



May 26, 2016

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To: All Superintendents of Schools

Today we are pleased to share updates to the graduation program and assessment. The changes align with the redesigned Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum and focus on greater flexibility for how students are assessed.

The updates are based on solid research, classroom successes from around the world, and through extensive consultations with teachers and education leaders in British Columbia.

Key elements remain the same, such as the 80 credits required to graduate. The graduation program is now called the *Graduation Years*, which includes new Career Education curriculum. Provincial assessment now focuses on literacy and math skills. The changes will be implemented between 2016-2018, with the first changes occurring in the 2016/17 school year.

This fall, we are asking teachers to explore the draft 10-12 curriculum in their classrooms. Below is a summary of changes and timelines:

### **Provincial Assessment**

- Provincial exams for Science 10, Social Studies 11 and equivalents will no longer be used; classroom assessments will be used instead.
- Students will complete two provincial assessments focused on literacy and math skills, instead of five individual provincial exams. More information will follow (offerings begin in 2017/18).
- For 2016/17 only, there are no changes to the Language Arts 12 provincial exam and equivalents. Exams will run as scheduled, aligned with the current curriculum—not the redesigned curriculum.

### **Graduation Years**

- As of the 2016/17 school year, students will write two provincial assessments (literacy and math skills) before they graduate.
- Starting in the 2017/18 school year, Career Education courses become required, replacing Planning 10 and Grad Transitions.

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Additional information is provided in the attached Question and Answer document and grade-by-grade transition chart regarding the *Graduation Years*.

Starting next month and continuing through October 2016, we will be asking parents for input on what they would like to know about their child's progress and how they would like to receive that information.

To help guide new graduation directions while ensuring the best learning environment for students, extensive consultation has been held with BC educators and a provincial assessment advisory group. This was built on wide-ranging previous consultations. As we move forward on this work, we will be bringing together teachers from across the province to help design the new assessments. More details on this will be shared soon.

Thank you for your essential role in creating a teaching environment that enables students to explore their interests and passions, and supports every child as they transition to their chosen life path. You will find two letters attached, which we ask your assistance in sending out as quickly as possible—one for parents of students in your schools, and one for teachers.

Sincerely,



Dave Byng  
Deputy Minister

**Attachments:**

Letter to Parents  
Letter to Teachers  
Changes to Provincial Assessment Chart  
Questions and Answers document

pc: British Columbia School Trustees Association  
British Columbia School Superintendents Association  
British Columbia Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association