

Key Messages and Background Information about Curriculum Redesign, Prototyping and Mathematics

Key Messages

- To realize the vision of Inspiring Education, we're building a dynamic curriculum that includes the basics while also incorporating 21st century competencies such as innovation, communication and critical thinking that are applied in all subjects.
- Literacy and numeracy will be embedded as the foundation to *every* subject, at *every* grade level.
- We're collaborating with publicly funded school authorities in developing aspects of new Kindergarten to grade 12 provincial curriculum. Partners involved with Curriculum Development Prototyping represent more than 30 school authorities across the province, including public, separate, private, charter, and Francophone regional authorities and First Nations schools; as well as post-secondary institutions, business and industry, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit partners.
- We encourage you to visit education.alberta.ca/curriculumredesign for regular updates on Curriculum Redesign.

Background Information

Curriculum Redesign

- Through the Inspiring Education public consultations in 2009, Albertans created a collective vision to transform education to ensure every student experiences relevant, personalized and engaging learning opportunities.
- Curriculum Redesign is one of the ministry's initiatives to build on the success of our current education system and the innovative educational practices already underway throughout the province.
- The redesign process currently underway is thoughtful, evidence-based and involves teachers, parents, school boards and employers.
- Alberta Education is building a dynamic curriculum that includes the basics while also incorporating 21st century competencies such as innovation, communication and critical thinking that are applied in all subjects.
- Literacy and numeracy will be embedded as the foundation to every subject, at every grade level.
- Alberta's new curriculum will maintain our high standards while also providing more opportunities for students to focus more deeply in an area of study and make it easier for teachers to support personalized learning for their students.
- As a result, students will have the attitudes, skills and knowledge to be successful in their learning, work and other aspects of their lives.

- Benefits for teachers
 - *A common set of cross-curricular competencies and indicators* across all subject areas makes it easier to design authentic learning experiences, determine students' competency development and communicate with colleagues and parents about competencies.
 - *Fewer learning outcomes* enable greater professional autonomy and choice, increased ability to respond to students' diverse learning needs, more opportunities for deeper learning of subject area content and opportunity to include local and community needs when designing learning experiences.
 - *Increased focus on literacy and numeracy* ensures that students develop foundational skills. Benchmarks can be used to assess students' literacy and numeracy needs in any subject area and communicate with colleagues and parents.
 - *Digitally-based programs of study* provide easier access to select learning outcomes to facilitate interdisciplinary learning and build learning experiences for students.

Curriculum Development Prototyping

- Curriculum Development Prototyping is a new collaborative approach to developing curriculum that provides the opportunity for our education partners to make a greater contribution earlier in the curriculum development process.
- 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.
- Alberta Education will be collaborating with publicly funded school authorities in developing aspects of new Kindergarten to grade 12 provincial curriculum. Partners involved with Curriculum Development Prototyping represent more than 30 school authorities across the province, including public, separate, private, charter, and Francophone regional authorities and First Nations schools; as well as post-secondary institutions, business and industry, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit partners.
- Select new programs of study informed by the work of Curriculum Development Prototyping are targeted to be submitted to the Minister for approval by March 2016.
- Provincial implementation dates are not yet determined. Dates will be determined in consultation with education partners based on readiness and supports for implementation.

Math Program of Studies

- "Discovery math" is not a phrase that describes Alberta's program. Teachers still teach mathematics – students are not left to discover math by themselves. Learning is not one size fits all and that is why teachers have flexibility to teach the curriculum to best meet the needs of their students.
- The fundamentals of mathematics are in our current program. Students are expected to know and understand how to add, subtract, multiply and divide, and they must understand their number facts and commit them to memory. We continue to have high standards for Alberta students – not only for what students know, but how they can apply their knowledge in the real world.