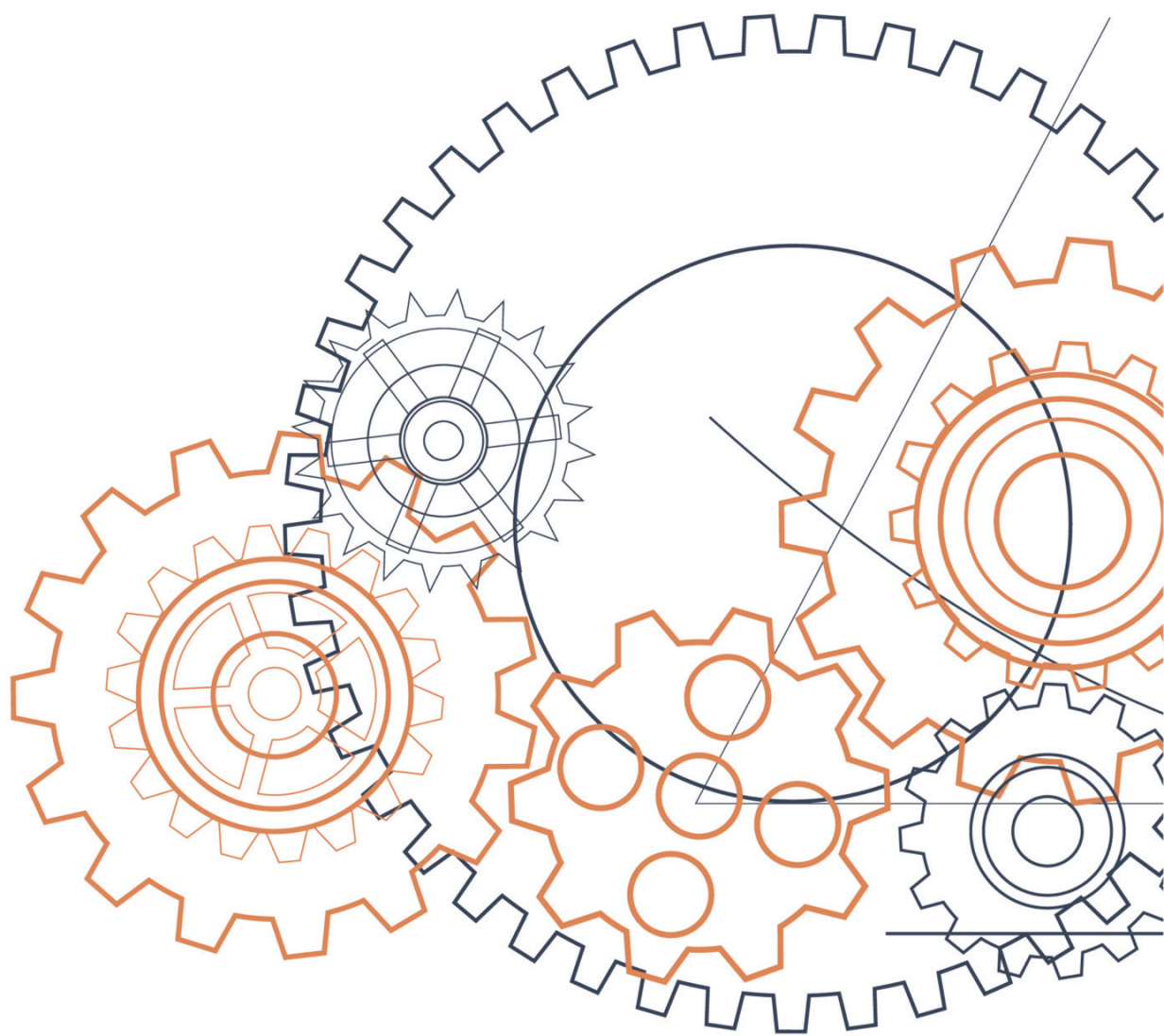


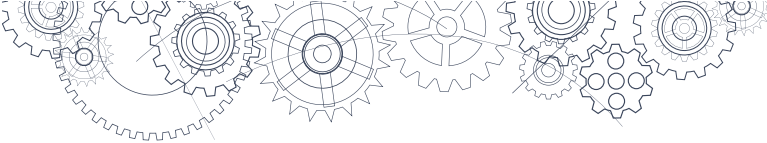
# B.C. Graduation Program Policy Guide

## Grades 10 to 12



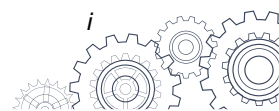
Ministry of  
Education and  
Child Care

July 2024



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# INTRODUCTION

## The B.C. Graduation Program Policy Guide

This guide focuses on the course and assessment requirements in Grades 10, 11, and 12 and the related policies for the B.C. Graduation Program. The guide provides a collective understanding among educators, students, parents/caregivers, post-secondary institutions, business, and government of the policies of the B.C. Graduation Program.

The B.C. Graduation Program sets the requirements to exit the K-12 education system with a B.C. Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) and ensures that students are graduating from secondary school as educated citizens, with the knowledge, competencies, and skills they will need to transition successfully into post-secondary education, training, or the workforce.

This guide also contains information about the Adult Graduation Program, available to students aged 18 and older, and the B.C. School Completion (Evergreen) Certificate Program.

A complete summary of all policies within this guide is included in Appendix 5: Graduation Program Policies and Associated Ministerial Orders.

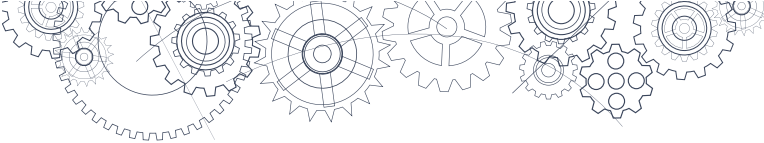
## What's New for 2024/25

- Effective the 2024/25 school year, students can meet the Indigenous-focused graduation requirement by completing First Nations Language and Culture External Credentials. For more information on the External Credentials Program, please visit the link below:



[External Credentials](#)

- As of July 1, 2024, the 2018 Graduation Program is fully closed. All students must complete the current graduation requirements under the 2023 program code (unless they are pursuing the Adult Diploma).



## Policy for Student Success

*Educated citizens who thrive in a rapidly changing world*

British Columbia (B.C.) has a great education system, and we can make it even better. We have a renewed and clear mandate – to enable every learner to maximize their potential – which fuels our passion and vision that B.C. has educated citizens who thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Guided by evidence-driven and innovative practices, advancements in technology, and evolutions within the labour market – both locally and globally – B.C. is dedicated to maintaining its position as a global leader in education by pioneering systemic changes that prepare students for an exciting new world. This preparation is critical to building a strong, sustainable, and prosperous economy for all British Columbians.

B.C. schools must do everything possible to prepare all students for their future. While B.C. student success has been good, it is inconsistent. Significant differences in student outcomes exist among Indigenous and vulnerable learners, and other significant differences exist between schools across the province. To address these gaps, we will be guided by the international evidence on best practice and adopt an approach of continuous improvement and capacity building with educational leaders.

This policy aims to align our education system’s vision, our legislated mandate, and the work of all boards of education and independent school authorities to further student success.

## Our Mandate – the Educated Citizen

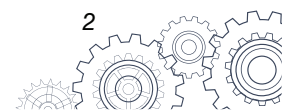
As specified in the Statement of Education Policy Order, the purpose of the B.C. school system is to enable learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy.

To achieve this purpose, we have a collective mandate to develop the “educated citizen,” which is defined as having:

- **Intellectual Development** – to develop the ability of students to analyze critically, reason and think independently, and acquire basic learning skills and bodies of knowledge; to develop in students a lifelong appreciation of learning, a curiosity about the world around them, and a capacity for creative thought and expression.
- **Human and Social Development** – to develop in students a sense of self-worth and personal initiative; to develop an appreciation of the fine arts and an understanding of cultural heritage; to develop an understanding of the importance of physical health and well-being; to develop a sense of social responsibility, acceptance and respect for the ideas and beliefs of others.
- **Career Development** – to prepare students to attain their career and occupational objectives; to assist in the development of effective work habits and the flexibility to deal with change in the workplace.

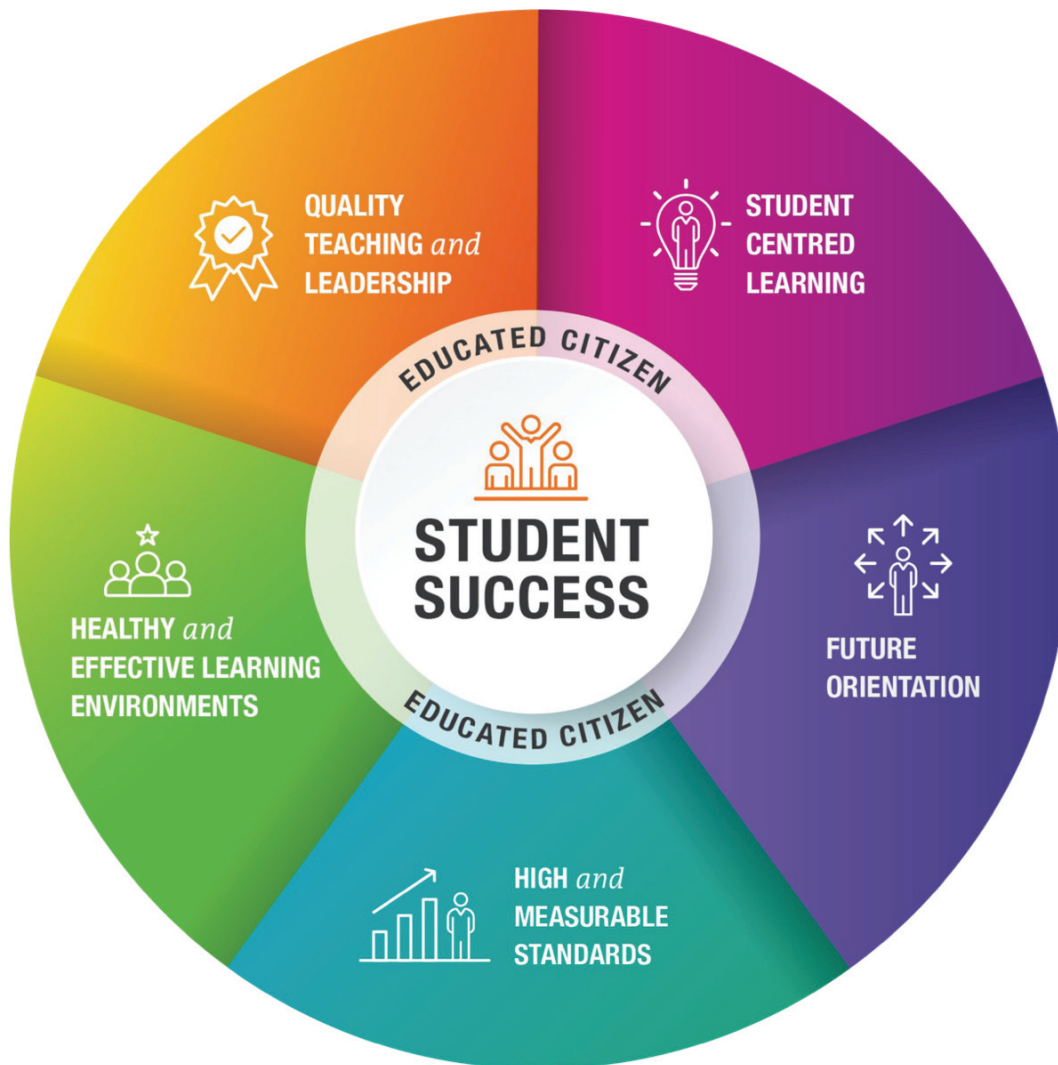
**Education furthers government’s objectives**

The Ministry of Education and Child Care is guided by the provincial government’s core mandate: to make life more affordable, deliver the services people count on, and to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone. In addition, the education system operates within a fiscal framework that ensures consistency and fairness across the province, while enabling local flexibility for school districts.



## British Columbia's Policy for Student Success

**Focus all talents, efforts, and resources on improving student success.** Our success will not just be measured by the amount of investment, legislative changes, the number of programs, or the amount of new construction, but on how well all students are succeeding in life, regardless of their background or where they live in B.C. – this is our foundation for a prosperous, shared, and sustainable economy. This commitment depends on using evidence to make decisions, having the courage to adjust and improve programs and policies that are not optimal for students, enabling equity of access to quality education for every student, aligning investments that clearly demonstrate better outcomes, and leading through innovative approaches.



Continuous improvement on student success will be guided by the following principles:

- 1 Quality teaching and leadership** – Great teachers and educational leaders have always been the key to student success. The critically significant role of teachers in a student’s life will be constantly evolving to adapt to the rapidly changing context in children’s lives. Teachers will function as guides and coaches for learning for all students, including those with disabilities or diverse abilities. School leaders and teachers will focus on practices proven to achieve results, including experiential learning and technology in their classrooms, personal learning opportunities for every student, robust assessments, and time allocated for collaboration with other educators and professional development.
- 2 Student-centered learning** – Students benefit from more flexibility and choice of how, when, and where their learning takes place. This requires maintaining provincial-level consistency in policy design and funding allocation, while enabling the most flexibility as possible to organize and deliver programs within schools. This will become increasingly important as B.C. takes a more inclusive approach to education, ensuring all students – regardless of ability or background – benefit from a learning environment tailored to maximize their potential. It also means offering a greater variety of pathways to graduation and more opportunities for hands-on learning.
- 3 Future orientation** – Because the pace of social, economic, and environmental change is increasing, there is a greater need to enable all students to have essential skills, adaptability, global competencies and citizenship, and successful transition to employment. Our education system will enhance our efforts to prepare all students for lifelong learning, encourage the use of technology, and be prepared for graduation with practical expectations informed by employers and post-secondary institutions.
- 4 High and measurable standards** – Having a modern and well-developed curriculum that reflects our values and expectations for skills, knowledge, and competencies will be effective for students only if it is complemented by rigorous and consistent learning standards and province-wide assessments. Evidence and international best practice conclude that using information on learning outcomes, especially feedback to learners from assessments, is critical to student success. British Columbia will endeavour to maintain our already high standards on learning outcomes, with a focus on literacy and numeracy, which evidence indicates offers all learners, regardless of background, the best opportunity to succeed in life and contribute to prosperous economy.
- 5 Healthy and effective learning environments** – We will foster inclusive learning environments where all students feel that they are safe and belong – physically and emotionally – and where all students are inspired to explore their personal strengths and interests. To offer healthy learning environments where students, families, and educators can focus on supporting students to achieve their learning outcomes, we will continue to enhance the construction of modern learning environments, enable flexible and virtual learning delivery, and enhance our efforts on physical literacy and best practices on nutrition.

## Adult Graduation Program

By focusing all talents, efforts, and resources on improving student success, our goal is that all students receive the support they need to graduate on time with their Dogwood Diploma. However, because of personal circumstances, some students need more time to finish their graduation requirements or re-enter the school system as adults to obtain their Dogwood Diploma. Recognizing that some adults are not able to complete the 80-credit requirements for the Dogwood Diploma, B.C. also offers an alternative pathway – the B.C. Adult Graduation Diploma, or the “Adult Dogwood” – for learners 18 years of age and older. The Adult Dogwood requires 20 credits of study, some of which may be obtained through post-secondary courses and recognition of learning through work experience and employment. Whether they are pursuing the Dogwood Diploma or the Adult Dogwood, or upgrading for post-secondary or employment, all adult learners should have access to high-quality adult education programs that meet their diverse needs and aspirations.

Education programs for adult learners in B.C. will be guided by the following principles:

1. **Flexibility:** Adult learners can complete the Adult Dogwood as a flexible graduation option. Adult education programs have flexible delivery options through different learning centres, schools, or online learning to meet adult students’ needs.
2. **Equity:** Adult learners with diverse needs – for example, learners with disabilities or diverse abilities and English language learners – all have access to the necessary supports to achieve equitable educational outcomes.
3. **Accountability:** Adult learners are supported to complete required courses successfully and as soon as possible, to achieve their career goals.
4. **High-quality:** Adult education programs meet high standards that are recognized by employers and post-secondary institutions.

Students are eligible to enter the Adult Graduation Program at 18 years of age. Students under the age of 18 may not enter the Adult Graduation Program and should not be prematurely encouraged to pursue the Adult Dogwood. School staff should ensure that their students on the Adult Graduation Program understand the requirements for graduation and provide them with guidance in planning and course selection. When a school-aged student (aged 18 or 19) is contemplating switching from the B.C. Graduation Program to the Adult Graduation Program, the school should ensure the student and their parent or caregiver are fully informed of the implications, including the differences between the Dogwood and Adult Dogwood credentials and the prerequisites needed for post-secondary study.






# PROVINCIAL CURRICULUM

The provincial curriculum is set by the B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care and defines what students are expected to learn at each Grade level and in every subject area.

Boards of education, independent school authorities, and offshore school owners/operators may develop additional individual Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses to be offered within their own schools. As of July 2021, First Nations schools may now develop First Nation Authorized (FNA) courses. The creation of BAA and FNA courses must be in accordance with the Board/Authority Authorized Courses and First Nation Authorized Courses Policy, which can be found at the link below:

 [Board/Authority Authorized Courses and First Nation Authorized Courses Policy](#)

Embedded within B.C.'s curriculum are the following benefits for students:

-  More courses and more **choice** for students to explore their passions and focus on their interests.
-  Opportunities to learn about **Indigenous knowledges and perspectives**.
-  Increased opportunities for **hands-on and experiential learning**.
-  Opportunities to **develop the core competencies** needed for lifelong learning.
-  Opportunities to develop into an **"educated citizen."**

## The educated citizen

The "educated citizen" is one of the foundational pieces for curriculum. First articulated in the Statement of Education Policy Order (Mandate for the School System) in the 1980s, it continues to have meaning today and was reaffirmed in a series of roundtable discussions held with education partners throughout the province in 2011.

An educated citizen is:

- Thoughtful, able to learn and to think critically, and can communicate information from a broad knowledge base.
- Creative, flexible, self-motivated, and has a positive self-image.
- Capable of making independent decisions.
- Skilled and can contribute to society generally, including the world of work.
- Productive, gains satisfaction through achievement, and strives for physical well-being.
- Co-operative, principled, and respectful of others regardless of differences.
- Aware of the rights and prepared to exercise the responsibilities of an individual within the family, the community, Canada, and the world.

The process of researching, reviewing, piloting, and updating the curriculum is ongoing and iterative, and is a key element of continuous improvement in the education system.



## Indigenous Knowledges and Perspectives

Greater emphasis on Indigenous ways of knowing reflect the First Peoples Principles of Learning in the curriculum. These learning principles will:

- Support students in re-examining Canada’s history with a view to better understanding First Peoples’ role and place in its evolution.
- Help young people challenge stereotypical portrayals of First Peoples.
- Contribute to reconciliation by helping students gain an understanding of the contributions of First Peoples to Canadian society.

The First Peoples Principles of Learning can be found at the link below:



[First Peoples Principles of Learning](#)

## B.C.’s Curriculum Structure

B.C.’s curriculum has been designed with common components: Core Competencies, Big Ideas, and Learning Standards.

### Core Competencies

Core Competencies are foundational to the curriculum structure and underpin all areas of learning. They are directly related to the educated citizen and, as such, are what we value for all students in the system. There are three categories of Core Competencies:

1. **Communication** – the abilities that students use to impart and exchange information, experiences, and ideas to explore the world around them.
2. **Thinking** (Critical and Creative) – the abilities that students use to generate new ideas and concepts and to examine their own thinking and that of others.
3. **Personal and Social** (Cultural Identity, Personal Awareness, and Social Responsibility) – the awareness and understanding that students have about the facets that contribute to a healthy sense of oneself; facets include maintaining physical and mental health, self-regulating complex emotions, managing relationships, caring for our planet, and considering the connections between self, others, and the world.

### Big Ideas

Big Ideas consist of generalizations, principles, and the key concepts important within an area of learning. Big Ideas represent what students will **understand** at the completion of their Grade in each area of learning. These concepts extend beyond a single Grade and help build a broad base for a student’s future understanding.

## Learning Standards

Learning Standards contain two distinct elements:

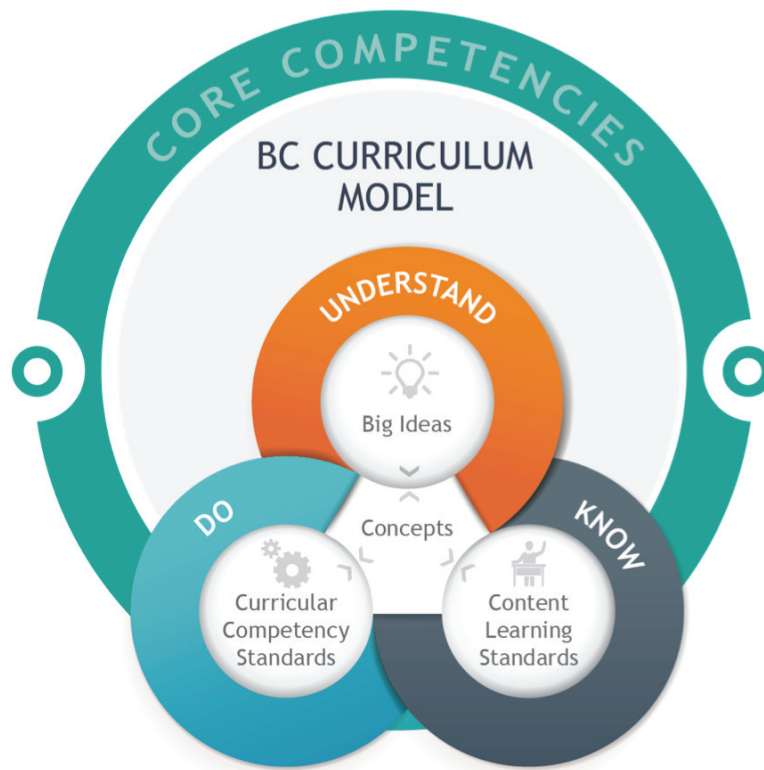
1. **Curricular Competencies**, which are explicit statements of what is expected at each Grade level in each area of learning. Curricular Competencies are the skills, strategies, and processes that students develop over time and apply to their ongoing lifelong learning.

Curricular Competencies are unique to each area of learning. Students are expected to be able to **demonstrate (do)** the Curricular Competencies.

2. **Content**, which is the essential knowledge that students must learn at each Grade level. Students are expected to **know** the content.

These elements are all woven together to form the curriculum structure in the following manner:

- **Understand** the Big Ideas and concepts that can be transferred to other settings.
- **Know** the content of each of the subject areas.
- **Demonstrate (do)** and apply the Curricular Competencies within each area of learning.



The Curriculum website can be found at the link below:

 [BC's Course Curriculum](#)

For detailed descriptions of the curriculum for each of the major subject areas in Grades 10-12, see [Appendix 1](#).

## B.C.'s Course Structure

Successful learning includes having high-quality and engaging learning opportunities that can be tailored to meet the needs of all students. Not all students learn successfully at the same rate, in the same environment, and in the same ways. Consequently, courses are not based on the amount of time spent working with the material, but on the actual learning achieved. All courses are structured to easily allow for different teaching methods so that all students can access and be successful in any course.

To further support successful learning, the provincial curriculum will be regularly reviewed and updated to improve the content. This process will include a review of course enrolments and a set of criteria for retiring those courses not used. The ministry will continue to focus resources on updating provincially created courses. Boards of education and First Nation Approving Bodies will have access to the BAA/FNA processes respectively to provide students with locally relevant course options, including courses that are no longer within the provincial scope.

### Applying B.C.'s curriculum structure: Science 10 example

#### Understanding the Big Idea:

- DNA is the basis for the diversity of living things

#### Know the Content:

- DNA structure and function
- Patterns of inheritance

#### Demonstrate (Do) the Curricular Competencies:

- Make observations aimed at identifying their own questions, including increasingly complex ones, about the natural world
- Formulate multiple hypotheses and predict multiple outcomes
- Apply First Peoples perspectives and knowledge, other ways of knowing, and local knowledge as sources of information
- Use knowledge of scientific concepts to draw conclusions that are consistent with evidence
- Seek and analyze patterns, trends, and connections in data, including describing relationships between variables (dependent and independent) and identifying inconsistencies
- Communicate scientific ideas, claims, information, and perhaps a suggested course of action for a specific purpose and audience, constructing evidence-based arguments and using appropriate scientific language, conventions, and representations



# ASSESSMENT

## Classroom Assessments

Classroom assessments continue to be the primary source of information about student learning. Feedback from ongoing assessments in the classroom can be immediate and personal, helping students identify areas of growth and set new learning goals. Classroom assessments are led by teachers using a variety of assessment methods.

## Provincial Graduation Assessments

There are three Provincial Graduation Assessments: the **Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment**, the **Grade 10 Literacy Assessment**, and the **Grade 12 Literacy Assessment**. Francophone students wishing to obtain dual diplomas must compete additional literacy assessments in Grades 10 and 12, while French Immersion students seeking a dual diploma need to complete an additional literacy assessment at Grade 12.

### *Purpose*

The Provincial Graduation Assessments ensure that all students have the literacy and numeracy skills developed across the provincial curriculum. The Provincial Graduation Assessments align with the curriculum and reflect international trends for large-scale assessments where there is a focus on the competencies required for students to be successful in the modern world.

The Provincial Graduation Assessments inform both student learning and system-level performance. These assessments measure the extent to which students are literate and numerate and provide students with information about their proficiency relative to the provincial curriculum. The Provincial Graduation Assessments also provide information to ensure public accountability, monitor student progress, and ensure that students meet curriculum requirements.

The Provincial Graduation Assessments measure the application of numeracy and literacy skills to realistic situations, learned across the course of the students' education, requiring them to employ the knowledge and skills considered to be essential for future success. The assessments look at students' ability to apply their knowledge and skills and to analyze, reason, and communicate effectively as they examine, interpret, and solve problems.



## Policy Requirements for Provincial Graduation Assessments

Boards of education, independent schools, and offshore schools are required to ensure students participate in Provincial Graduation Assessments. The Provincial Graduation Assessment requirements for all students are as follows:

- ✓ Students must complete both the Graduation Numeracy Assessment and Graduation Literacy Assessments as a requirement for graduation. Students cannot receive equivalency for the Provincial Graduation Assessments.
- ✓ In Grade 10:
  - Students are expected to write their first Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment and Grade 10 Literacy Assessment. (See [Graduation Requirements – for French Immersion/Francophone Dual Dogwood](#) for additional assessment requirements).
- ✓ In Grade 12:
  - Students are expected to write their first Grade 12 Literacy Assessment. (See [Graduation Requirements – for French Immersion/Francophone Dual Dogwood](#) for additional assessment requirements).

There will be an opportunity for students to re-write the Provincial Graduation Assessments to improve their proficiency levels. Students may write a Provincial Graduation Assessment up to three times: the original attempt and two re-writes.

- ✓ The best outcome for each of the Provincial Graduation Assessments will be recorded on the student's transcripts.

The assessments will be reported using the following proficiency levels:

Provincial Graduation Assessments			
<p><b>Emerging</b></p> <p>The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.</p>	<p><b>Developing</b></p> <p>The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.</p>	<p><b>Proficient</b></p> <p>The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.</p>	<p><b>Extending</b></p> <p>The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.</p>

A student's best proficiency level for the Provincial Graduation Assessments will appear on the student's transcript. However, for the Grade 10 Literacy Assessment and the Évaluation de littératie de la 10<sup>e</sup> année – Français langue première, the student's transcript will only indicate "RM" ("requirement met"), and not a proficiency level.

## Guidelines – Provincial Assessment Adjudication

Adjudication is the official process that helps ensure that students with demonstrated needs for supports within educational settings have access to the same supports during the Provincial Graduation Assessments.

In B.C., adjudication allows the supports that are currently provided to students in the classroom setting (extra time and speech-to-text or text-to-speech software) to also be provided during the Provincial Graduation Assessments. Supports may be accessed by students on Provincial Graduation Assessments if the required supports:

- are routinely used and provided for classroom-based assessments (tests and assessments), which may be reflected in report card comments;
- have been recommended by the School Based Team (rather than an individual teacher, administrator, or other school staff member);
- have been recommended in consultation with a B.C. Association of School Psychologists (BCASP) certified school psychologist or B.C. Registered Psychologist (who may be part of the School Based Team); and
- are documented in an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Student Learning Plan (SLP) and show use over time.

In addition, if use of the supports began during the secondary years, documentation is required in the form of:

- Standardized academic achievement results or a psycho-educational assessment report, and/or relevant reports from outside agencies that document the need for specific supports; and
- Report cards, School Based Team minutes, and/or other school records indicating the student's need for specific supports.

For more information on adjudication, please see the Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program at the link below:



[B.C. Graduation Program Handbook of Procedures](#)

# STUDENT REPORTING

## Policy

Boards of education are required to provide parents with a minimum of five communications of student learning throughout the school year describing students' progress in all areas of learning. These include three written Learning Updates and two informal Learning Updates.

In Grades 10-12, written Learning Updates:

- ➔ Must include letter grades and percentages for each subject or course currently being studied.
- ➔ Must contain descriptive feedback describing where a student is at in their learning, and any areas of future growth.
- ➔ Should also contain a description of student behaviour, including information on attitudes, work habits, effort, and social responsibility.
- ➔ Will also include a Graduation Status Update on the final written Learning Update of the school year.

Provincial transcripts will contain letter grades, percentages, and course credits. As well, the student's results from the three Provincial Graduation Assessments will be recorded on the transcript. Graduation Numeracy and Literacy Assessments are reported on students' transcripts using a proficiency scale, except for the Grade 10 Literacy Assessment for which students' transcripts will indicate only "requirement met."

### ***Students with Disabilities or Diverse Abilities and English Language Learning and French Language Learning (ELL/FLL) Students***

Teachers must prepare written student progress reports for all students, including students with disabilities or diverse abilities and ELL or FLL students, as directed by the Board of Education or Independent School Authority.

For students with disabilities or diverse abilities who are not working toward the learning standards or learning outcomes of the curriculum but toward individualized goals or objectives in an IEP, reporting to parents will be in relation to these specific individual goals.

If letter grades are used, it should be stated in the body of the student progress report that the grade is given in relation to the individualized goals and objectives and not in relation to provincial or BAA/FNA curriculum standards. The same reporting procedures will be used for ELL or FLL students who are not following the learning standards of the provincial curriculum or BAA/FNA curriculum due to limited language proficiency.

Where an ELL or a FLL student is following the learning standards or outcomes of the provincial curriculum or a local program, regular reporting procedures are used to show progress.

## Provincial Letter Grades Order

Letter grades and their meaning are defined in the Provincial Letter Grades Order for use in student progress reports. Letter grades are used for all courses, as follows:

- A** The student demonstrates excellent or outstanding performance in relation to expected learning standards for the course or subject and Grade.
- B** The student demonstrates very good performance in relation to expected learning standards for the course or subject and Grade.
- C+** The student demonstrates good performance in relation to expected learning standards for the course or subject and Grade.
- C** The student demonstrates satisfactory performance in relation to expected learning standards for the course or subject and Grade.
- C-** The student demonstrates minimally acceptable performance in relation to expected learning standards for the course or subject and Grade.
- IE** (Insufficient Evidence) The student, for a variety of reasons, has not provided sufficient evidence of learning in relation to the learning standards. The letters "IE" are used to alert parents and may be used at any time during the school year. The underlying principle is that parents and students should be alerted to a concern as soon as teachers detect it. Teachers must be prepared to identify what the needs are and specify plans of action to help students achieve the learning standards as well as a timeline for resolution of the "IE". An "IE" can remain in effect for one calendar year, or a shorter duration thereof as decided by the teacher or school leadership.
- F** (Failing) The student has not demonstrated, or is not demonstrating, the minimally acceptable performance in relation to the expected learning standards for the course or subject and Grade. The letter grade "F" may only be assigned if an "IE"(Insufficient Evidence) letter grade has been previously assigned for that course or subject and Grade.
- W** (Withdrawal) According to the policy of the board, and upon request of the parent of the student or, when appropriate, the student, the principal, vice principal, or director of instruction in charge of a school may grant permission to a student to withdraw from a course or subject.
- SG** (Standing Granted) Although completion of normal requirements is not possible, a sufficient level of performance has been attained to warrant, consistent with the best interests of the student, the granting of standing for the course or subject and Grade. Standing Granted may be used in cases of serious illness, hospitalization, late entry or early leaving, but may only be granted by an adjudication process authorized by the principal, vice principal, or director of instruction in charge of the school.
- TS** (Transfer Standing) May be granted by the principal, vice principal, or director of instruction in charge of a school based on an examination of records from an institution other than a school as defined in the School Act. Alternatively, the principal, vice principal, or director of instruction in charge of a school may assign a letter grade based on an examination of those records.

A copy of the Provincial Letter Grades Order can be found at the link below:



[Provincial Letter Grades Order](#)



# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must earn the minimum number of credits required to fulfill one of the four ways to graduate in B.C.

## Policy

### *I. B.C. Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma)*

The B.C. Certificate of Graduation, or Dogwood Diploma, is awarded to students who successfully complete the provincial graduation requirements. To graduate, students require at least 80 credits total. Of these 80 credits:

- 52 credits are required from the following:
  - Physical and Health Education 10 (4 credits).
  - Science 10 (4 credits), and a Science 11 or 12 (4 credits).
  - Social Studies 10 (4 credits), and a Social Studies 11 or 12 (4 credits).
  - A Math 10 (4 credits), and a Math 11 or 12 course (4 credits).
  - A Language Arts 10, 11, and a required 12 course (4 credits required at each Grade, 12 credits total).
  - An Arts Education 10, 11, or 12 and/or an Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies 10, 11, or 12 (4 credits total).
  - Career-Life Education (4 credits), and Career-Life Connections (4 credits).
  - Indigenous-focused (4 credits).
- At least 28 credits must be elective course credits.
- At least 16 credits must be at the Grade 12 level, including a required Language Arts 12 course and the Career-Life Connections course.

In addition, students must also complete three Provincial Graduation Assessments:

- Grade 10 Literacy Assessment.
- Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment.
- Grade 12 Literacy Assessment.

### *II. For French Immersion/Francophone Dual Dogwood*

#### French Immersion Dual Dogwood

French Immersion students can earn both a British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) and a Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique.

To graduate with both diplomas, French Immersion students must meet the graduation requirements for the Dogwood Diploma and, of these 80 credits, they must earn:

- At least 16 credits at the Grade 12 level (including a Français langue seconde-immersion course at the Grade 12 level).
- Français langue seconde-immersion 10 (4 credits).
- A Français langue seconde-immersion course at the Grade 11 level (4 credits).
- Français langue seconde-immersion 12 (4 credits).
- At least 12 additional credits in Grade 10, 11, or 12 courses that are in French with at least four of these credits at the Grade 11 or 12 level.

In addition, French Immersion students must also complete four Provincial Graduation Assessments:

- Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment (English or French).
- Grade 10 Literacy Assessment.
- Grade 12 Literacy Assessment.
- Évaluation de littératie de la 12<sup>e</sup> année – Français langue seconde-immersion.

### Francophone Dual Dogwood

Francophone students (i.e., students enrolled in a francophone educational program provided by a francophone education authority) can earn both a British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) and a Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique.

To graduate with both diplomas, Francophone students must meet the graduation requirements for the Dogwood Diploma and, of these 80 credits, they must earn:

- At least 16 credits at the Grade 12 level (including a required Language Arts 12 course).
- English Language Arts courses at the Grade 10 level (4 credits).
- An English Language Arts course at the Grade 11 level (4 credits).
- A required English Language Arts course at the Grade 12 level (4 credits).
- At least 12 additional credits in Grade 10, 11, or 12 courses that are in French with at least four of these credits at the Grade 11 or 12 level.
- A Français langue première course at the Grade 10 level (4 credits).
- A Français langue première course at the Grade 11 level (4 credits).
- Français langue première – Français langue et culture 12 (4 credits).

In addition, Francophone students must also complete five Provincial Graduation Assessments:

- Évaluation de numératie de la 10<sup>e</sup> année.
- Grade 10 Literacy Assessment.
- Évaluation de littératie de la 10<sup>e</sup> année – Français langue première.
- Grade 12 Literacy Assessment
- Évaluation de littératie de la 12<sup>e</sup> année – Français langue première.

### III. B.C. Adult Graduation Diploma (Adult Dogwood)

Students who are 18 years of age or older have the choice of pursuing graduation through a Dogwood Diploma or an Adult Dogwood Diploma. Students must be 18 or older to enter the Adult Graduation Program and become an "adult student." To receive the Adult Graduation Diploma, or "Adult Dogwood," adult students must complete a minimum of three courses after they have entered the Adult Graduation Program. Courses can be taken through the B.C. school system or as part of Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs at post-secondary institutions.

To graduate with an Adult Dogwood, students must have:

- A required Language Arts 12 course (4 credits).
- A Math 11 or 12 course (4 credits); and
- At least three additional Grade 12 electives, or a Grade 11 Social Studies course and two additional Grade 12 electives (4 credits each). BAA, FNA, IDS, and Locally Developed courses do not meet this requirement.

Students on the Adult Graduation Program are eligible to receive graduation credit at the Grade 12 level for both Career Life Education and Career Life Connections. These courses should be reported using the course codes CLE 12 for Career Life Education and CLCG12 for Career Life Connections; both course codes are restricted for use only on the Adult Graduation Program.

Courses and credits can be counted from the B.C. school system and post-secondary systems provided they have met the criteria for equivalency.

Adult students may also get credit recognition for current or past work skills or competencies or for post-secondary courses they have completed.

Adult students are not required to complete the Graduation Numeracy or Literacy Assessments.

#### **IV. International Student Graduation Credit**

To earn a Dogwood Diploma, international students must meet all graduation requirements and demonstrate competence in one of Canada's two official languages.

There are several specific conditions that pertain to international students. As stated in the International Student Graduation Credit Policy, international students whose educational program was not instructed in either French or English for at least two years prior to arriving in British Columbia must earn credits for certain courses through instruction from a British Columbia-certified teacher (not through Equivalency review or Challenge process).

The International Student Graduation Credit Policy can be found at the link below:



[International Student Graduation Credit](#)

#### **V. Students Transferring from Another Jurisdiction**

Students who transfer to a B.C. school from another jurisdiction, Canadian or international, and begin the B.C. Graduation Program in Grade 11 or 12 must still meet all graduation requirements. Regardless of when students transfer, they must write the Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment and the Grade 12 Literacy Assessment (and the Évaluation de littératie de la 12<sup>e</sup> année, if applicable) to graduate.

However, students who begin the B.C. Graduation Program in Grade 11 or 12 are not required to write the Grade 10 Literacy Assessment to graduate. Francophone students transferring from another jurisdiction are also not required to write the Évaluation de littératie de la 10<sup>e</sup> année – Français langue première to graduate. An exemption request must be manually sent to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for these students. The process for requesting exemptions can be found at the link below:



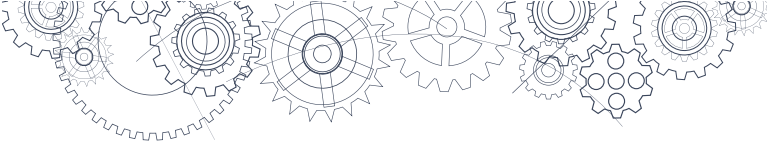
[Exemptions for Students Transferring from Another Jurisdiction](#)

## **Completion Certificate**

### **B.C. School Completion Certificate (Evergreen Certificate)**

The School Completion Certificate, or Evergreen Certificate, is intended to celebrate success in learning and accomplishments of students who are not able to meet graduation requirements.

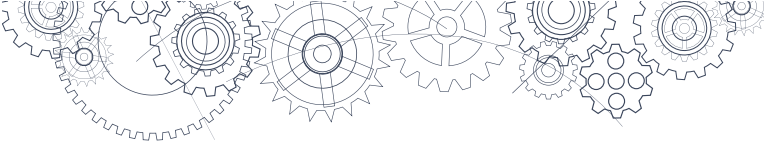
To be eligible for a School Completion Certificate, the student must be designated in one of the 12 Inclusive Education categories and have an IEP with replacement curriculum. The Evergreen Certificate does not represent graduation and therefore is not equivalent to a B.C. Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma). It represents the completion of personal learning goals as identified in the student's IEP.



**Graduation Requirements (Dogwood Diploma)**

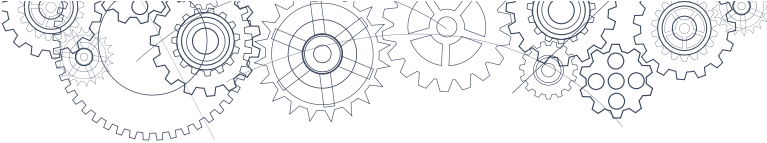
Summary of Graduation Requirements: Dogwood Diploma			
	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<b>Required: minimum 52 credits</b>			
<b>English Language Arts</b>	<b>Choose two 2-credit courses:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Composition 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Literary Studies 10 <input type="checkbox"/> New Media 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Spoken Language 10 <input type="checkbox"/> EFP Literary Studies 10 <input type="checkbox"/> EFP New Media 10 <input type="checkbox"/> EFP Spoken Language 10 <input type="checkbox"/> EFP Writing 10	<b>Choose one 4-credit course:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Composition 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Literary Studies 11 <input type="checkbox"/> New Media 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Spoken Language 11 <input type="checkbox"/> EFP Literary Studies and New Media 11 <input type="checkbox"/> EFP Literary Studies and Spoken Language <input type="checkbox"/> EFP Literary Studies and Writing 11	<b>Choose one 4-credit course:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> English First Peoples 12 <input type="checkbox"/> English Studies 12
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Choose one 4-credit course:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-calculus 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace Mathematics 10	<b>Choose one 4-credit course: (Grade 11 or Grade 12)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Foundations of Mathematics 11 <input type="checkbox"/> History of Mathematics 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-calculus 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Workplace Mathematics 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship Mathematics 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Calculus 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Foundations of Mathematics 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-calculus 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Statistics 12	
<b>Science</b>	<b>Required 4-credit course:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Science 10	<b>Choose one 4-credit course: (Grade 11 or Grade 12)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Sciences 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Science 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Physics 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Science for Citizens 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Anatomy and Physiology 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Science 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Geology 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Physics 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized Science 12	
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Required 4-credit course:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies 10	<b>Choose one 4-credit course: (Grade 11 or Grade 12)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Explorations in Social Studies 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Francophone History and Culture 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century World History 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> B.C. First Peoples 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Comparative Cultures 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Comparative World Religions 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Theory 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Genocide Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Human Geography 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Law Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Geography 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Political Studies 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Studies 12	





Summary of Graduation Requirements: Dogwood Diploma			
	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
<b>Arts Education/ ADST</b>	<b>Choose 4 credits at either Grade 10, Grade 11, or Grade 12</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Arts Education (see <a href="#">Table</a> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST) (see <a href="#">Table</a> )		
<b>Career Education</b>	<b>Required 8 credits in Career Education (Grade 10, Grade 11, or Grade 12)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Career-Life Education <input type="checkbox"/> Career-Life Connections (including 30 hours of work experience or career-life exploration)		
<b>Physical and Health Education (PHE)</b>	<b>Required 4-credit course:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Physical and Health Education 10		
<b>Indigenous Focused</b>	<p>Depending on the school's offerings and student's choice, the courses in each Grade level will vary. The 4 Indigenous-focused credits in Grades 10-12 can come from the following options:</p> <p><b>Provincial Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> English First Peoples – Literacy Studies 10*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> English First Peoples – New Media 10*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> English First Peoples – Spoken Language 10*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> English First Peoples – Writing 10*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> English First Peoples – Literary Studies and New Media 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> English First Peoples – Literary Studies and Spoken Language 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> English First Peoples – Literary Studies and Writing 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> English First Peoples 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> B.C. First Peoples 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12</li> </ul> <p><b>Indigenous-Language Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ʔayʔajuθem 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dakelh 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gitxsenimx ~ Gitxsanimax 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Gitxsenimx ~ Gitxsanimax 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Halq'eméylem 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Halq'eméylem 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Heiltsuk 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Heiltsuk 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hul'q'umi'num' 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Hul'q'umi'num' 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Kwak'wala 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Kwak'wala 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Liqwala/Kwak'wala 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Liqwala/Kwak'wala 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Nedut'en 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Nedut'en 11</li> </ul> <p>* Indicates a two-credit course – would meet half of the requirement</p>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> nsíylxcən 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory nsíylxcən 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Nteʔkepmxcin 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Nteʔkepmxcin 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Nuučaanuʔ 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Nuučaanuʔ 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Secwepemctsin (Shuswap Language) 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Secwepemctsin 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SENĆOŦEN 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory SENĆOŦEN 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shashishalhem (Sechelt Language) 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Shashishalhem 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sim'algaxhl Nisga'a 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Sim'algaxhl Nisga'a 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sm'algyax 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Sm'algyax 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stát'yemcets 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Stát'yemcets 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tsek'ene 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Tsek'ene 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Upper St'at'imcets 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Upper St'at'imcets 11</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Xaayda Kil / Xaad Kil Grades 10, 11 or 12</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory Xaayda Kil / Xaad Kil 11</li> </ul> <p><b>Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) or First Nation Authorized (FNA) Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Please connect with the school/district to see what options are available.</li> </ul> <p><b>External Credentials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> See <a href="#">First Nations Language and Culture External Credentials</a></li> </ul>	





<b>Electives: minimum 28 credits</b>			
<p>Depending on the school's offerings and student's choice, the number of electives in each Grade level will vary. The 28 elective credits in Grades 10-12 can come from the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry-developed or ministry-approved courses</li> <li>• External Credentials</li> <li>• Post-Secondary ("dual") credit</li> <li>• Independent Directed Studies (IDS)</li> <li>• Board/Authority Authorized (BAA)/First Nation Authorized (FNA) courses</li> </ul>			
<b>Elective Courses</b>	Grade 10: 2–5 electives	Grade 11: 3–5 electives	Grade 12: 6–8 electives*
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Total: 80 credits required for graduation</b>			
* at least 16 credits must be at the Grade 12 level, including a required Grade 12 Language Arts course.			
<b>Graduation Program Assessments</b>			
<b>Required for Graduation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade 10 Numeracy <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 10 Literacy		<input type="checkbox"/> Grade 12 Literacy

## Career Development

### Policy – Career Development and Work Experience

Career development is one of the goals of the public education system, shared by schools, family, and community. As stated in the Career Development Policy, education programs in B.C. schools should prepare students to successfully transition to post-secondary education or the world of work.

Opportunities to explore and research a multitude of education and career pathways allow students to develop the knowledge and the personal and social competencies to manage their career and life transitions.

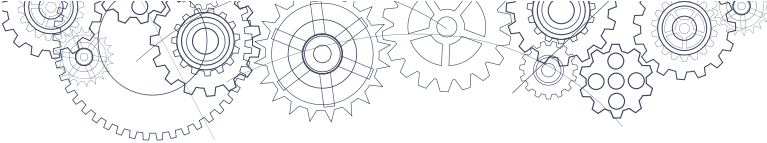
### Policy – Career-Life Connections

#### Required Courses and Training

As outlined in the Career-Life Connections policy, all students are expected to meet the career development learning standards in their Career-Life Education (CLE) and Career-Life Connections (CLC) courses and to complete 30 hours or more of career-life exploration before they graduate. When students complete secondary school, they should have developed the following:

- Competencies to be self-directed, responsible individuals who can set and meet career goals.
- Knowledge of a range of career choices, and actions needed to pursue those choices.
- Employability skills required to work effectively and collaboratively in a workplace.





To fulfill the career-life exploration requirements for CLC, all students must provide evidence that they have completed any one of the following:

- 30 hours or more of a work placement.
- 30 hours or more of volunteer or community service.
- 30 hours or more of paid student employment; or
- 30 hours or more of fieldwork, entrepreneurship, or projects focused on an area of deep interest.

Students must secure school approval that their career-life exploration experience meets the CLC requirement. Students should determine the relevance and eligibility of an experience while enrolled in CLC, with guidance from their teacher-mentor, to ensure clear linkages to personal interests and goals for post-graduation.

For students who choose school-authorized paid or unpaid work, volunteering, and/or community service placements as their career-life exploration, boards of education must follow procedures to ensure students are covered by WorkSafeBC during their placement. For more information about the career-life exploration requirements for CLC, please refer to the Career Education 10-12 Guide, which can be found at the link below:



[Career Education 10-12 Guide](#)

CLE and CLC comprise a total of eight credits that may be distributed across the graduation year, to allow for flexibility of delivery and to suit student interests and needs (e.g., CLE and CLC are both 4-credit courses that can be delivered in a single 4-credit option, or as two 2-credit options).

CLE and CLC do not have designated Grade levels; students can begin their Career-Life courses in Grade 10, 11, or 12, depending on their own needs and interests during these years. The curriculum has been designed to be as flexible as possible to accommodate differences in school structures and grade groupings. Students will typically complete their capstone in their final year.

As part of CLC, students must have their career-life exploration component documented and must identify and reflect on the employability skills and competencies they used or developed.

### ***Policy – Ministry-Authorized Work Experience Courses and Workplace Safety***

#### **Elective Courses and Training**

Students may also seek elective graduation credits for work experience and/or training beyond the 30 hours of career-life exploration required by CLC as listed above.

All students participating in elective work experience courses must have an in-school orientation to prepare them for the workplace, including instruction on worksite safety awareness. The orientation may also include topics such as employability skills, education skills for specific work placements, worker rights and responsibilities, and employer expectations.

In addition, students aged 14 and older can opt to participate in other work experience programming and earn elective credits. These courses may include Youth Work in Trades programming, other industry training/work programs approved by SkilledTradesBC, or individual situations in which students' paid employment coincides with their career/educational pathway. Examples of this programming includes:



- **Work Experience** courses are 4-credit Grade 12 courses with most of course time spent at work placements (outside school). All participating students must complete an in-school orientation to prepare them for the workplace. The orientation includes instruction on worksite safety awareness, the transferability of workplace skills, workers' rights and responsibilities, and employers' expectations.
- **Youth Explore Trades Skills 10-12** provides students with the opportunity to explore a variety of trades (such as robotics, design and drafting, electronics, carpentry, plumbing, and many others) within a high school setting. Both 2-credit and 4-credit options are available, depending on course duration. Students can earn up to a total of eight credits in Youth Explore Trade Skills providing they are completing different modules.
- **Youth Explore Trades Sampler** is a SkilledTradesBC developed suite of courses delivered by post-secondary institutions and other SkilledTradesBC designated trainers. It is restricted to three courses (12 credits) as part of these delivery partnerships. With over 300 hours of learning, this program enables students to gain practical skills and complete certifications that employers in the trades sector are seeking. The program is an effective way for students to prepare for apprenticeship programs such as Youth Train in Trades (TRN) and Youth Work in Trades (WRK).
- **Youth Work in Trades** program allows apprentices to earn up to 16 credits toward graduation and be credited for work-based training hours toward future SkilledTradesBC apprenticeship training requirements. This program includes up to 480 hours of work-based training, with accompanying assignments and employer feedback. The program is open to students aged 14 to 19. The work must be paid and in a trade recognized by SkilledTradesBC.
- **Youth Train in Trades** is a dual-credit program offered through partnerships between school districts and post-secondary institutions with onsite training at either or locations. Participating students are registered as youth apprentices with SkilledTradesBC. Students who successfully complete the TRN program earn credits toward graduation and post-secondary credentials.
- **Workforce Training Certificates 12** is a pilot program that allows short, industry-recognized courses (e.g., FOODSAFE, WHMIS, First Aid), to be "bundled", allowing students to receive credit for their learning. In addition, short courses being offered by CompTIA, Microsoft, and other online technology courses help students access employment in the tech sector. Depending on the course duration, up to four credits toward graduation can be earned through this pilot.

The SkilledTradesBC website can be viewed at the link below:



[SkilledTradesBC](#)



## Workplace Safety

This applies only to students seeking specific work experience and/or training beyond the 30 hours required for graduation.

The goals of work experience are to help students prepare for the transition from secondary school to the world of work and to help students connect what they learn in the classroom with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed in the workplace.

Elective work experience courses, either Work Experience 12A and 12B or locally developed options, are monitored by schools and go beyond the career-life exploration component required by CLC.

The work experience placement must be supported and monitored by the school and commonly consists of school-arranged, non-paid placements, to be reported as a Ministry-authorized Work Experience 12A and 12B, or locally developed option. All students participating in elective work experience courses must have in-school orientation to prepare them for the workplace that includes instruction on worksite safety awareness.

Boards of education and independent school authorities must follow procedures in the Ministry-authorized Work Experience Courses Policy to ensure students who participate in work experience and/or school-arranged community service are covered by WorkSafeBC and that the placement meets the standards in B.C.'s *Employment Standards Act*. The board must establish guidelines for the conduct, supervision, evaluation, and participation of students in the work experience placement before a work experience placement is arranged. A copy of the Ministry-authorized Work Experience Courses Policy can be found at the link below:



[Ministry-Authorized Work Experience Courses and Workplace Safety Policy](#)

# APPENDIX 1

## Curriculum Overview

B.C.'s curriculum maintains a focus on sound foundations of literacy and numeracy while supporting the development of citizens who are competent thinkers and communicators and who are personally and socially competent in all areas of their lives. The curriculum honours the ways in which students think, learn, and grow and prepares them for a successful lifetime of learning in which change is constant.

On the curriculum website, each area of learning includes:

- An **introduction** providing specifics about features, structure, and important considerations.
- **Goals** and **rationale** providing the context as well as connections to the development of educated citizens.

The curriculum website can be found at the link below. Please see each individual area of learning for further details.



[BC's Course Curriculum](#)

The courses listed under each curricular subject area that follows represent the entire listing of available ministry courses. Individual schools determine which courses they will offer during any given school year.

All courses listed are four credits unless otherwise indicated in the Course Registry which can be found at the link below:



[Course Registry](#)

## English Language Arts and English First Peoples

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the English Language Arts and English First Peoples curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



English Language Arts

### English Language Arts/ English First Peoples Curriculum

Composition 10  
 Creative Writing 10  
 Literary Studies 10  
 New Media 10  
 Spoken Language 10  
 EFP Literary Studies 10  
 EFP New Media 10  
 EFP Spoken Language 10  
 EFP Writing 10 (Composition and Creative Writing)

Composition 11  
 Creative Writing 11  
 Literary Studies 11  
 New Media 11  
 Spoken Language 11  
 EFP Literary Studies and New Media 11  
 EFP Literary Studies and Spoken Language 11  
 EFP Literary Studies and Writing 11 (Composition and Creative Writing)

Composition 12  
 Creative Writing 12  
 English First Peoples 12\*  
 English Studies 12\*  
 Literary Studies 12  
 New Media 12  
 Spoken Language 12

\* One of these two 4-credit courses is required for graduation.

## Français langue première

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the Français langue première curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



[Français langue première](#)

### Français langue première Curriculum

Études littéraires et artistiques + Expression orale 10  
 Études littéraires et artistiques + Nouveaux médias 10  
 Études littéraires et artistiques + Production écrite 10

Études littéraires et artistiques + Expression orale 11  
 Études littéraires et artistiques + Nouveaux médias 11  
 Études littéraires et artistiques + Production écrite 11

Français langue et culture 12\*

\* One 4-credit course required for graduation.

## Français langue seconde-immersion

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the Français langue seconde-immersion curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



[Français langue seconde-immersion](#)

### Français langue second-immersion Curriculum

Français langue seconde-immersion 10

Communication orale 11  
 Études du cinéma et de la littérature francophones 11  
 Langue et culture de la francophonie 11  
 Médias et communication numérique 11

Français langue seconde-immersion 12\*  
 Communication orale 12  
 Études du cinéma et de la littérature francophones 12  
 Langue et culture de la francophonie 12  
 Médias et communication numérique 12

\* One 4-credit course required for graduation.

## Indigenous Languages

Information about existing Indigenous Language courses in B.C. and the process for developing new Indigenous Languages courses is available on the ministry website at the link below:



[Indigenous Languages of British Columbia](#)

Indigenous Languages of British Columbia Curriculum	
ʔayʔajuθəm 5 to 12 (2022)	Nuučaanuł 5 to 12 (2009)
Dakelh Ghunek 5 to 12 (2023)	Secwepemctsin 5 to 12 (1999)
Gitxsanimx ~ Gitxsanimax 5 to 12 (2014)	SENĆOŦEN 5 to 12 (2012)
Halq'eméylem 5 to 12 (2007)	Shashishalem 5 to 12 (2001)
Heiltsuk 5 to 12 (2002)	Sim'algaxhl Nisga'a 5 to 12 (2001)
Hul'q'umi'num' 5 to 12 (2007)	Sm'algyax 5 to 12 (2000)
Kwak'wala 5 to 12 (2010)	Stát'yemcets 5 to 12 (2020)
Liqwala/Kwakwala 5 to 12 (2008)	Tsek'ene 5 to 12 (2006)
Nedut'en 5 to 12 (2024)	Upper St'at'imcets 5 to 12 (1998)
Nsíylxcən 5 to 12 (1999)	Xaayda Kil / Xaad Kil Grades 5 to 12 (2017)
Nteʔkepmxcin 5 to 12 (2008)	

## Mathematics

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the mathematics curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



[Mathematics](#)

Mathematics Curriculum	
Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-calculus 10	Apprenticeship Mathematics 12
Workplace Mathematics 10	Calculus 12
Computer Science 11	Computer Science 12
Foundations of Mathematics 11	Foundations of Mathematics 12
History of Mathematics 11	Geometry 12
Pre-calculus 11	Pre-calculus 12
Workplace Mathematics 11	Statistics 12

## Science

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the science curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



Science

### Science Curriculum

Science 10

Chemistry 11

Earth Sciences 11

Environmental Science 11

Life Sciences 11

Physics 11

Science for Citizens 11

Anatomy and Physiology 12

Chemistry 12

Environmental Science 12

Geology 12

Physics 12

Specialized Science 12

## Social Studies

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the social studies curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



Social Studies

### Social Studies Curriculum

Social Studies 10

Explorations in Social Studies 11

Histoire et culture francophone 11 (Francophone History and Culture 11)

20th Century World History 12

Human Geography 12

Asian Studies 12

Law Studies 12

B.C. First Peoples 12

Philosophy 12

Comparative Cultures 12

Physical Geography 12

Comparative World Religions 12

Political Studies 12

Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12

Social Justice 12

Economic Theory 12

Urban Studies 12

Genocide Studies 12

## Second Languages

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the second languages curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



[Second Languages](#)

Second Languages Curriculum	
American Sign Language 5-12	Korean 5-12
Core French 5-12	Mandarin 5-12
German 5-12	Punjabi 5-12
Italian 5-12	Spanish 5-12
Japanese 5-12	

## Arts Education

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the arts education curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



[Arts Education](#)

Dance Curriculum	Drama Curriculum	Music Curriculum	Visual Arts Curriculum
Dance Choreography 10 Dance Company 10 Dance Foundations 10 Dance Technique and Performance 10	Drama 10 Theatre Company 10 Theatre Production 10	Choral Music 10 (Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz) Contemporary Music 10 Instrumental Music 10 (Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Guitar)	Art Studio 10 Photography 10 Studio Arts 2D 10 Studio Arts 3D 10
Dance Choreography 11 Dance Company 11 Dance Conditioning 11 Dance Foundations 11 Dance Technique and Performance 11	Directing and Script Development 11 Drama 11 Film and Television 11 Theatre Company 11 Theatre Production 11	Choral Music 11 (Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz) Composition and Production 11 Contemporary Music 11 Instrumental Music 11 (Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Guitar)	Art Studio 11 Graphic Arts 11 Photography 11 Studio Arts 2D 11 Studio Arts 3D 11
Dance Choreography 12 Dance Company 12 Dance Conditioning 12 Dance Foundations 12 Dance Technique and Performance 12	Directing and Script Development 12 Drama 12 Film and Television 12 Theatre Company 12 Theatre Production 12	Choral Music 12 (Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz) Composition and Production 12 Contemporary Music 12 Instrumental Music 12 (Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band and Guitar)	Art Studio 12 Graphic Arts 12 Photography 12 Studio Arts 2D 12 Studio Arts 3D 12
Cross-disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Arts			
Media Arts 10 Musical Theatre 10	Media Arts 11 Musical Theatre 11	Media Arts 12 Musical Theatre 12	

## Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



[Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies](#)

Business Education Curriculum	Home Economics and Culinary Arts Curriculum	Information and Communications Technologies Curriculum	Technology Education Curriculum
Entrepreneurship and Marketing 10	Baking & Pastry 10 – Fundamentals Culinary Arts 10 A – Beginner Fundamentals Culinary Arts 10 B – Intermediate Fundamentals Culinary Arts 10 C – Advanced Fundamentals Family and Society 10 Food Studies 10 Textiles 10	Computer Studies 10 Media Design 10 Web Development 10	Drafting 10 Electronics and Robotics 10 Metalwork 10 Power Technology 10 Technology Explorations 10 Woodwork 10
Accounting 11 Marketing and Promotion 11 Tourism 11	Baking & Pastry 11 – Production Culinary Arts 11 A – Beginner Production Culinary Arts 11 B – Intermediate Production Culinary Arts 11 C – Advanced Production Food Studies 11 Interpersonal and Family Relationships 11 Textiles 11	Computer Information Systems 11 Computer Programming 11 Digital Communications 11 Graphic Production 11 Media Design 11	Automotive Technology 11 Drafting 11 Electronics 11 Engineering 11 Metalwork 11 Robotics 11 Woodwork 11
Accounting 12 Business Computer Applications 12 E-Commerce 12 Economics 12 Entrepreneurship 12 Financial Accounting 12 Tourism 12	Baking & Pastry 12 – Production Development Child Development and Caregiving 12 Culinary Arts 12 A – Beginner Product Development Culinary Arts 12 B – Intermediate Product Development Culinary Arts 12 C – Advanced Product Development Fashion Industry 12 Food Studies 12 Housing and Living Environments 12 Specialized Studies in Food 12 Textiles 12	Computer Information Systems 12 Computer Programming 12 Digital Media Development 12 Graphic Production 12 Media Design 12	Art Metal and Jewelry 12 Automotive Technology 12 Drafting 12 Electronics 12 Engine and Drivetrain 12 Engineering 12 Furniture and Cabinetry 12 Industrial Coding and Design 12 Machining and Welding 12 Mechatronics 12 Metalwork 12 Remotely Operated Vehicles and Drones 12 Robotics 12 Woodwork 12



## Career Education

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the career education curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



[Career Education](#)

### Career Education Curriculum

Career-Life Education

Career-Life Connections (includes Capstone and 30 hours of career-life exploration)

## Work Experience and Apprenticeship Training

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the Work Experience and Apprenticeship Training curriculum is available on the ministry website at the link below:



[Career Programs](#)

**Note:** Work Experience, Youth Work in Trades, and Youth Train in Trades may be used to fulfill the Applied Design Skills and Technology portion of the graduation requirements.

### Work Experience and Apprenticeship Training

#### Ministry Authority:

Work Experience 12A

Work Experience 12B

Workforce Training Certificates 12

Youth Train in Trades

#### SkilledTradesBC Authority:

Youth Explore Trade Skills 10-12A

Youth Explore Trades Sampler 12A

Youth Explore Trade Skills 10-12B

Youth Explore Trades Sampler 12B

Youth Work in Trades 11A and 11B

Youth Explore Trades Sampler 12C

Youth Work in Trades 12A and 12B

Youth Train in Trades

## Physical and Health Education

Information on the overall purpose, intention, and goals of the Physical and Health Education curriculum is available on the curriculum website at the link below:



[Physical and Health Education](#)

### Physical and Health Education Curriculum

Physical and Health Education 10

Active Living 11

Active Living 12

Fitness and Conditioning 11

Fitness and Conditioning 12

Outdoor Education 11

Outdoor Education 12

# APPENDIX 2

## Other Means of Obtaining Credit toward Graduation

Besides successfully completing ministry courses in B.C. schools, public, independent, and offshore school students can earn credits toward graduation in a variety of ways. The following credit options align with the principles of personalized learning, flexibility, and choice for students and help provide inclusive opportunities for students to follow their interests and passions as part of their learning.

### **Policy – Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) and First Nation Authorized (FNA) courses**

BAA/FNA courses offer the means to fulfill elective graduation requirements, and there is no limit to the number of these courses that may be used to satisfy the 28 credits of electives required for graduation. However, BAA courses developed by schools and approved by boards of education, independent school authorities, or the ministry on behalf of offshore schools need to align with ministry curriculum and structure. FNA courses, developed for First Nations schools to offer locally relevant courses, are approved in accordance with the FNAC Process.

BAA/FNA courses are *not* eligible for the Adult Graduation Program requirements, but students on a School Completion Certificate Program may take BAA courses.

Grade 12-level BAA/FNA courses count toward the 16 Grade 12-level credits required for graduation.

Grade 11-level BAA/FNA courses that align with ministry Grade 11 Arts Education or Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies curriculum may be used to satisfy the graduation requirement for Arts Education and/or Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies.

BAA/FNA courses can include courses that:

- Meet the Arts Education and/or Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies graduation requirement (Grade 11-level BAA/FNA courses only).
- Prepare students with disabilities or diverse abilities through skill instruction to be successful across a wide variety of subjects and settings.
- Address the cultural and academic literacy needs of English Language Learners. Schools developing BAA ELL courses must follow the ELL Course Guidelines. The guidelines can be found at the link below:



[Guidelines for Board/Authority Authorized English Language Acquisition/Culture Courses at the Grade 10, 11, 12 Levels](#)

BAA/FNA courses may *not* include:

- Remedial courses designed to help students succeed in meeting the learning standards of ministry courses (e.g., Prep for Provincial Math 12).
- Courses with significant overlap of learning with ministry courses; that is, courses that are:
  - Modified, adapted, or partial versions of ministry courses.
  - Hybrids of two or more ministry courses (e.g., a Literary Aspects of Social Studies course that combines the learning standards of ministry English language arts and social studies curriculum).

## Policy – Earning Credit through Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials, Post-Secondary Credit and Independent Directed Studies

Students learn in a variety of ways, some of which takes place outside of British Columbia or outside of the regular secondary school program. Schools will grant credit toward graduation for learning that has been assessed and matches or exceeds provincial, national, or international standards. There is no limit to the number of credits that may be awarded through equivalency, challenge, independent directed studies, dual credit, or external credentials.

### Equivalency

Courses taken outside of B.C. may be eligible for equivalency credit if they closely match the content of provincial curriculum for Grades 10, 11, or 12. Courses taken outside of the B.C. school system may qualify for equivalency credit if:

- Sufficient content has been covered to enable the student to be successful in further learning in the content area; and
- The student provides documentation that the learning standards of the course were successfully completed.

Unique equivalency rules apply to most international students. For details, refer to the International Student Graduation Credit Policy found at the link below:



#### International Student Graduation Credit

Students may also be granted equivalency credit based on previously acquired knowledge and skills. Adult students who hold valid trades and occupational qualifications may be able to demonstrate, through copies of examination specifications, detailed course outlines, instructors' reports, documented on-the-job training or work experience, and/or portfolios, that they have completed sufficient content to enable them to be successful in further learning in the content area.

Students may receive credit for language learning acquired outside the regular classroom through equivalency credit for the following ministry-developed language courses and courses developed using the ministry-approved language templates:

- |                          |                       |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • American Sign Language | • Hul'q'umi'num       | • Nuučaañut           |
| • Arabic                 | • Italian             | • Punjabi             |
| • ʔayʔajuθəm             | • Japanese            | • Russian             |
| • Croatian               | • Korean              | • Secwepemctsin       |
| • Dakelh Ghunek          | • Kwak'wala           | • SENĆOŦEN            |
| • Farsi                  | • Liqwala/Kwak'wala   | • Shashishalem        |
| • French                 | • Xaayda Kil/Xaad Kil | • Sim'algaxhl Nisga'a |
| • German                 | • Mandarin            | • Sm'algyax           |
| • Gitxsanimx~Gitxsanimax | • Nedut'en            | • Spanish             |
| • Halq'eméylem           | • n̓iylxcən           | • Tsek'ene            |
| • Heiltsuk               | • Nteʔkepmxcin        | • Upper St'át'imcets  |

## External Language Certificates

External Language Certificates are used to recognize learning in all languages other than those noted above or to grant credit in these languages for documented learning that may not meet the criteria for equivalency. In all cases, an education authority must document the learning. A student who presents appropriate documentation will be eligible to receive credit for all other languages not listed above.

Acceptable External Language Certificates are:

- Documentation from other Canadian provinces and territories (see the External Language Certificate codes in the online Course Registry).
- Documentation from international educational jurisdictions.

## Challenge

With some exceptions, all students can undertake a free challenge process to assess their prior learning for any ministry-developed Graduation Program course.

Students can challenge a course if they are currently enrolled in the school district, registered as a homeschooler, or enrolled in the online learning school where the challenge is being requested. Students may not challenge a course they have previously passed, completed, or for which they have been granted equivalency credit.

Prior to engaging in a challenge process, schools will review any documentation of prior learning presented by the student to determine if credit can be awarded through equivalency.

The challenge process must assess students on all curricular competencies, content, and course learning standards of Grades 10, 11, and 12 courses. Examples of challenge assessment strategies include hands-on demonstrations, oral performances, interviews, written examinations, or presentations of a collection of work.

Awarding credit through challenge will be based on the same standards used for students who have taken the course through enrolment. A challenge is considered successful when a student has achieved at least a grade of C– and 50 percent.

## External Credentials

The External Credentials program allows students in Grades 10 through 12 an opportunity to earn credit toward graduation for documented learning completed through ministry-accredited external organizations (e.g., Royal Conservatory of Music, Cadets, driver education, external sports programs) and B.C. First Nations.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has the sole authority to set standards for approval of external credentials and assessments. The ministry provides an official list of these approved credentials and assessments to schools. This list is published in the ministry's online Course Registry at the link below:



[Course Registry](#)

Some external credentials can be used to meet specific graduation requirements and others as elective courses. Grade 12 level external credentials count toward the required number of Grade 12 level credits needed to meet graduation requirements.

## Indigenous-focused Courses

Students have the opportunity to meet the minimum 4-credit Indigenous-focused graduation requirement through one or a combination of the following:

1. The student completes one or more provincially-developed Indigenous-focused courses and/or provincially-authorized First Nations language courses, as listed in the online Course Registry:



[Course Registry](#)

2. The student completes one or more First Nation Authorized (FNA) courses or Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses that have been designated as an Indigenous-focused course.
  - To meet the Indigenous-focused graduation requirement, Board/Authority Authorized courses must follow the steps outlined in the Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) and First Nation Authorized (FNA) Course Requirements and Procedures Guidebook:



[Board/Authority Authorized \(BAA\) and First Nations Authorized \(FNA\) Course Requirements and Procedures Guidebook](#)

3. The student completes a First Nations Language and Culture External Credential. See the list of External Credentials offered by First Nations:



[First Nations and Organizations Offering Approved External Credentials](#)

## Post-Secondary Courses for Credit (Dual Credit)

Dual credit enables high school students to take post-secondary courses and receive credit toward both their high school and post-secondary graduation credentials. While opportunities typically span a wide array of student career aspirations and related post-secondary credentials, offerings vary depending on local school district agreements with post-secondary institutions. Students who provide their school with a recognized post-secondary institution transcript showing their successful completion of a for-credit course leading to a credential receive elective course credit at the Grade 12 level. Dual credit offerings may be eligible for ministry funding if policy requirements are met.

Information about B.C.'s dual credit policies can be found at the links below:



[Earning Credit through Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials, Post-Secondary Credit and Independent Directed Studies:](#)



[Recognition of Post-Secondary Transition Programs for Funding Purposes](#)



[Dual Credit](#)

## Independent Directed Studies (IDS)

Students can initiate their own area of learning and receive credit toward graduation. IDS credits may be awarded by boards of education, independent school authorities, and First Nations Approving Bodies to students who have successfully completed independent work based on the content of Grades 10, 11, or 12 ministry-developed courses or BAA/FNA courses.

IDS credits may be used only to satisfy elective requirements. The maximum value for a single IDS course is 4 credits, and there is no limit to the total number of IDS credits a student can earn. Grade 12 IDS credits can count toward the minimum 16 Grade 12 credits needed for graduation.

# APPENDIX 3

## Graduation Awards and Credentials

### **Policy – Graduation Credentials for Francophone and French Immersion Students**

The Province of British Columbia recognizes Francophone students have the right to be educated in French. The Province also provides French Immersion programs so that students may reach high levels of proficiency in French, one of Canada’s official languages. Proficiency is recognized with a graduation certificate in French.

B.C. students enrolled in a Francophone education authority and students enrolled in French Immersion programs are entitled to be issued B.C. graduation certificates in French and English, provided they meet specific requirements:

- Francophone students can earn two certificates, one in French, and one in English. Francophone students will earn both a Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique and a British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) if they meet the graduation requirements as set out in the Graduation Program Order.
- French Immersion students can earn both a British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) and a Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique. They will earn both if they meet the graduation requirements as set out in the Graduation Program Order. French Immersion students who earn a Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique receive a French Immersion program designation on their transcripts.

More information on the Francophone education authority can be found at the link below:



[Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique](#)

More information on French Immersion can be found at the link below:



[French Immersion Program](#)

A copy of the Graduation Program Order can be found at the link below:



[Graduation Program Order](#)

Students should write Provincial Graduation Assessments in the language of their instruction. School principals may allow individual students to write in either English or French, rather than the language of instruction, if the principal deems this to be in a student’s best interest.

### **Policy – Provincial Scholarships Program**

The Provincial Scholarships Program recognizes student achievement and encourages students to pursue post-secondary education.

There are four scholarships in the Provincial Scholarships program: B.C. Achievement; District/Authority; B.C. Excellence; and Pathway to Teacher Education.

To be eligible, students must satisfy these core requirements:

- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (landed immigrant) and have that on record with the school at which they registered for Grade 12.
- Must be a B.C. resident.
- Must be a student enrolled or registered, as follows, in the school year for which the scholarship is awarded:
  - enrolled in a British Columbia public school (including online learning schools); or
  - enrolled in a Group 1, 2, or 4 British Columbia Independent School; or
  - enrolled in a Continuing Education Centre; or
  - registered with a public, independent, or Online learning school in B.C. as a homeschooler.

The Homeschooling Policy can be found at the link below:



### Homeschooling Policy

- Must graduate and complete all requirements between September 1 and August 31. (Note: for the purposes of the Provincial Scholarships Program, students who complete requirements during the summer, by August 31, are part of the preceding cohort of graduates.)
  - Schools must report all student information (including marks for repeated courses when students attempt to upgrade) to the ministry by August 31; information provided later may not be considered.

In addition to these core eligibility requirements, there are specific requirements for each scholarship. For more information, see the ministry's [Provincial Scholarships Program policy](#) webpage.

## Policy – Student Credentials

The Student Credentials Policy describes the credentials that are awarded to students who meet B.C. graduation requirements. The policy provides guidelines for entitlement and sets out guidelines on the Transcript of Grades and the calculation of honours standing. Student credentials are a student entitlement and may not be withheld from students for administrative reasons such as “fees not paid.”

The credentials include:

- *British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma)* – issued upon successful completion of the provincial graduation requirements.
- *British Columbia Adult Graduation Diploma (Adult Dogwood)* – issued upon successful completion of the provincial adult graduation requirements.
- *British Columbia School Completion Certificate (Evergreen Certificate)* – awarded to a student with disabilities or diverse abilities who has an Individual Education Plan and who meets the goals of their educational program other than graduation.

Guidelines include:

- Transcript of Grades (Grades 10, 11, and 12) – provides prospective employers and post-secondary institutions with relevant information about students' Graduation Program results.
- Honours Standing – a student is entitled to receive a transcript of their grades marked with the phrase “Achievement with Honours” where the student has successfully completed the graduation requirements and obtained a grade point average of greater than 3.0.

# APPENDIX 4

## Options for Schooling

In B.C., children between the ages of 5 and 18 attend Kindergarten to Grade 12 programs at either an elementary or secondary school. Parents can choose to enroll their child in either a public or independent school that offers these programs. There are approximately 350 independent schools and about 1,600 public schools.

### **Public Schools**

B.C. is divided into 60 school districts which administer publicly funded education until the end of Grade 12 in local areas or, in the case of Francophone education, across the province.

B.C.'s public Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system is managed by local boards of education with elected trustees who ensure that schools provide a high-quality education for students and who provide leadership and encouragement, meeting both community aspirations and provincial guidelines. Trustees also cooperate with the community and social service agencies to deliver non-educational support services to students. Boards of education focus on:

- Implementation of provincial and local education programs.
- School finance and facilities.
- Student access and achievement.
- Teaching performance.
- Accountability to parents, taxpayers, community and the Province.

The Province has the statutory and constitutional right to determine public education policy for the province; boards of education represent the public interest by governing school districts in accordance with legislation and in response to local and provincial values and priorities.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care sets policies for B.C.'s public school system, ensuring that students have a quality education, provided in a cost-effective manner. It sets standards and directions for the education system, provides leadership and encouragement to all educational agencies in the province, and co-operates with provincial agencies to deliver non-educational support services to students. The ministry provides a high-level focus on:

- Finance and facilities.
- Program direction, development, and implementation.
- Student access and achievement.
- Teaching performance.
- System evaluation and public accountability.

### **Independent Schools**

B.C.'s independent schools offer an alternative to public school education. Their programs range from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Parents and students often choose these schools for their specific philosophical, religious, or educational approach.



Independent schools are regulated under separate legislation, the Independent School Act. Independent schools follow their own specific procedures, policies, funding guidelines, and teacher certification.

Independent schools have a responsibility to register with the Ministry of Education and Child Care and to provide the ministry with appropriate information, and the ministry has a responsibility to ensure that these regulations and policies are implemented.

## First Nations Schools

First Nations schools are funded by the federal government and operated by local First Nations. First Nations schools in B.C. are supported by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and the First Nations Schools Association (FNSA).

Most First Nations schools are outside of the Province's jurisdiction; however, some First Nations schools may choose to become B.C. certified independent schools.

B.C. works in partnership to help build capacity in the First Nations school system. B.C. has:

- Consulted on changes to provincial education legislation, policy, standards, and funding.
- Shared expertise, learning resources, and bulk purchasing opportunities.
- Given on-reserve schools access to B.C. graduation assessments, the Dogwood Diploma, and the Adult Dogwood Diploma.

To fulfill commitments in the British Columbia Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA), the ministry has been working directly with the FNSA to deliver assessments and to graduate students in First Nations schools under federal jurisdiction.

More information about FNESC, FNSA and BCTEA can be found at the links below:

FNESC:



[First Nations Education Steering Committee](#)

FNSA:



[First Nations Schools Association](#)

BCTEA:



[BC Tripartite Education Agreement](#)

## Homeschooling

### Policy - Homeschooling Policy

Homeschooling is an alternative method of teaching offered outside the B.C. education system. Typically, a family member delivers the entire educational program to children at home. Homeschooling in B.C.:

- Is not supervised by a B.C.-certified teacher.
- Is not required to meet provincial standards.
- Is not inspected by the Ministry of Education and Child Care.

For complete details, including related procedures, please see the current policy linked below:



[Homeschooling Policy](#)

## Offshore Schools

The B.C. Offshore School Program makes it possible for schools in other countries (offshore schools) to offer the B.C. curriculum to international students.

To qualify as a B.C. offshore school, specific standards must be met. For example, schools must employ B.C.-certified teachers, maintain adequate facilities, and undergo regular inspections.

Through the B.C. Offshore School Program, international students can complete B.C. curriculum in English and earn a Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma).

Getting into a Canadian university or post-secondary program is more straightforward for students who have a graduation diploma from B.C.

## Other Pathways to Graduation

### Alternate Education Program

#### Policy - Alternate Education Program

Alternate education programs focus on the educational, social, and emotional issues of students whose needs are not being met in a traditional school program. An alternate education program provides support and responds to students' individual needs through diverse ways of instruction, specialized program delivery, and enhanced counselling services while still offering both the Graduation Program and the Adult Graduation Program.

For complete details, including related procedures, please see the online learning website linked below:



[Online learning](#)

### Online Learning

#### Policy - Online Learning - General

Online learning lets students learn at a distance from their teacher via the Internet or a blend of some classroom instruction. It offers flexibility and opportunity for students to learn outside of the traditional classroom setting or schedule. Students must meet the same standards and follow the same curriculum as in public schools.

For complete details, including related procedures, please see the current policy linked below:



[Online Learning Policy](#)

### French Immersion Program

#### Policy - French Immersion Program

French Immersion programs provide the opportunity for non-Francophone students to become bilingual in English and French. Instruction of the basic curriculum is given entirely in French during the first years, depending on late or early French immersion, and English is still taught in most elementary programs to some extent. Once students have a firm base in French, instruction in English language arts is added, and instruction in the English language gradually increases. Students continue learning certain subjects in French so that proficiency is achieved in both languages by the end of Grade 12.

French Immersion programs must parallel the regular English program in structure and content.

For complete details, including related procedures, please see the current policy linked below:



[French Immersion Program](#)

### **Francophone Program**

The Francophone Program provides the opportunity for Francophone students to learn both French and English Language Arts in a Francophone environment and develop their identity as Francophone individuals. The Francophone Program is offered only by the Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (CSF – School District #93), a public school district present in many locations throughout the province. The program is available only to students whose parents qualify based on Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Instruction of all curricula is given entirely in French, except for English Language Arts.

Section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms can be found at the link below:



[Section 23 – Minority language educational rights](#)

The Francophone Program parallels the regular English program in structure and content.

For further details, please visit the CSF website linked below:



[Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique](#)

# APPENDIX 5

## Graduation Program Policies and Associated Ministerial Orders

### Ministerial Orders

Board Authorized Course Order



Board Authorized Course Order

British Columbia Adult Graduation Requirements Order



British Columbia Adult Graduation Requirements Order

Educational Program Guide Order



Educational Program Guide Order

Provincial Graduation Assessments Order



Provincial Graduation Assessments Order

Student Progress Report Order



Student Progress Report Order

Policy	Authority
Adult Graduation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial Order 320/04, British Columbia Adult Graduation Requirements Order</li> </ul>
Board/Authority Authorized Courses Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The School Act, Sections 85 (2)(i) and 168 (2)(b)</li> </ul>
Career Development Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial Order 237/11, the Work Experience Order</li> </ul>
Earning Credit through Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials, Post-Secondary Credit, and Independent Directed Studies Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial Order 302/04, the Graduation Program Order</li> </ul>
Graduation Credentials for Francophone and French Immersion Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial Order 302/04, the Graduation Program Order</li> <li>Ministerial Order 164/96, the Student Credentials Order</li> </ul>
Graduation Requirements Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial Order 302/04, the Graduation Program Order</li> </ul>
International Student Graduation Credit Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial Order 302/04, the Graduation Program Order</li> </ul>

Policy	Authority
Large-Scale Assessment Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The School Act, Section 168 (2)</li> <li>• Ministerial Order M60/94, the Student Learning Assessment Order</li> <li>• Ministerial Order 302/04, the Graduation Program Order</li> </ul> <p>Related legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Act, section 17: Teachers' responsibilities</li> <li>• School Act, section 168 (2)(d) (d.1): Jurisdiction of minister</li> <li>• School Act, section 174: Appointment of Boards of Examiners</li> </ul>
Ministry-Authorized Work Experience Courses and Workplace Safety Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministerial Order 237/11, the Work Experience Order</li> </ul>
Student Credentials Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministerial Order 164/96, the Student Credentials Order</li> <li>• Ministerial Order 302/04, the Graduation Program Order</li> <li>• Ministerial Order 320/04, the British Columbia Adult Graduation Requirements Order</li> </ul>
Student Reporting Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministerial Order 192/94, the Provincial Letter Grades Order</li> <li>• Ministerial Order 191/94, the Student Progress Report Order</li> <li>• Ministerial Order 190/91, the Permanent Student Record Order</li> <li>• Ministerial Order 295/95, the Required Areas of Study Order</li> <li>• Regulation 265/89, the School Regulation</li> </ul>
Career-Life Connections and WorkSafeBC Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministerial Order 237/11, the Work Experience Order</li> </ul>

### Links to Policies Mentioned Above

Adult Graduation Program



[Adult Graduation Program](#)

Board/Authority Authorized Courses and First Nation Authorized Courses Policy



[Board/Authority Authorized Courses and First Nation Authorized Courses Policy](#)

Career Development Policy



[Career Development Policy](#)

Earning Credit through Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials, Post-Secondary Credit, and Independent Directed Studies Policy



[Earning Credit through Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials, Post-Secondary Credit, and Independent Directed Studies Policy](#)

Graduation Credentials for Francophone and French Immersion Students



[Graduation Credentials for Francophone and French Immersion Students](#)



Graduation Requirements Policy

 [Graduation Requirements Policy](#)

International Student Graduation Credit Policy

 [International Student Graduation Credit Policy](#)

Large-Scale Assessment Policy

 [Large-Scale Assessment](#)

Ministry-Authorized Work Experience Courses and Workplace Safety Policy

 [Ministry-Authorized Work Experience Courses and Workplace Safety Policy](#)

Student Credentials Policy

 [Student Credentials](#)

Student Reporting Policy

 [K-12 Student Reporting Policy](#)

Career-Life Connections and WorkSafeBC Coverage

 [Career-Life Connections and WorkSafeBC Coverage](#)

### ***Other Related Policies***

Alternative Delivery in the Physical and Health Education Curricula Policy

 [Alternative Delivery in the Physical and Health Education and Planning 10 Curricula](#)

Alternate Education Program Policy

 [Alternate Education Program](#)

Online Learning – General

 [Online Learning Policy](#)

Homeschooling Policy

 [Homeschooling Policy](#)

Provincial Scholarships Program Policy

 [Provincial Scholarships Program](#)

Recognition of Post-Secondary Transition Programs for Funding Purposes Policy

 [Recognition of Post-Secondary Transition Programs for Funding Purposes](#)

Inclusive Education Policy

 [Inclusive Education](#)