



Educator Update

Yukon Department of Education
Learning Branch
August 2017 edition

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About these updates

To keep everyone up to date on the current work and next steps as we roll out changes over the next four years, we will share Educator Updates with school staff throughout the year.

We will also post information and resources to the [new Learning Branch website](#) throughout the year to support school staff.

Getting started and planning

The new curriculum is designed to be flexible and engaging to encourage learning and help teachers respond to the specific needs and interests of their students.

There are ideas in B.C.'s [Starting Points in Planning guide](#). Check out [Appendix B](#) to see how the old K-9 IRPs line up with the new curriculum.

There are many ways to teach the new learning standards. Teachers should think about what will work for their students. Some resources are already available. Some are being developed by the Learning Branch. Others will be created by Yukon teachers as they develop their lesson plans and units.

K-9 curriculum

Yukon schools will start using the new curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 9 in August 2017.

Curriculum working groups are creating examples of Yukon-specific units to support teachers in developing lesson plans. They will be integrated units for K-9 that reflect Yukon First Nations ways of knowing and doing.

You can also look at examples created by B.C. teachers on [B.C.'s website](#). Units should connect to the Big Ideas, Learning Standards, and Core Competencies for that grade or subject.

We invite teachers to share the lesson plans they develop over the next four years with colleagues and the Learning Branch, as we continue to learn together.

10-12 curriculum

Yukon schools will start using the new curriculum for Grades 10-12 in August 2018. We are on the same implementation schedule as B.C. for 10-12 and we will be communicating any updates from B.C. as they come out.

B.C. is currently taking feedback on the [draft Grade 10–12 curriculum](#), including from Yukon teachers. They have also released a [Curriculum Comparison Guide](#), which compares the old 10-12 curriculum with the new.

Changes to ELA, EFP and Social Studies

As part of the new 10-12 curriculum, B.C. recently updated credit options for English Language Arts (ELA), English First Peoples (EFP) and Social Studies courses.

A presentation on the changes will be delivered at Summer Academy on August 23-24.

For more information, see [Appendix A](#) and the Curriculum Comparison Guide.

10-12 graduation requirements

Over the next two years, we will continue to move from the old B.C. provincial exams to the new numeracy and literacy assessments. More information can be found [here](#).

Students will still complete the same required courses and number of credits to graduate, and still receive letter grades and/or percent scores for Grades 10-12 for their report cards and transcripts. More information can be found [here](#).

Yukon First Nations ways of knowing and doing

Yukon First Nations have told us schools need to connect with their local First Nation(s) to build relationships. These relationships help all of us to build school communities and programs that reflect Yukon First Nations ways of knowing and doing.

A good place for teachers to start is to contact their local First Nation(s) government(s). You can find contact information in the [First Nations Programs and Partnerships' handbook](#).

Assessment

Formative assessment is a focus for the 2017/18 school year. Over the past few years, the Learning Branch has provided in-services and training to school staff on formative assessment and assessment for learning.

This year, the Education Assessment Committee researched and recommended changes to how Yukon schools assess and report on students based on the new standards. They considered feedback gathered from meetings with staff and partners, and from the public survey and created the [Interim Guide on Student Assessment](#) and a [Communicating Student Learning resource](#) for teachers. A big thank you to the members of the committee for their research and work this year!

Schools will start using the new assessment guidelines in the 2017/18 school year. Principals will work with their school communities and decide if their schools will follow the reporting format described in Option 1 or Option 2.

We will do a second round of feedback from school staff and through School Councils on assessment in spring 2018. We will then revise the guide and resource as needed for the 2018/19 school year.

The goal is for all Yukon schools to report by learning standards by August 2019.

Yukon Foundation Skills Assessment

The new Yukon Foundation Skills Assessment (YFSA) will be administered from October 2- November 10, 2017.

Important dates:

- Sept. 12, 13 or 14: YFSA online after school training refresher session for teachers (optional)
- Oct. 2–Nov. 10: YFSA Administration
- Nov. 17: Train the trainer sessions
- Nov. 20–21: YFSA collaborative marking

Training on the new YFSA will take place at Summer Academy, August 23-24.

Over the last two years, educators from B.C. and Yukon developed and field tested the new FSA.

Knowing where students are at early in the school year, instead of at the end, will be useful for teachers to help students progress in their reading, writing and numeracy.

Where can I find more information?

Visit the [B.C. Ministry of Education's curriculum website](#) or the [Yukon Learning Branch's website](#).

If you have any questions about the coming changes to curriculum or the next steps for your school, please talk to your Principal or email us at curriculum@gov.yk.ca.

Appendix A: Changes to English Language Arts, English First Peoples and Social Studies Courses

English Language Arts and English First Peoples courses:

Based on feedback to the draft 10-12 curriculum, Language Arts is remaining with the 2 credit course options at Grade 10 and 4 credit options at Grade 11.

There has been consolidation of some options within the EFP curriculum at the Grade 10 and 11 levels.

At Grade 10:

- EFP has four 2 credit course options
- ELA has five 2 credit options

At Grade 11:

- EFP has three 4 credit options
- ELA has five 4 credit options

At Grade 12 there is the option of English Studies 12 or English First Peoples 12, which are equivalent in terms of rigour and standards.

There are five additional elective courses at the Grade 12 level for those students who wish to specialize further in this area

Communications 11 and 12 courses will be eliminated; the intention is to separate students according to interest, rather than ability or perceived ability. The focus will be on differentiated opportunities for learning within courses that are open to all students, rather than on courses which are themselves differentiated.

All courses, including English Studies 12 and English First Peoples 12, are inclusive and open for all students.

Social Studies:

Social Studies courses previously identified as Grade 11 will be recast as Grade 12 courses.

This change is a result of feedback which identified issues with establishing some courses at the Grade 11 level and others at the Grade 12 level, including impacts on students and requirements of post-secondary institutions.

The courses posted online are all considered of equal level and rigour and will be recast as Grade 12 courses.

To support learning at the Grade 11 level, the Ministry of B.C. is developing two courses:

- *Explorations in Social Studies 11* is a new B.C. Ministry-developed course which came out of a request for a course that provides options for students interested in a course that may be less specialized and that is focused on a variety of topics. Teachers will be able to draw topics and areas of focus from all of the Grade 12 options.
- *Francophone History 11* is a new B.C. Ministry-developed course which came out of a request for more Francophone-specific content. The course will be developed in French and translated into English.

Appendix B: Changes from Integrated Resource Packages for K-9 to the redesigned curricula

The following table presents changes from the Integrated Resource Packages (IRPs) to the redesigned curricula.

GRADES K-4	
From	To
IRPs	Redesigned Curricula
English Language Arts Français langue première	English Language Arts Français langue première
Français langue seconde – immersion	Français langue seconde – immersion
Science	Science
Math	Math
Social Studies	Social Studies
Arts Education	Arts Education
Physical Education	Physical and Health Education
Health and Career Education	Career Education
Daily Physical Activity	(Incorporated into PHE)
----	Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies

GRADES 5-7	
From	To
IRPs	Redesigned Curricula
English Language Arts Français langue première	English Language Arts Français langue première
Français langue seconde – immersion	Français langue seconde – immersion
Science	Science
Math	Math
Social Studies	Social Studies
Arts Education	Arts Education
Physical Education	Physical and Health Education
Health and Career Education	Career Education
Daily Physical Activity	(Incorporated into PHE)
----	Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies
Second Language	Second Language

GRADE 8	
From	To
IRPs	Redesigned Curricula
English Language Arts Français langue première	English Language Arts Français langue première
Français langue seconde – immersion	Français langue seconde – immersion
Science	Science
Math	Math
Social Studies	Social Studies
One of Arts Education	Arts Education
Physical Education	Physical and Health Education
Health and Career Education	Career Education
Daily Physical Activity	(Incorporated into PHE)
One of Applied Skills	Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies
Second Language	Second Language

GRADE 9	
From	To
IRPs	Redesigned Curricula
English Language Arts Français langue première	English Language Arts Français langue première
Français langue seconde – immersion	Français langue seconde – immersion
Science	Science
Math	Math
Social Studies	Social Studies
One of Arts Education	Arts Education
Physical Education	Physical and Health Education
Health and Career Education	Career Education
Daily Physical Activity	(Incorporated into PHE)
One of Applied Skills	Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies