

BC EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION 2016/17 and 2017/18

B.C. teachers and the Ministry of Education have been working together on revisions to the current curriculum to replace the current integrated resource packages (IRPs). The goals of the revisions have included ensuring our students get the skills they need to succeed in our changing world, and making sure that teachers can deliver the curriculum efficiently and effectively. Space has been provided in this curriculum, giving more time and flexibility for students to explore topics in depth.

The 2016/17 school year marks initial implementation of the transformed K-9 curriculum in both public and independent schools. For more information, please refer to:

https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/updates/educator_update_k-9.pdf

In 2017/18, the ministry anticipates implementing the Grades 10-12 Graduation Years.

BC K-9 curriculum, see: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum>.

In order for Independent schools to maintain Ministerial curricular compliance requirements, these schools were encouraged in 2015/16 to become familiar with the new structure and framework of the draft K-9 curriculum. The former standardized 'course overviews' method of showing curricular compliance did not meet the many creative ways schools were planning to implement the new curriculum and Independent schools were encouraged to develop ways of documenting curricular compliance to suit the school's philosophy and practice. In discussions with many educators in the independent school sector during the 2015/16 school year, it became clear that the 'ownership' of creative juices were flowing and enthusiasm for the new curriculum was building in the sector.

In discussions around the province, we have found that many teachers are finding it helpful to create a "Year-at-a-Glance" document that allows for a high level scope & sequence planning. This help teachers make sure that through the course of a year, all the curriculum topics are covered with a manageable pace. Many teachers are also choosing to work with unit plans to show how the unit's learning activities link to Ministry learning standards. To assist teachers, numerous resource samples are posted on the Ministry website: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/instructional-samples>.

In 2016/17, independent school inspections for K-9 programs will pay attention to how schools are managing the curricular transformation and implementation, while fully realizing that this is a paradigm shift that takes time to develop and document; it is expected and acceptable that schools will be involved with ongoing planning and professional development around the new curriculum throughout the school year.

Grades 10-12 curriculum. The Ministry has posted Grade 10-12 draft curricula and 2016/17 is a year for review, feedback, and trial use of these draft curricula. For more information, see

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/graduation-info> and <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/10-12>

In the 2016/17 school year, schools need to keep in mind that:

- Grade 10/11 and BC First Nations Studies (BCFNS) 12 exams will only be available to students who:
 - are writing an exam for the first time having enrolled in and completed the corresponding Grade 10/11 or BCFNS 12 course by June 2016, or
 - are rewriting a Grade 10/11 or BCFNS 12 exam previously attempted
- Grade 12 Language Arts examinations (in English, French and French Immersion), will continue to be written by all students taking these courses. Exams will run as scheduled and will be aligned with the current curriculum – not the new curriculum.
- All exams will be available electronically only; with the exception of EN 12 and COM 12 that will also be available in paper format in January and June.
- Math 10, English Language Arts 10, Science 10, and Social Studies 11 exams will no longer be used (except for those students who have completed the course and require an exam rewrite) and replaced with classroom-based assessment.

In 2017/18 and following, students in Grades 10-12,

- who have not written one of the previous Math 10 exams, will be required to write a Mathematics Skills/Numeracy Assessment sometime before graduation, as part of the new graduation requirements.
- who have not written one of the Grade 12 Language Arts exams will write the new Literacy assessment.