

### What is Curriculum Redesign?

Alberta Education is currently undertaking a [Curriculum Redesign](#) initiative that is part of bringing the strategic direction of [Inspiring Education](#) to life to ensure Alberta students are Engaged thinkers and Ethical citizens with an Entrepreneurial spirit. Curriculum Redesign involves revising our standards and guidelines for curriculum (programs of study, assessments, and learning and teaching resources), as well as processes for developing curriculum.

We are revising our highly regarded curriculum to ensure it remains relevant and engaging for students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Alberta's new curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K–12) students will be built on a foundation of literacy and numeracy and will be digitally-based, and competency-focused. Our vision is “Engaging curriculum that inspires every student, every day.”

### What's Been Happening (May–June 2013)

#### Ministerial Order on Student Learning

During Education Week 2013, Minister Jeff Johnson signed the new [Ministerial Order on Student Learning \(#001/2013\)](#), which is a key milestone toward achieving the vision of *Inspiring Education*. The Ministerial Order (MO) provides the goals and expectations for K–12 students and establishes a clear mandate for Alberta Education and school authorities to follow when developing and implementing provincial curriculum, implementing the Provincial Dual Credit Strategy, and many other ministry initiatives still to come. A wide range of stakeholders from K–12 and post-secondary education systems – as well as students, parents, business, industry and community members – were consulted during development of the MO, reflecting a system-wide approach to its creation.

#### New Student Learning Assessments

Alberta Education [recently announced](#) that the Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) are going to be replaced by a series of new computer-based tests, known as Student Learning Assessments (SLAs), which will be administered at the beginning of Grades 3, 6 and 9. Scheduling the SLAs at the beginning of the school year will better enable parents and teachers to be aware of a child's strengths or areas needing improvement to support growth and a more personalized and student-centred learning throughout the year.

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*While most students are comfortable using a computer, paper copies will also be available.*

Grade 3 students will be first to have the opportunity to write the new assessments, with pilots starting in September 2014. Full implementation for Grade 3 is expected by September 2015, and pilots for Grades 6 and 9 will follow in subsequent years. For more information see the [FAQs](#) on Education's website.

### Diploma Exams Going Digital

Alberta's Grade 12 students will soon be able to write their diploma exams in a digital format and have access to more exam sessions throughout the year. Education Minister Jeff Johnson recently [announced](#) that piloting of electronic diploma exams, including the use of an online system and digital marking, is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2014. All diploma exam sessions will be offered electronically by the fall of 2017.



Transitioning to digital assessment aligns with *Inspiring Education's* student-centred vision of a more flexible, responsive education system. Students will also be able to more effectively demonstrate skills such as problem solving, critical thinking and communication.

### Expansion of Dual Credit Opportunities

PROVINCIAL  
DUAL CREDIT  
STRATEGY



Alberta Education, in partnership with Enterprise and Advanced Education and Human Services, recently [launched](#) the [Provincial Dual Credit Strategy](#). The expansion of dual credit opportunities represents significant progress toward realizing *Inspiring Education's* vision of flexible, real-life learning experiences becoming the foundation of our education system.

The Government of Alberta is investing more than \$11 million over three years, including \$5.35 million to assist schools, post-secondary institutions and businesses to partner to deliver opportunities for students to earn both high school and post-secondary credits for the same course. These credits could also lead to advanced standing in post-secondary programs and/or workplace certification. There are currently more than 40 credentialed pathways available in Alberta's high school curriculum that enable students to earn industry standard or workplace certifications.

For more information, please contact Debbie Vance, Provincial Dual Credit Strategy Coordinator, College of Alberta School Superintendents, at 1-587-989-0195 or [debbie.vance@cass.ab.ca](mailto:debbie.vance@cass.ab.ca).

## What's New...

### Curriculum Redesign video and toolkit are ready to share

Alberta Education has developed a short [video](#) about Curriculum Redesign, as well as a [communications toolkit](#) to build awareness and understanding of the major shifts ahead for the development of provincial programs of study, assessments, and learning and teaching resources. Educators and stakeholders are welcome to share this video with members of their local communities and encourage them to become more involved in this exciting change initiative. Further information and updates about Curriculum Redesign will be posted to the Ministry's [website](#) as they become available.

## What's on the Horizon...

### Prototyping Takes Curriculum Redesign to the Co-Creation Stage

In alignment with the priorities of *Inspiring Education*, Alberta Education is exploring new ways of working with partners and stakeholders to develop curriculum through “prototyping.”

#### Prototyping Request for Proposals (RFP) is in final stages of development

The RFP will invite the field to submit proposals to work with our curriculum developers in the creation of our new digitally-based and competency-focused programs of study and for the identification and/or development of classroom-based assessments and learning and teaching resources. This RFP will also encourage collaboration between primary vendors and other education stakeholders, such as post-secondary institutions, educational organizations, developers of resources, business and industry, non-profit organizations and community groups.



A *Curriculum Development Prototyping Guide*, developed through the lens of the vision and values and principles shared by Albertans in *Inspiring Education*, will accompany the upcoming RFP. Curriculum development prototyping will be anchored in the following draft components Alberta Education has already developed. These components are based on a review of research and were developed in collaboration with teacher working groups, expert panels and the Curriculum Policy Advisory Committee:

- guiding principles for curriculum development;
- standards for curriculum development;
- essence statements for subject/discipline areas;
- a common construct for programs of study, containing:
  - cross-curricular competencies and competency indicators; and
  - literacy and numeracy benchmarks.

More information, including support documents, will be available with the RFP when it is posted. For the most current news on this and other ministerial initiatives, please visit the Alberta Education [website](#).

## Timeline and Targets for Key Deliverables

Deliverables <i>Current State</i>	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
<b>Ministerial Order on Student Learning</b>			
– Developed	– Approved and announced May 2013; implementation begins	– Implement	– Implement
<b>Dual Credit Strategy</b>			
– Developed	– Approved and announced May 2013; implementation begins	– Implement	– Implement & evaluate
<b>*Curriculum Development Application</b>			
– Digital design underway – Draft Guiding Principles developed – Draft Standards and Guidelines developed	– Begin design of digital application – Prototyping begins	– Finalized and Approved – Begin transition to operations	– Implement
<b>*Literacy and Numeracy Benchmarks</b>			
– Prototyping draft developed	– Prototyping begins	– Finalized and Approved – Begin transition to operations	– Implement
<b>*Competency Indicators</b>			
– Prototyping draft developed	– Prototyping begins	– Finalized and Approved – Begin transition to operations	– Implement
<b>Career and Technology Foundations</b>			
– Prototyping underway	– Prototyping continues (larger scale)	– New optional Career and Technology Foundations program for Grades 5-9 students introduced provincially	– Implement
<b>New Provincial Assessment Model to replace Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)</b>			
– Development of new provincial assessment model	– Student Learning Assessments approved and announced May 2013 – Begin to pilot/prototype new Grade 3 SLAs in September 2014	– Initiate development of Grades 6 and 9 SLAs – Full implementation of Grade 3 SLAs by September 2015	– Begin to pilot/prototype Grade 6 SLAs by September 2015 – Begin to pilot/prototype Grade 9 SLAs by September 2016
<b>Online Assessment</b>			
– Quest A+ pilot in progress – Project planning underway – Development of business model proposal for IT requirements	– Continue Quest A+ pilot – Explore options to move to more flexible approaches to Diploma Examinations – Overall strategic direction and interim approach announced May 2013	– 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	– Implement
<b>Review of High School Credentialing Requirements</b>			
– External Advisory Committee in place – Conversations underway	– Phase II Report – Recommendations for Action	– Implementation Plan developed	– Implement

Curriculum Development Prototyping

\* Prototyping as part of development of new programs of study, as well as the identification and/or development of associated resources and classroom assessments.

## Contact Information

Curriculum Redesign Component Lead	Contact Information	
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Guiding Principles for Curriculum Development	Paul Lamoureux <a href="mailto:Paul.Lamoureux@gov.ab.ca">Paul.Lamoureux@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-422-7793
Standards and Guidelines for Curriculum Development	Paul Lamoureux <a href="mailto:Paul.Lamoureux@gov.ab.ca">Paul.Lamoureux@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-422-7793
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Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Provincial Assessments/ New Model(s) for Provincial Assessment</li> <li>Online Assessment</li> </ul>	Neil Fenske <a href="mailto:Neil.Fenske@gov.ab.ca">Neil.Fenske@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-0010
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Review of High School Credentialing Requirements (cross-division initiative)	Joan Engel – Education Program Standards and Assessment Division Lead <a href="mailto:Joan.Engel@gov.ab.ca">Joan.Engel@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-2984

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