2008/2009 school year.
Page 49	
Knowledge and Employability Courses	A background statement is added from the <i>K–12 Learning System Policy, Regulations and Forms Manual</i> to explain the purpose of Knowledge and Employability courses.
Pages 49–50	
Knowledge and Employability Courses	Updates are added for implementation and withdrawals for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Studies and corresponding Integrated Occupational Program courses• Knowledge and Employability occupational courses• Fabrics Services courses• Natural Resources courses• Agricultural Production courses.
Page 51	
Locally Developed/Acquired and Authorized Junior and Senior High School Complementary Courses	Information is added to clarify the requirements for the authorization of locally developed and acquired courses.
Page 51	
Locally Developed Religious Studies	Information is added from the <i>K–12 Learning System Policy, Regulations and Forms Manual</i> to clarify requirements for school authorities developing or acquiring religious studies courses.

Page/Section	Change
Pages 52–53	
Music-Private Study	Mount Royal College is removed from the list of institutions whose transcripts principals can use to evaluate and assign credits. Mount Royal College no longer offers these credentials.
Page 54	
Off-campus Education	Information is added from the <i>K–12 Learning System Policy, Regulations and Forms Manual</i> outlining the requirements for school authorities related to the roles of certificated teachers and onsite instructors in off-campus education programs.
Pages 57–58	
Special Projects Credits	Information is added from the <i>K–12 Learning System Policy, Regulations and Forms Manual</i> to indicate that, where a special project takes a student off-campus, requirements in the <i>Off-campus Education Guide for Administrators, Counsellors and Teachers, 2000</i> must be followed.
Page 66	
Charter Schools	Information is added about <i>Accommodating Students with Exceptional Needs in Charter Schools, June 2007</i> , a document that outlines the requirements for special education in charter schools.
Page 69	
Early Childhood Special Education	Information is added to clarify that a child attending an Early Childhood Services program is not considered a resident of the board, or entitled to any of the rights or benefits given to a student under the <i>School Act</i> .
Page 70	
Requirements for Special Education in Accredited-Funded Private Schools	Information is added to clarify that students with special education needs taking curriculum courses for credit are expected to meet those course requirements using the supports and accommodations outlined in the student's Individualized Program Plan.
Page 71	
Human Sexuality Education	Information is added from the <i>K–12 Learning System Policy, Regulations and Forms Manual</i> outlining requirements related to human sexuality education instruction.
Pages 74–75	
Reporting Grade Level of Achievement	This section is revised to update and clarify requirements related to the reporting of grade level of achievement.

Page/Section	Change
Pages 80–81 Alberta High School Diploma Graduation Requirements (French First Language–Francophone)	Two changes are made to the Francophone diploma requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The requirements in the last box have been reduced to Five Credits in any 30-level course due to the requirement that Francophone students must also achieve credits in English Language Arts 30 or 33 and Français 30 or 30-2.• The criteria on which a principal can exempt a unilingual Canadian or immigrant Francophone student from the English Language Arts 30-1 or 30-2 requirement has been increased to five years from the time the student entered the Alberta school system.
Page 83 Certificate of High School Achievement Requirements (French First Language–Francophone)	A change is made to the Francophone Certificate of High School Achievement requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The criteria on which a principal can exempt a unilingual Canadian or immigrant Francophone student from the English Language Arts 20-2 or 30-4 requirement has been increased to five years from the time the student entered the Alberta school system.
Page 84 Certificate of School Completion	New information is added about the requirements for the Certificate of School Completion available to eligible students in special education programs.
Page 89 Reporting Student Achievement in Senior High School Courses	Information is added to clarify that high schools that provide the instruction or assessment to the student are the only schools authorized to submit the student mark or evaluation to Alberta Education.
Page 93 Rewrite Fees	Information is added to clarify rewrite fees for diploma examinations.
Page 98 Course Level Transfer in Diploma Examination Courses	Information is added to clarify the necessity and importance of meeting deadlines for course level transfers in diploma examination courses.
Page 99 Course Challenge	This section is revised for clarity purposes. Readers are advised to follow the complete procedures for the course challenge procedure as outlined in Appendix 3.

Page/Section	Change
Pages 99–100 Waiver of Prerequisites and Credits for Waived Prerequisite Courses	New information is added that outlines the requirements for the waiver of CTS prerequisite courses.
Page 110 Learning Resources Centre Early Order Discount Program	New information is added about the Early Order Discount program.
Page 111 Resources from Distributed Learning Resources Branch	This section is updated with current information about the services provided by the Distributed Learning Resources Branch.