

## New Curriculum FAQs

### Facts on the new curriculum for staff, students and parents

Questions/concerns	Facts
I thought the new BC curriculum was still a draft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ The new BC curriculum for K-9 was in published in draft format for trial in 2014-2015. The finalized versions of the K-9 curriculum and the draft versions of the 10-12 curricula were published in the summer 2015.</li> <li>✦ K-9 finalized versions of the new curriculum: <a href="https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum">https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum</a></li> <li>✦ Grades 10-12 draft curriculum: <a href="https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/10-12">https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/10-12</a></li> </ul>
Why is the BC curriculum changing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ With an ever-changing world of technology and access to information, experts agree that today's curricula should put more emphasis on big ideas, competencies and processes. BC needed a less prescriptive curriculum that allows for a more personalized learning experience.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Ministry philosophy</a>  <a href="#">Ministry Curriculum Website</a>  <a href="#">Why is the curriculum changing</a></p>
What research was used to support this transformation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Sir Ken Robinson, Lynn Erikson, Grant Wiggins, Harvard Project Zero, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Curriculum shifts in high achieving countries: Finland, Singapore. BC teacher groups, academic experts, school district staff. <a href="#">Reference information</a> is available on the BC Ministry Website.</li> </ul>
How is the new curriculum different?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ The new curriculum is designed to support the development of 3 main competencies: thinking (critical and creative), communication and personal and social competence.</li> <li>✦ Each area of learning features "Big Ideas" that are pillars of learning for students to understand in each subject area.</li> <li>✦ Teachers will have much more time and flexibility with less prescribed learning outcomes to explore topics in more depth according to the needs and interests of students.</li> <li>✦ <a href="#">Aboriginal perspectives</a> and content have been integrated into every subject and grade.</li> </ul>
Specifically, which grades/subjects will be different?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ The new curriculum is a comprehensive transformation of the entire school curriculum: all subjects, all grades K-12 using a common framework.</li> </ul>

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What will stay the same?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ There are still learning standards for each grade/subject; just less of them.</li> <li>✦ There is still an emphasis on literacy and numeracy. Core foundational skills are still emphasized; now with more time to focus on developing higher level conceptual learning as well.</li> <li>✦ Every student still has subjects like: socials, math, language arts, science, arts; there is just more space in the curriculum for more depth of study in content and for interdisciplinary approaches to learning.</li> </ul>
If the new curriculum has less in it aren't we just making education easier?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ The new curriculum standards retain rigour in learning. It is not really a question about teaching less; it is about balance. The new curriculum focuses on teaching concepts with more time to develop higher-level skills such as: critical and creative thinking, communication skills and personal and social responsibility. Adding more time for these higher level competencies will allow students to develop more skills they will need to live and work in a complex, interconnected and rapidly changing world.</li> </ul>
When does the new curriculum actually start?	<p>See Appendix: "Aligning the work" for SD35 plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ K-9 2015-16: Trial year: prepare the field/voluntary trials</li> <li>✦ K-9 2016-17: Full implementation</li> <li>✦ 10-12: 2015-17: prepare the field/voluntary trials</li> <li>✦ 10-12: 2017-18: Full implementation</li> </ul>
Where will I need to go to get the new resources I will need?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ You will not likely need to source new resources. For the most part, the new curriculum mirrors previous topics/timelines. There will just be less content to cover during the year.</li> </ul>
Where can I find samples of work that reflect the new curriculum standards and instructional strategies to help support me to teach this new curriculum?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Instructional examples will be added to the ministry website.</li> <li>✦ The BCTF <a href="#">Teach BC</a> website will also host BC teaching resources.</li> <li>✦ SD35 will be providing a variety of professional development opportunities to support district staff in understanding the new curriculum. Watch "In the Loop", the district website and Think35 for professional development opportunities in Langley regarding the new curriculum.</li> </ul>

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How is the assessment/ reporting of the new curriculum going to work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Assessment and reporting will need to align with the changing emphasis in curriculum.</li> <li>✦ The Ministry will be publishing its redesign of assessment and reporting practices in the spring of 2016.</li> </ul> <p><u>Redesigning assessment. See slide SD35 Reporting</u></p>
What is happening with provincial exams and FSAs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ The Ministry is currently redesigning assessment and reporting practices.</li> <li>✦ In 2016-2017 New trial provincial exams and a new style of FSAs will be trialed</li> <li>✦ 2017-2018 will be full implementation of new assessments.</li> </ul>
Why wasn't the grade 10-12 piece finished with the K-9 curriculum?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ The framework of the K-9 curriculum will align with the new grade10-12 graduation learning years.</li> <li>✦ The more senior grades involve more provincial assessments. A provincial assessment group is working on informing directions for future provincial examination.</li> <li>✦ In addition, connections and alignment with post secondary education requires potential changes with credentialing, reporting, transcripts. These details will be determined over the next 2 school years.</li> </ul>
Glossary of terms for the new curriculum	<u><a href="#">New Curriculum Glossary</a></u>
Other useful tools	<u><a href="#">Curriculum Search Tool</a></u> will allow you to search grade and compare big ideas and content across grade levels, across subjects etc.

For more information or for questions regarding the new BC curriculum in Langley School District please contact **Instructional Services Staff** at the SBO.