

DMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 7, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: L. Thomson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Curriculum Additions and Deletions – Locally Developed Courses

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Jan Anderson, Jim Ashton, Judy Craig, Fatima Dayoub, Randa Kalat-Malho, Melody Kostiuk, Wes Myck, Lisa Robertson, Arab Sadi, Nahida Teliani, Ximena Vidal, Stuart Wachowicz, Stephen Wright

RECOMMENDATION

That the following new locally developed course, be approved for a three year term (until August 2009):

Course Name	Subject Area	Credit Value
Arabic Language and Culture	SL	n/a (Elem)
IT Essentials (Computer Repairs) 35	CTS	5
Workplace Essential Skills 25	PD	5
Workplace Essential Skills 35		5

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**Background:** Locally developed courses at all grade levels must be approved and renewed every three years by the Board of Trustees. Additionally, high school courses are reviewed by Alberta Education prior to implementation. Locally developed courses are permitted and governed by Alberta Learning policies. All courses developed align to these policies including the following guidelines:

- courses are completed within the year they are started
- a certificated teacher is required for instruction
- unique hours of instruction are required for each course
- prerequisite courses may not be waived for locally developed courses

**Arabic Language and Culture 4-6:** Arabic Language and Culture (4-6) provides a grade 4 entry point for Arabic language study. Currently we have entry points for this set of courses at grade 7 and 10. The courses will enable students in elementary school to have a choice between learning Arabic in the bilingual program format, or in a second language format.

The demand for the course is recent, and a growing number of newcomers to the city have expressed a request for Arabic Language and Culture courses.

The courses submitted for approval are designed in accordance with the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol for Language and Culture and meet all provincial standards for second language instruction. A *Guide to Implementation* is being developed as a teacher support document. In-service training for teachers is being provided in the new curriculum, along with support in assessment and second language pedagogy.

**Computer Essentials (Repairs) 35:** The course is based on industry standards (CompTIA A+ Certification) and provides the opportunity to learn fundamental and valuable skills and be recognized for these learnings.

**Workplace Essentials Skills 25-35:** These courses have been developed to provide students at risk of not completing high school with the basic literacy and numeracy skills required in the workplace and for lifelong citizenship, as well as reinforcing the link between skills developed in the classroom and the expectations of the workforce. The course is designed with input from schools and industry, both of which demonstrated a need to enable students to make effective use of authentic workplace documents and to be proficient at technical writing. This unique course will also prepare a student to succeed on the *Test of Workplace Essential Skills* (TOWES), a measure that is increasingly used in industry to determine if an applicant is suitable to be training for one of the hundreds of occupations as identified in the *National Occupation Classification* (NOC). The NOC is developed and maintained by Human Resources and Development Canada. Providing students, in particular 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year students with this learning opportunity will significantly enhance their chances to successfully transition to post secondary training opportunities and to meaningful employment.

Copies of the courses are available for viewing in the Trustees' Reading Room.

LT:dh