

## Why Curriculum Redesign? Why now?

Alberta has a world-class education system today, but will it meet the needs of students in the years to come? The world is moving in new directions quickly, and we must prepare our young people for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. A responsive, flexible and inclusive curriculum will help our students achieve their hopes, dreams and aspirations in the wider global community. Alberta Education's Curriculum Redesign helps bring to life the lessons we learned in *Inspiring Education: A Dialogue with Albertans* (2009):

- > Alberta students have told us that they want to explore attitudes, skills and knowledge that are relevant to their world, and which will allow them to prosper and contribute meaningfully to our province's future.
- > Albertans have told us that they expect students to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge that will empower them to meet the challenges of the 21st-century world after graduation.
- > Business and industry are telling us that they need students to enter the work force with appropriate skills, including better literacy skills.
- > Research on 21st-century learners has shown that competencies must be central to the learning process if young people are to be competitive and successful in a global, knowledge-based society.

With redesigned curriculum, students will have more opportunity to take ownership of and responsibility for their progress by becoming more engaged in their learning and assessment of that learning.

## What are the goals of Curriculum Redesign?

*Curriculum Redesign* is aimed at ensuring Alberta's curriculum (programs of study, assessment, and learning and teaching resources) remains responsive and relevant for students. It reflects the province's commitment to continually improve its work in providing a world-class, student-centred curriculum for students now and in the future.

The goals of *Curriculum Redesign* are to develop:

- > revised standards and guidelines for future curriculum (programs of study, assessment, and learning and teaching resources), and
- > revised processes for curriculum development.

## How will curriculum change?

New curriculum will build on a foundation of literacy and numeracy and support the development of competencies for living, learning and working in the 21st century. It will support students in becoming the educated Albertans that the people of the province envision: Engaged Thinkers and Ethical Citizens with an Entrepreneurial Spirit.

New curriculum will also:

- > Centre more on the student, giving them more opportunities to take ownership of and responsibility for their learning, and the assessment of that learning.
- > Be less prescriptive and provide greater opportunities for local decision making and greater depth of study.
- > Be more digitally based.

As programs of study change, so too will assessments. Future provincial assessments will build on a foundation of literacy and numeracy and incorporate a focus on competencies.