



## MEMORANDUM

October 10, 2023  
Regular Board Meeting

<b>TO</b>	Board of Trustees
<b>FROM</b>	Shauna Boyce, Superintendent
<b>ORIGINATOR</b>	Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent
<b>RESOURCE</b>	Linda Madge-Arkininstall, Division Principal, Literacy and Lifelong Learning Shaye Patras, Division Principal, Curriculum and Achievement
<b>GOVERNANCE POLICY</b>	Board Policy 1: Division Foundational Statements Board Policy 2: Role of the Board Board Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent
<b>ADDITIONAL REFERENCE</b>	BP 1: Vision, Foundational Statements BP 2: Education Planning and Programming <i>Education Act: 19-23, 33, 196-197</i>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION REPORT</b>

### PURPOSE

For information. No recommendation required.

### BACKGROUND

The Board is charged with the responsibility of providing, for its students and their parents, an education system organized and operated in the students' best interests. It exercises this responsibility through setting of local educational policy and the wise use of resources. Alberta Education provides updates to jurisdictions as the provincial curricula are amended, from time to time. Instructional Services works to ensure a state-of-readiness exists for all teachers affected by curriculum updates.

### REPORT SUMMARY

This Curriculum Implementation Report provides an overview of the Provincial changes to the Alberta Programs of Study, as well as an up-to-date overview of the professional development and response to new curriculum scheduled for the Division.

Administration would be pleased to respond to any questions.

SJ:kz



## INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

OCTOBER 2023

Presented to the Board of Trustees, October 10, 2023

Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent, Education and System Services

Resources: Linda Madge-Arkininstall, Division Principal, Literacy and Lifelong Learning

Shaye Patras, Division Principal, Numeracy and Achievement

*Our Students Possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.*

### BACKGROUND

Within the provincial *Teaching and Leading* Domain, Parkland School Division attends to Programming and Pedagogy as a key priority. The Division offers a diverse array of programming for students to ensure that learning is relevant and engaging for all students. Our programs showcase the breadth of the work. The depth of our work is recognized through our attention to pedagogy.”

Programming and pedagogy, as a priority, align with the Ministerial Order #028/2020 on Student Learning. The Order states that “Literacy and numeracy are the foundational building blocks of learning...These foundations establish core knowledge, shared civic and cultural literacy, and skills that enable students to solve problems, and think critically as they become active and informed citizens leading healthy lives of meaning.”

The 2023-24 school year sees school divisions across the province implement the following new curriculums:

- K-3 French Immersion Literature and Language Arts (FILAL),
- K-3 Science,
- Gr 4-6 Literature and Language Arts, and
- Gr 4-6 Math.

In addition, Parkland School Division has a small team of teachers who have chosen to optionally implement the following curriculums in 2023-24, which will be implemented province-wide in 2024-25:

- Gr 4&5 French Immersion Literature and Language Arts (FILAL),
- Gr 4-6 Science, and
- Gr 6 Sciences (French Immersion).

Finally, teachers across Parkland School Division are proceeding with year 2 of implementation of the following curriculums which were initiated in the 2022-23 school year:

- K-3 Literature and Language Arts,
- K-3 Math, and
- K-6 Physical Education and Wellness.

Instructional Services planned for divisional curriculum implementation support for the 2023-24 school year, with professional development starting in May, 2023. Staff received in-person and virtual professional development, provided through a pedagogical, researched-based best practice lens. Sessions were rich with specific resources on those topics deemed essential to support teachers with Alberta Education's Expectations of a fall implementation:

- Organization of the new curriculum guide;
- Comparison of the previous curriculum to new curriculum requirements;
- Recommendations for grade book/report card alignment with new curriculum;
- Examples of long-range, weekly and daily plans aligned with the new curriculum; and
- Exploration of recommended resources for implementation of the new curriculum.

## New Curriculum Implementation 2023-2024



### English Language Arts and Literature Grades 4-6

Alberta Education states: “English language arts and literature involves learning about historical aspects and contemporary applications of the English language through the interrelated strands of reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and representing. Engagement with a wide variety of texts offers students opportunities to expand their thinking beyond personal experiences, to think critically about ideas and information, and to explore creative expression. Focusing on developing the ability of students to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts, to inform, persuade, or entertain, English language arts and literature also aims to spark the imagination, inspire a love for learning, and develop appreciation for the rich diversity of human experiences shared through language, literature, and story. Experiences in

English language arts and literature help students develop deep understandings of others and themselves, build and strengthen interpersonal relationships, and engage in responsible citizenship (English Language Arts and Literature, Subject Introduction, April 2022).

### Mathematics Grades 4-6

Alberta Education Notes: “Mathematics is a universal language relying on a shared understanding of symbols and procedures to communicate ideas efficiently. It is a powerful tool used every day to solve real-life problems. The beauty of mathematics inspires curiosity about our world and the universe. As a subject, mathematics has historical roots in many cultures and continues to evolve in support of innovations. Mathematics involves learning across various disciplines, including arithmetic, algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability.

In all disciplines, procedures may range from counting, calculating, and measuring to analyzing, modelling, and generalizing. Engaging with mathematics allows students to develop logical thinking skills, which contribute to effective decision making and problem solving. Students are able to extend their thinking beyond personal experiences through flexible and collaborative learning opportunities. Experiences with mathematics help students develop appreciation for the patterns and relationships that describe multiple aspects of the world and its future possibilities.” (Government of Alberta, Mathematics Subject Introduction, April 2022)

### French Immersion Literature and Language Arts K-3

Alberta Education Notes: “French is the language of communication in many countries and one of two official languages in Canada. It was the first European language spoken in the territory that has become Alberta. French Immersion Language Arts and Literature aims to help students develop literacy and communication skills in French. It is designed for students who wish to develop their communication skills in an additional language as part of the French immersion program.

The learning in this subject is interdisciplinary in that it supports learning in other subjects; language is both an object of and a tool for learning. It is through participation in authentic communication that students develop both oral and written comprehension and expression skills. These opportunities allow students to deepen their understanding of themselves and the world, to appreciate the richness and beauty of the French language, and to value the contributions of an additional language to their personal growth. As language and culture are interconnected, students who explore and produce oral, print, visual, or multimedia texts, in digital or non-digital

forms, open themselves to the world. This learning raises students' awareness of the pluricultural realities of the Francophonie and the world at large, fostering open-mindedness and inclusiveness. As students examine various viewpoints, they make connections, enrich their perspectives, and increase their appreciation of diverse communities. French Immersion Language Arts and Literature supports students in achieving their full potential by connecting them with a greater diversity of Canadians and global citizens" (Government of Alberta, French Immersion Language Arts and Literacy Subject Overview, April 2022).

### **Science K-3**

Science is the study of many interconnected disciplines, including physics, chemistry, biology, Earth science, astronomy, and computer science. Science is creative, collaborative, and dynamic; is based on experience and evidence; and employs objective methods for observing, collecting, and analyzing data. Scientific knowledge is developed, refined, and extended as new evidence is uncovered. The study of science allows students to nurture curiosity, ask and answer questions, explore scientific and technological concepts, and acquire knowledge and understanding of the world.

Science provides a reliable basis for decision making and is essential in developing innovative ideas and solutions. It includes the critical-thinking skills, scientific knowledge, and civic literacy required to respond to relevant personal, societal, and environmental issues. Students develop critical reasoning and scientific literacy through exploring science concepts and applying scientific methods. Scientific knowledge is enriched through the shared contributions of people from diverse cultures and perspectives. Science and technology are deeply interwoven in our daily lives. Together, they enable society to build and share knowledge, innovate, improve quality of life, and predict future events.

## **NEW CURRICULUM FUNDING**

Alberta Education provided Parkland School Division with \$292,275 to fund learning and teacher resources to support the acquisition of new materials, print or digital, aligned to the new K to 6 programs of study.

Facilitators will once again work with school-based literacy and numeracy leads and administration to ensure each site has the resources necessary to support their students in delivering the new curriculum.

Alberta Education additionally provided \$250,400 to the Division to fund professional learning opportunities.

The targeted funds will provide release time for teachers to attend professional development delivered by grade levels. As outlined in the tables throughout this report.

## **DIVISIONAL SUPPORT FOR CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION**

Instructional Services has developed a professional learning plan to support the implementation of the new curriculum being implemented in 2023-24 as well as to continue to support teachers with curriculums that were implemented in 2022-23. Additionally, several Parkland School Division teachers have chosen to optionally implement curriculums in 2023-24 that are scheduled for full implementation in the 2024-25 school year. Instructional services facilitators will work collaboratively with those teachers and administrators to support this work.

The table on the next page summarizes this information.

<u>PSD New Curriculum Implementation</u>		
<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>Year of Implementation</u>	<u>Number of Teachers</u>
ELAL K-3	2022-23	179
FILAL K-3	2023-24	19
Math K-3	2022-23	179
Science K-3	2023-24	179
PEW K-6	2022-23	323
ELAL Gr 4-6	2023-24	149
Math Gr 4-6	2023-24	149
FILAL Gr 4-6	2024-25	2
Science Gr 4-6	2024-25	7

*\*Where the Year of Implementation is 2024-25, some Parkland School Division teachers have elected to optionally implement a curriculum within those grade levels.*

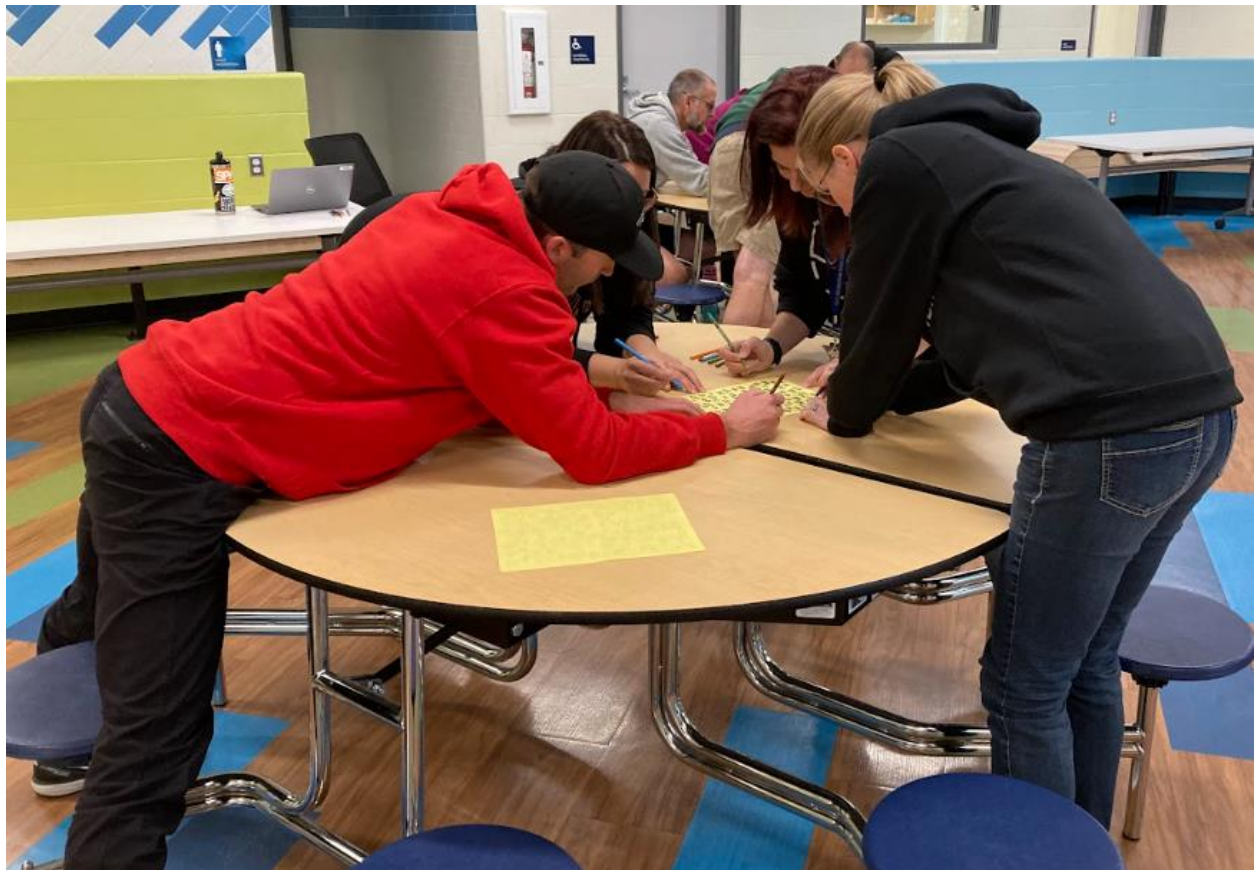
#### **English Language Arts & Literature Mathematics: Curriculum Implementation Gr 4-6**

To effectively support new curriculum implementation for all teachers in Kindergarten - Grade 6, Parkland School Division's instructional Services facilitated three, full day professional development sessions for each new curriculum being implemented in the 2023-24 school year (i.e. ELAL, FILAL, Math, Science).

For each professional learning day, Instructional Services structured each of the sessions to enable facilitated professional Learning in the morning and collaborative work sessions in the afternoon. Survey and anecdotal feedback from teachers in the 2022-23 school year was extremely supportive of this structure, as such it has been maintained for the 2023-24 school year.

<b>Gr 4-6 ELAL Professional Development Sessions</b>		
<b>Session/Date Offered</b>	<b>Curricular Areas Covered and Resources Utilized</b>	
May/June 2023	<b><u>Organizing Ideas:</u></b> <b>Grades 4-6</b> Text Forms and Structures, Writing: Ideas and Information, Conventions	<b><u>Focus:</u></b> Components in a strong writing program Rubrics Inter-rater reliability Writing Mini-Lessons- year plan
June 2023	<b><u>Organizing Ideas:</u></b> <b>Grades K-3 FILAL</b> Oral Communication Vocabulary Phonological Awareness Phonics Reading Fluency	<b><u>Focus:</u></b> Using Alberta Education Screens to inform programming Research-based best practice and resources focused on organizing ideas.
October 2023	<b><u>Organizing Ideas:</u></b> <b>Grades 4-6</b>	<b><u>Focus:</u></b>

	Oral Language, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension	Using data from literacy screens to inform instruction in the areas of word work, comprehension, and fluency.
November 2023	<b><u>Organizing Ideas:</u></b> <b>Grades 4-6</b> Oral Language, Vocabulary, Fluency, Comprehension, Text Forms and Structures, Writing and Conventions	<b><u>Focus:</u></b> Targeted instruction to support diversity in the classroom and program adaptations.



Gr 4-6 Math Professional Development Sessions		
Session/Date Offered	Curricular Areas Covered and Resources Utilized	
Session 1: May 2023	<b>Organizing Ideas:</b> Overview of the new Numeracy Program of Studies Number	<b>Focus:</b> Structure of the new curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing Idea, Guiding Question, Learning Outcome, Knowledge, Understanding, Skills &amp; Procedures (KUSPS)</li> </ul> Introduction of Small Group Instruction and Impactful Number Sense Routines Suggested Year Plan and General Evaluation Structure
Session 2: September/October 2023	<b>Organizing Ideas:</b> Fractions/Decimals, Algebra	<b>Focus:</b> Comparison of New and Previous Curriculum (review) Impactful Number Sense Routines Learning Progressions Building Thinking Classrooms Exploration of curated resources
Session 3: December 2023	<b>Organizing Ideas:</b> Geometry, Measurement, Statistics and Patterns	<b>Focus:</b> Spatial Sense Learning Progressions Percentages and Time Exploration of curated resources

In addition to these whole grade professional learning opportunities, some of the ways in which Instructional Services Facilitators further support professional learning are:

- modeling lessons in classrooms
- working with grade level teaching teams during collaborative planning time
- facilitating professional learning during self-directed and site-directed professional development days
- leading professional development sessions after schools
- facilitating book studies
- supporting professional development for Literacy and Numeracy lead teachers

### French Immersion Literature and Language Arts (FILAL) and Science Curriculum Implementation: Kindergarten - Grade 3

Survey and anecdotal Feedback from our French Immersion teachers indicated that they were extremely pleased to have had the opportunity to receive some of their professional development in French during the 2022-23 school year. As such, Instructional Services worked collaboratively with the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC) and the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortium (ARPD) to facilitate professional learning sessions in French the implementation of the French Immersion Literature and Language Arts and Science programs of studies in 2023-24,

K-3 French Immersion Literature and Language Arts Professional Development Session	
Session/Date Offered	Curricular Areas Covered and Resources Utilized

Session 2: October 2023	<b><u>Organizing Ideas:</u></b> Text Organization Text Comprehension Grammar Text Production	<b><u>Focus:</u></b> Components in a strong writing program Rubrics Writing Mini Lessons- year plan
Session 3: December 2023	<b><u>Organizing Ideas:</u></b> Text Organization Text Comprehension Grammar Text Production Oral Communication Vocabulary Phonological Awareness Phonics Reading Fluency	<b><u>Focus:</u></b> Targeted instruction to support diversity in the classroom and program adaptations

K-3 Science Professional Development Sessions (English and French Immersion)		
Session/Date Offered	Curricular Areas Covered and Resources Utilized	
Session 1: June 2023 Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPD)	<b><u>Organizing Ideas:</u></b> Overview of the new Science Program of Studies	<b><u>Focus:</u></b> Structure of the new curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing Idea, Guiding Question, Learning Outcome, Knowledge, Understanding, Skills &amp; Procedures (KUSPS)</li> </ul> Introduction to Computer Science/Scientific Methods Suggested Year Plan
Session 2: October 2023	<b><u>Organizing Ideas:</u></b> Matter & Earth Systems	<b><u>Focus:</u></b> Foundations of Science education - Nature of Science, Scientific Literacy, Science and Literacy, Conceptual Understanding Matter & Earth Systems (overlapping aspects of Computer Science & Scientific Methods)
Session 3: January 2024	<b><u>Organizing Ideas:</u></b> Energy & Living Systems (Gr 1 - 3) Energy & Computer Science (K)	<b><u>Focus:</u></b> Review of Science education foundations Gr 1 - 3: Energy, Living Systems, & Earth Systems (winter/spring) with overlapping aspects of Computer Science & Scientific Methods K: Energy, Computer Science, & Earth Systems (winter/spring)

*\*While Vocabulary will be explored in both French and English Sessions, a stronger focus will be required for French Immersion teachers and students*



**Ongoing Curriculum Implementation**

In addition to supporting the implementation of new programs of studies being implemented in the 2023-24 school year (i.e. FILAL K-3, ELAL Gr 4-6, Science K-3 and Math Gr 4-6), Instructional Services continues to support the work of previous programs of studies that were implemented in the 2022-23 school year (i.e. ELAL K-3, Math K-3, Physical Education and Wellness K-6) through curriculum call back sessions. All Kindergarten - Grade 3 teachers will receive 1 additional day of professional learning in the 2023-24 school year to continue their learning and collaboration for those curriculums.

**Optional Curriculum Implementation**

Instructional Services facilitators and Division Principals are working collaboratively with teachers Ecole Meridian Heights School (EMHS), Ecole Broxton Park School (EBPS) and Connections for Learning to support those teachers who have elected to optionally implement curriculum during the 2023-2024 school year.

Supports to be provided to these teachers include:

- 1/2 day collaborative working sessions throughout the 2023-24 year with PSD Facilitators
- After school cohort meetings
- Partnerships with other School Divisions
- Professional Development through the ERLC and ARPDC

PSD Optional Curriculum Implementation 2023-2024			
Subject	Number of Teachers	Grade	School
Science	1	6	EMHS
Science (FI)	2	6	EMHS
Science	1	5	CFL
Science	2	6	CFL
FILAL	1	4	EBPS
Science	1	4	CFL
FILAL	1	5	EPBS
SCI	1	5-6	CFL

## INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING

Parkland School Division's Facilitators, will continue to support learning in each session by addressing KUSPS (Knowledge, Understandings, Skills and Procedures) that specifically focus on Indigenous Ways of Knowing in addition to working with teachers to understand how to weave Indigenous Ways of Knowing throughout the science program. Additionally, Parkland School Divisions facilitators will continue to explore and find resources that provide authentic Indigenous perspectives and Ways of Knowing. An example is included:

## SURVEY RESULTS FOR CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

Satisfaction after-event-surveys ensured that our facilitated, professional learning opportunities, appropriately met the needs of our teachers. Staff rated the sessions as "Excellent, Competent, Satisfactory or Insufficient." Results of these sessions continue to indicate an extremely high level of satisfaction:

- 87/88 respondents from the Grade 3 Science session rated the session facilitators as either "Competent" or "Excellent".
- 14/20 respondents from the Numeracy Lead session in August 2023 rated the session and facilitators as "Excellent" with the remaining 6 providing a rating of "Competent"
- 17/24 respondents, who attended the Introduction to *MathUp*, rated the session and facilitator as "Excellent" with the remaining 7 providing a rating of "Competent"
- 50/77 respondents who attended the Grades 4-6 ELAL new curriculum rated the session and facilitators as "Excellent" with the remaining 16 providing a rating of "Competent" and 1 rating of "Satisfactory".

Teachers provided feedback on several other topics including:

- Requests for future learning opportunities during self-directed professional development time;
- Requests for ongoing professional learning and modeled lessons within classrooms;
- Requests for support with mini-lessons for small group and whole group instruction; and
- Requests for support with understanding the writing scope and sequence and using mentor text.

Data gathered from these surveys served to inform future work for facilitators, to support the professional growth of our Facilitators and to determine future allocation of resources to best meet the needs of the teachers within Parkland School Division.

Anecdotal feedback from participants clearly indicated strong support for the efforts of the Literacy, Numeracy and Science facilitators, as is evidenced by the following comments:

- *"I felt that Ted (ARPDC facilitator) did an excellent job really explaining the new curriculum and this brought my stress level down considerably. Kelly as always was excellent with sharing the DE resources..."*
- *"Today's presentation was well prepared. I feel like I will be able to contact Tracy for support at any time."*
- *"Thank you for making a French Immersion folder with resources."*
- *"Thank you so much, it was lots of information but I am leaving feeling confident for next year."*
- *"So glad for all your expertise and knowledge, your presentations are amazing, organized and so useful."*

## LOOKING FORWARD

Instructional Services continues to focus on new curriculum implementation. With respect to teacher survey results, Parkland School Division continues to gather teachers in grade level teams for in person, professional development, and to support teachers with curriculum implementation for the 2023-2024 school year.

