

Ministry of Education
Questions and Answers
New Curriculum, Assessment, Reporting and Graduation

HOW AND WHAT WILL STUDENTS LEARN?

Q: What is BC [• v Á μœ œ] μ ο μ υ M

The world is changing, and it is our duty to make sure kids are ready to succeed in a changing world. That is why we are bringing in a new curriculum in BC schools.

We are entering year two of the three-year introduction of new curriculum in BC.

The new curriculum maps out what teachers teach and what students are expected to learn. Students will learn the basics of reading, writing and math skills in a way that connects them with the collaboration, critical thinking, and communications skills they will need to succeed after high school.

The new curriculum also responds to concerns of teachers about the old, inflexible curriculum. The new curriculum is focused 100 per cent on students and will prepare students for success through personalized learning. The graduation program and assessment changes will be closely aligned with the new curriculum.

REPORT CARDS

Q: Will students still be issued report cards?

Yes, report cards will still go out. But to better ensure that students are invested and engaged in their own learning, there will be an increased focus on creating an ongoing dialogue about learning between the student, teacher and parent.

The goal is for parents to have a deeper understanding of relevant, timely information about how their child is doing, rather than just relying on report cards alone or having infrequent parent/teacher meetings.

The new reporting structure is designed to better meet the needs of parents, students and teachers like the new curriculum itself, it is more flexible and adaptable to the individual needs of the student.

Starting next month and continuing through October 2016, we will be asking parents for input on what they want. We want to get that information.

HOW WILL THE NEW CURRICULUM PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE?

Q: Is the graduation program changing too?

Yes. With redesigned curriculum, assessment and reporting practices implemented the final step is to make sure that the graduation program continues to set students up for success. The graduation program will still span a school diploma may be more varied and flexible than before.

Q: How many credits will students need?

All students will still need 80 credits to graduate: 52 from required courses and 28 from electives. That has not changed.

Q. Are any new courses being introduced?

The reality is that, in a changing world, parents expect us to make sure kids have the skills they need to succeed. New curriculum, assessment, reporting and graduation all support the skills that students need to succeed today and after graduation. Skills like critical thinking, communication and collaboration are the kinds of skills employers are looking for.

Postsecondary institutions have been very involved with these changes.

The key provincial assessment that has always been used for entry into post-secondary institutions is a Language Arts 12 assessment. Postsecondary institutions do not have concerns about discontinuing Social Studies and Science examinations, as they are not used for entry into post-secondary.

Admission to postsecondary institutions is based on the final grade achieved in Grade 11 or 12 course. This is not changing.

Q: Will there be changes to the Adult Dogwood (adult graduation), or others?
Adult graduation program requirements remain the same. Adult learners who have not yet graduated can earn credits towards either the Adult Graduation Diploma (Adult Dogwood) or a regular Dogwood Diploma.

Students will still have multiple pathways to successfully complete their K-12 education:

- x Adult Dogwood
- x Dogwood Diploma
- x Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique
- x Evergreen Certificate where appropriate based on Individual Education Plan

Q. How do these changes affect French language courses and exams?
Français langue première 10, Français langue première 12 and Français langue seconde immersion 12 changes will be the same as their equivalents in English.

Q: Will the changes affect the Scholarship Program?
No, the Scholarship Program remains the same.

Q. What if my child is struggling in school?
Nothing has changed and teachers are there to help students. In fact, the new curriculum with its focus on tapping into the passions of each student, will help them take a deeper interest in what they are learning.