

What's been happening (2011-12)...

Inspiring Education started us on an exciting journey of transformation, one that involved a broad range of Albertans to envision the Educated Albertan of 2030. Since *Inspiring Education*, we've been exploring and trying out new ways of working with our education stakeholders and partners to redesign curriculum. We want to ensure that Alberta's provincial curriculum (programs of study, assessments and resources) enables our students to become **Engaged thinkers** and **Ethical citizens** with an **Entrepreneurial Spirit**, the "Three E's" of an Educated Albertan.

Competencies are an inter-related set of attitudes, skills and knowledge that is drawn upon and applied to a particular context for successful learning and living. They are more than simply knowing something or how to do something...they are knowing when, where and how to apply one's attitudes, skills and knowledge to real world situations.

- In follow up to *Inspiring Education*, Alberta Education hosted a series of Curriculum Research Roundtables in Spring 2011 that led to the release of the **Framework for Student Learning: Competencies for Engaged Thinkers and Ethical Citizens with an Entrepreneurial Spirit**. This document builds on the directions set out by *Inspiring Education* and international research. It identifies literacy and numeracy as foundational to learning and identifies the cross-curricular competencies that will help support the development of the "Three E's" of an Educated Albertan.
- On September 29-30, 2011 Alberta Education and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) co-hosted a provincial symposium, highlighting again a new way of working together. At the symposium, education stakeholders and partners came together to draft recommendations for a **new Ministerial Order: Student Learning Outcomes**. The draft M.O is currently under consideration and making its way through review and approval processes.
- A second provincial symposium on November 4-5, 2011 looked at draft **Guiding Principles** for future curriculum development. The Guiding Principles will be supported by the development of **Standards and Guidelines for curriculum development**.
- In recognition of great work already underway in many parts of the province, Alberta Education has partnered with the Calgary Board of Education, Edmonton Public Schools and Red Deer Catholic to learn from some of their initiatives that align with many of the shifts identified in *Inspiring Education* and Curriculum Redesign. These shifts are also reflected in the new **Career and Technology Foundations** program for students in grades 5-9. This is currently being **prototyped** in two jurisdictions and will be available provincially in September 2014.
- After extensive consultations, the **Strategic Review of Locally Developed Courses (LDC)** was completed. The report has been developed and the action plan is under consideration. In the meantime, school jurisdictions have been advised that new LDCs that support provincial directions for curriculum may be submitted for review in the Fall 2012.
- Through a number of engagements, Alberta Education has heard that **Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)** have to change. In fact, as programs of study change as a result of Curriculum Redesign, so too must assessments change, both at the provincial and classroom levels. Future provincial assessments will align with the directions for curriculum outlined in Curriculum Redesign. The plan is to continue with the current PATs and Diploma exams until new provincial curriculum is developed and implemented.

Related Initiatives*

- A review of the current state of **High School Credentialing** in Alberta has been completed in draft form. Once finalized, it will set the stage for external consultations to begin in relation to credentialing requirements for the “Three E’s” of an Educated Albertan.
- Dual Credits provide high school students with the opportunity to earn post secondary credits simultaneously while taking high school programming. **The Provincial Dual Credit Strategy** is being finalized via tri-ministry collaboration between Education, Enterprise and Advanced Education and Human Services.

What’s on the Horizon (2012-13)...

Through Curriculum Redesign, Alberta Education is also exploring new ways of working and learning together with education partners and stakeholders.

Be on the lookout for ways to get involved this school year and provide input on Guiding Principles, Standards and Guidelines for Curriculum Development, on Literacy, Numeracy and Competency Indicators, Provincial Assessment, etc.

The Prototyping, Consultations (online and/or face-to-face) and Focus Group Discussions that will occur from late Fall 2012 to Spring 2014 will engage education stakeholders and partners in collaborative ventures with Alberta Education. Stakeholders and partners will have the opportunity to be engaged in each of the components of Curriculum Redesign listed above.

- **Prototyping** is one of the new ways of learning together to explore innovative and creative approaches to curriculum development. This fall, Alberta Education will be using the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to invite stakeholders and partners to submit their proposals for curriculum development. Prototyping will be used to develop, validate and refine draft guiding principles, standards, guidelines and indicators through action research. Partners will be selected through the established RFP process.

We are currently planning to post three separate RFPs over the next year on the Alberta Purchasing Connection website at: www.purchasingconnection.ca. Further communication will be sent to stakeholders and potential partners when the RFPs are posted. Stay tuned!

- In addition to **Prototyping**, input from the broader community will be sought through **consultations (online and/or face-to-face)** and **focus group discussions** (for example, provincial assessment). Information on each of the engagement opportunities will be shared with stakeholders when it becomes available.

***Note:** There are other related initiatives underway in the Ministry of Education as well (Example: School Leadership Framework, revising Teaching Quality Standards, etc). This update references Curriculum Redesign related initiatives being led or co-led by the Education Program Standards and Assessment Division.

Next 3 Years (Targets)

| Deliverables – Current State – | 2012/13 Year 1 | 2013/14 Year 2 | 2014/15 Year 3 |
|--|---|--|--|
| New Ministerial Order: Competencies for Student Learning – developed – | Approval and Announcement | | |
| Dual Credit Strategy – developed – | Approval and Announcement | Implement | Implement |
| Curriculum Development Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guiding Principles – developed– Standards and Guidelines – Conversation starter developed– | Prototyping begins Initiate Conversation Draft in place Prototyping begins | Prototyping Prototyping | - Finalized and Approved - Begin transition to operations |
| Career and Technology Foundations (example of new competency-focused curriculum) – Prototyping underway – | Prototyping | Prototyping | - New optional Career and Technology Foundations program for Grades 5-9 students introduced provincially |
| Literacy and Numeracy Indicators – E-scan of Research – – Conversation starter developed – | - Initiate conversations - Draft Literacy and Numeracy Indicators developed - Prototyping begins | Prototyping | - Finalized and Approved - Begin transition to operations |
| Competency Indicators – Project planning underway – | - E-scan of Research - Initiate conversations - Draft Competency Indicators developed | Prototyping | - Finalized and Approved - Begin transition to operations |
| New Provincial Assessment Model to replace PATs – Project planning underway – | - Environmental Scan - Initiate conversations | Begin development of new provincial assessment model | - New Assessment Model(s) developed. - Begin to pilot/prototype new provincial assessment approach |
| Online Assessment – Quest A+ pilot in progress – – Project planning underway – | - Continue Quest A+ pilot - Explore options to move to more flexible approaches to Diploma Examinations - Develop business model proposal for IT requirements | - Begin design of digital system - Initiate data transfer | - Begin digitization of the Diploma Exam process based on the business model. - Explore piloting new system with selected diploma exams |
| Strategic Review of Locally Developed Courses – Report and Action Plan developed – | Approval and Announcement | Implement | Implement |
| Review of High School Credentialing Requirements – E-scan of Current State – – Phase 1 Draft Report developed – | - Action Plan for Phase II - Establishment of External Advisory Committee & Initiate conversations | - Phase II Report - Recommendations for Action | Implementation Plan developed |

Executive Committee Leader and Sponsor

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Key Deliverable Leaders

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|---|--|
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