

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 7, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: American Sign Language (ASL) Language Arts

ORIGINATOR: A. McBeath, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Janice Aubry, Sue Bailey, Kathy Dolby, Charmaine Letourneau, Ellen Ogilvy, Stuart Wachowicz

RECOMMENDATION

That the locally developed course, ASL (American Sign Language) Language Arts Draft Curriculum (Kindergarten - Grade 12) for use in Edmonton Public Schools, be approved.

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Edmonton Public Schools, through an initiative of the Curriculum, Programs, and Planning unit, has completed a Draft ASL (American Sign Language) Language Arts (Kindergarten - Grade 12) curriculum. This document was developed based on the Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education: Common Curriculum Framework for Bilingual Programming in International Languages (Kindergarten to Grade 12), of which Edmonton Public Schools was the lead writer in 1998-99. This curriculum will support the English/American Sign Language bilingual program at the Alberta School for the Deaf.

This document was developed collaboratively by staff from the Alberta School for the Deaf (Sue Bailey, Kathy Dolby, Charmaine Letourneau) and central services (Janice Aubry, Stuart Wachowicz, Jan Witwicky). The draft course is now being reviewed by representatives of Manitoba Education and the Manitoba School for the Deaf. Manitoba may possibly agree to develop a teacher resource document to support the implementation of this curriculum. Interprovincial collaboration between Edmonton Public Schools and Manitoba Education is currently being explored as well as possible collaboration with identified schools in the United States.

If the board approves the curriculum for implementation, it will be piloted at the Alberta School for the Deaf until spring of 2001. This initiative is the first of its kind in western Canada, and would serve to enhance the English/ASL bilingual programming experience for deaf students.

A copy of the course is available for viewing in the Trustees' Reading Room.

SW:dh