

## Questions and Answers

### Curriculum Development Prototyping

#### 1. *What is Curriculum Development Prototyping?*

- > In August 2013, Alberta Education through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process invited publicly funded school authorities to collaborate with the ministry in developing aspects of curriculum through Curriculum Development Prototyping that will then be used by Alberta Education in the development of new Kindergarten to grade 12 (K–12) curriculum. An evaluation team of Alberta Education staff and education partners reviewed submissions to identify proposals that best met the RFP criteria.
- > For each of the six subject/discipline areas (Arts Education, Language Arts [English, French Language Arts, Français], Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences, Wellness), prototyping partners will:
  - Develop draft K–12 Scope and Sequences;
  - Develop draft Learning Outcomes;
  - Identify classroom-based assessments and/or develop draft classroom-based assessments;
  - Identify learning and teaching resources and/or develop draft learning and teaching resources; and
  - Develop a draft graphic organizer to illustrate the relationship among literacy, numeracy, the cross-curricular competencies and the subject/discipline areas.
- > Alberta Education will continue to be responsible for the development of new curriculum and will gain insights into innovative approaches and ideas through the prototyping process and other initiatives resulting in engaging curriculum for every student, every day.
- > For more information about these draft curriculum product deliverables, please see the [Curriculum Development Prototyping Guide](#) that was included with the RFP package.

#### 2. *Why is Alberta Education using the prototyping approach?*

- > This new collaborative approach to developing curriculum provides the opportunity for our education partners to have a greater contribution earlier in the curriculum development process. In addition to the contributions of public, separate, private, charter, and Francophone Regional authorities, prototyping considers the expertise, insights and perspectives of communities, business and industry, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit partners.

#### 3. *Who is involved in Curriculum Development Prototyping?*

- > Alberta Education will be collaborating with publicly funded school authorities, which may be the sole partner or the lead partner of a consortium. A list of the ministry's prototyping partners is available [here](#).

**4. When will Curriculum Development Prototyping occur?**

- > Curriculum Development Prototyping will occur from January 2014 through to December 2014. For more information, please see the [timeline](#).

**5. How will the work that is developed collaboratively with the prototyping partners be used?**

- > The-draft deliverables will inform the development of future K–12 provincial programs of study by Alberta Education in six subject/discipline areas (Arts Education, Language Arts [English, French Language Arts, Français], Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences, Wellness).
- > The work from Curriculum Development Prototyping will allow us to build on innovative educational practices already happening in many schools across the province to ensure every Alberta student is able to benefit from engaging and relevant learning experiences.
- > It is anticipated that selected programs of study will be approved by the Education Minister in March 2016.

**6. If selected programs of study are approved in March 2016, does that mean that provincial implementation will take place in September 2016?**

- > The dates for provincial implementation of programs of study will be determined in consultation with school authorities and education partners. Alberta Education will be working alongside education partners to determine readiness and needed supports for provincial implementation.
- > The new collaborative processes for the development of curriculum, including the development of aspects of programs of study through prototyping, results in earlier and broader involvement. As more education partners are involved in the process of development, more will want to transition into using the new curriculum. This will result in provincial implementation being a natural next step in the process.

**7. How can teachers be involved in Curriculum Development Prototyping and Curriculum Redesign?**

- > Albertans recognize that teachers are vital to student success. As curriculum prototyping activities commence, prototyping partners will access teachers' expertise and feedback to inform, develop and refine the draft deliverables which will then be used by Alberta Education to develop provincial curriculum.
- > For those school authorities that are not initially involved in prototyping, other opportunities will be available for teachers. The [Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia](#) is currently providing professional learning opportunities for educators related to Inspiring Education and Curriculum Redesign, in areas such as cross-curricular competencies, literacy and numeracy benchmarks, and the new Student Learning Assessments. These are the beginning points for educators to become involved in curriculum development, helping bring the vision of Inspiring Education to life.

- > In the meantime, Alberta Education is encouraging educators to look at the current program of studies through the lens of the [Ministerial Order on Student Learning](#). The development of Alberta's future K–12 curriculum will be based on the *Ministerial Order* which identifies literacy and numeracy as foundational and outlines the competencies that students must develop. Students will still learn subjects such as language arts and math, with literacy, numeracy and the ten competencies integrated from K–12.
- 8. *My child is attending a school involved in Curriculum Development Prototyping. How will this affect my child's learning? What should I be aware of as a parent?***
- > School authorities are responsible for ensuring that students are successful in their learning, and that your child continues to receive a quality education throughout the prototyping process. School authorities involved in Curriculum Development Prototyping will provide you with information on how your child's school will be participating.
- 9. *I am a student at a high school where prototyping is occurring. How does this affect me? Will I still earn my diploma? Will prototyping affect my entrance into a post-secondary institution in Alberta or Canada?***
- > Prototyping will not affect students' ability to achieve their Alberta High School Diploma. School authorities involved in prototyping will provide students and parents with information on how their high schools are participating in the process.
  - > During prototyping, no new courses will be approved by the ministry, so diploma requirements will remain the same. Post-secondary institutions will continue to use the same entrance requirements as are currently being used.
- 10. *How does prototyping affect my school authority's participation in provincial assessments?***
- > Students in schools involved in prototyping will be informed by their school authority as to what decision has been made regarding student participation in current provincial assessments (provincial achievement tests and diploma examinations).
- 11. *What will Alberta Education do regarding subject/discipline areas not addressed in Curriculum Development Prototyping?***
- > Additional contracts may be awarded, if required, to address curricular areas not covered in the initial prototyping selection process.