

### What is Curriculum Redesign?

Alberta Education is currently leading a [Curriculum Redesign](#) initiative that will build on our highly regarded education system and help bring the vision of the [Inspiring Education](#) public consultations to life.

During the next two to three years, Alberta Education is revising provincial programs of study, assessments, and learning and teaching resources, as well as processes for developing curriculum, to ensure they continue to be relevant and engaging to students. Alberta's future curriculum will be built on a foundation of literacy and numeracy throughout all subjects from Kindergarten to grade 12 (K–12). There will be greater focus on students developing competencies, which will enable our province to realize the vision of an educated Albertan as an engaged thinker and ethical citizen with an entrepreneurial spirit.



### Alberta Education Announces New Curriculum Development Prototyping Partners



Education Minister Jeff Johnson announced the selection of Curriculum Development Prototyping partners at the Inspiring Education Symposium on February 19, 2014.

Each of the school authorities selected in this next phase of the [Curriculum Redesign](#) Initiative, created a network of dynamic and innovative partnerships that will contribute to the development of aspects of new

provincial curriculum at all grade levels. Together, these partnerships include more than 30 school authorities across the province, including public, separate, private, charter, and Francophone Regional authorities—as well as post-secondary institutions, business and industry, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit partners. The [networks and partners](#) involved with this initiative are as diverse as our province and communities.

### Inside this Edition

- > [Alberta Education Announces New Curriculum Development Prototyping Partners](#)
- > [School Authorities Overwhelmingly Support Move to New Student Learning Assessments](#)
- > [Provincial Resource Strategy for Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education](#)
- > [Timelines and Targets for Key Deliverables](#)
- > [Contact Information](#)

These new partnerships are in response to Alberta Education's Request for Proposals in August 2013, which invited publicly funded school authorities to engage in Curriculum Development Prototyping and contribute to the development of aspects of new provincial curriculum. An evaluation team of Alberta Education staff and education partners reviewed submissions to identify proposals that best met the RFP criteria. Deliverables will be developed in all grade levels for six subject/discipline areas (Arts Education, Language Arts [English, French Language Arts, Français], Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences, Wellness).

Working collaboratively, which is grounded in the spirit of [Inspiring Education](#), will help ensure students are prepared for tomorrow's challenges. Through Curriculum Redesign, prototyping and many other initiatives, the ministry is continuing to build on one of the best education systems in the world and on the innovative educational practices already underway in the province. Alberta Education will continue to be responsible for the development of new curriculum but will gain insights into innovative approaches and ideas through the prototyping process and other initiatives resulting in engaging curriculum for every student, every day.

Alberta Education will continue to engage all of our education partners through ongoing opportunities to help shape the future of provincial curriculum and student learning in our province. The ministry will keep our partners apprised of those opportunities while further building on the momentum generated through this and other initiatives that are helping to realize the vision of Inspiring Education.

### Dates of implementation for new programs of study

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.

More information about the work that will commence on curriculum development is available on the Curriculum Redesign webpages in [English](#) and [French](#).

## School Authorities Overwhelmingly Support Move to New Student Learning Assessments

In fall 2013, Alberta Education requested that school authorities determine, school-by-school, whether to administer the Grade 3 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in June 2014, the Grade 3 Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) in September 2014, or both. Based on school board decisions to date, nearly all Grade 3 students in Alberta will write the Grade 3 pilot assessment in September 2014, with approximately 30 per cent of Grade 3 students also writing the PATs in June 2014.



Components of the Grade 3 SLAs have been determined in partnership with the Alberta School Boards Association, Alberta School Councils' Association, Alberta Teachers' Association, College of Alberta School Superintendents, and Alberta Assessment Consortium. The four components of the Grade 3 SLAs include a digitally scored literacy component; literacy performance-task component; digitally scored numeracy component; and numeracy performance-task component. The SLAs will reference the current provincial programs of study until the implementation of new curriculum through the [Curriculum Redesign](#) initiative.

Alberta Education will continue to work with our education partners as we further develop and refine the components of the grades 3, 6 and 9 SLAs. Please visit Alberta Education's website for more information about the [SLAs](#), including a [Winter 2014 SLA Update](#).

If you have questions about the SLAs, please contact Neil Fenske, Executive Director of the Assessment Sector with the Education Program Standards and Assessment Division, at [Neil.Fenske@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Neil.Fenske@gov.ab.ca) or 780-422-4848. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

## Provincial Resource Strategy for Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education

As part of building Alberta and helping bring the vision of Inspiring Education to life, Alberta Education is working with education partners to develop a Provincial Resource Strategy for Kindergarten to grade 12 Education. The strategy will provide clarity regarding what types of digitally based resources are required to support student learning now and in the future. In addition, the strategy will identify the roles and responsibilities of the ministry and the field with respect to resource identification, development and access.



Throughout development of the strategy, numerous sessions will be conducted with education partners in order to:

- build awareness on policy issues related to digitally based learning resources and access to those;
- deepen understanding of the issues by facilitating focused discussions; and
- elicit feedback to inform development of the strategy.

Throughout November 2013, Alberta Education engaged with over 180 staff and education partners at an internal ministry session, College of Alberta School Superintendents Fall Conference, School Technology Advisory Committee meeting and a Jurisdiction Technology Contacts event. During these sessions, an overview of an international e-scan was provided as well as issues to consider when developing the strategy.

Next steps include sharing the e-scan document, further engagement sessions with education partners (including students, business and industry), and closer investigation of models and strategies that could be informative to the Alberta context.

For further information, please contact Paul Lamoureux, Executive Director with the Education Program Standards and Assessment Division, at [Paul.Lamoureux@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Paul.Lamoureux@gov.ab.ca) or 780-422-7793, or Bette Gray, Executive Director with the Learning Supports and Information Management Division, at [Bette.Gray@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Bette.Gray@gov.ab.ca) or 780-427-1509. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free access in Alberta.

## Timeline and Targets for Key Deliverables

Curriculum Development Prototyping

Deliverables <i>Current State</i>	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016 and beyond
<b>Ministerial Order on Student Learning</b>				
– Developed	– Approved and announced May 2013; begin to operationalize Ministerial Order	– Transitioning of policies and procedures to align with the Ministerial Order		
<b>*Curriculum Development Management Application</b>				
– Digital design underway – Draft Guiding Principles developed – Draft Standards and Guidelines developed	– Begin design of digital application – Prototyping begins	– Finalized and approved – Available for use during Prototyping	– Available for provincial use	
<b>*Literacy and Numeracy Benchmarks</b>				
– Prototyping draft developed	– Prototyping begins	– Validated and available for internal use	– Approved for provincial use	
<b>*Competency Indicators</b>				
– Prototyping draft developed	– Prototyping begins	– Validated and available for internal use	– Approved for provincial use	
<b>New Programs of Study</b>				
– Development of new programs of study for K–12		– Draft programs of study developed for larger scale refinement and validation	– Refinement and validation concludes, December 2015 – Selected programs of study approved, March 2016	– Provincial implementation dates will be determined in collaboration with education partners to determine readiness and supports for implementation
<b>Career and Technology Foundations</b>				
– Prototyping underway	– Prototyping continues (larger scale)	– Draft Career and Technology Foundations optional program for grades 5–9 available province-wide for scaling-up	– Provincial implementation	
<b>Student Learning Assessments (SLAs) to replace Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs)</b>				
– Development of new provincial assessment model	– Student Learning Assessments approved and announced May 2013	– Begin to pilot new Grade 3 SLAs in September 2014 – Initiate development of grades 6 and 9 SLAs	– Administration of Grade 3 SLAs by September 2015 – Begin to pilot Grade 6 SLAs by September 2015	– Begin to pilot 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 new system with selected diploma exams	– Begin piloting new online assessment system	

<b>Deliverables</b> <i>Current State</i>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016 and beyond</b>
<b>Related Initiatives</b>				
<b>Provincial Resource Strategy for K–12 Education</b>				
– <i>Plan for development of Strategy completed</i>	– <i>E-scan</i> – <i>Engage with education partners to help inform Strategy</i>	– <i>Engage with education partners to help inform Strategy</i> – <i>Finalize Strategy</i>	– <i>Strategy implementation</i>	
<b>Review of High School Credentialing</b>				
– <i>External Advisory Committee in place</i>	– <i>Engage with education partners to help inform high school credentialing</i>	– <i>Engage with education partners to help inform high school credentialing</i> – <i>Recommendations for Action approved</i>	– <i>Recommendations for Action underway</i>	
<b>Dual Credit Strategy</b>				
– <i>Developed</i>	– <i>Approved and announced May 2013; begin to adopt for use</i> – <i>Year 1 of strategy</i>	– <i>Year 2 of strategy</i>	– <i>Year 3 of strategy with review</i>	

\* Prototyping involves the development of aspects of new curriculum including the identification and/or development of associated resources and classroom assessments.

## Contact Information

Curriculum Redesign Component Lead	Contact Information	
Executive Committee Leader and Sponsor	Ellen Hambrook <a href="mailto:Ellen.Hambrook@gov.ab.ca">Ellen.Hambrook@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-7484
Curriculum Redesign Initiative (overall project management)	Joan Engel <a href="mailto:Joan.Engel@gov.ab.ca">Joan.Engel@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-2984
Ministerial Order	Merla Bolender <a href="mailto:Merla.Bolender@gov.ab.ca">Merla.Bolender@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-2984
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
Curriculum Development Prototyping	Merla Bolender <a href="mailto:Merla.Bolender@gov.ab.ca">Merla.Bolender@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-2984
Curriculum Development Management Application	Joan Engel <a href="mailto:Joan.Engel@gov.ab.ca">Joan.Engel@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-2984
Literacy, Numeracy Benchmarks	Joan Engel <a href="mailto:Joan.Engel@gov.ab.ca">Joan.Engel@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-2984
Competency Indicators	Neil Fenske <a href="mailto:Neil.Fenske@gov.ab.ca">Neil.Fenske@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-0010
	Joan Engel <a href="mailto:Joan.Engel@gov.ab.ca">Joan.Engel@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-2984
Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Provincial Assessments/ Student Learning Assessments</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
Provincial Dual Credit Strategy (cross-ministry strategy)	Merla Bolender – Education Lead <a href="mailto:Merla.Bolender@gov.ab.ca">Merla.Bolender@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-427-2984
Provincial Resource Strategy for K–12 Education	Paul Lamoureux <a href="mailto:Paul.Lamoureux@gov.ab.ca">Paul.Lamoureux@gov.ab.ca</a>	780-422-7793
Review of High School Credentialing (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

Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access.