

Backgrounder

Updating Curriculum and Resources for Schools

The term *curriculum* refers to the skills, performances, attitudes, and values pupils are expected to learn from schooling. It includes statements of desired pupil outcomes, descriptions of materials, and the planned sequence that will be used to help pupils attain the outcomes.

Nunavummiut want us to make sure students receive high quality education that gives them the knowledge and skills to go on to post-secondary studies or be able to pursue the career path of their choice.

A *curricular framework* provides a high level overview the skills, performances, attitudes, and values students would be expected to achieve at various grade levels or stages of learning.

A *Program of Study* generally refers to a specific content area such as Mathematics, Science, Language Arts and so on. The term *program of study* and *curriculum* are often used interchangeably.

A great deal of effort has been made to create 'made in Nunavut' curriculum. We lack the personnel to do this work for every area of the curriculum. In some subject areas it is more practical to adopt a curriculum from a partner jurisdiction and develop local content or strategies for the use of that curriculum.

Currently Nunavut's curriculum comes from several sources:

- Other Canadian jurisdictions such as Alberta, the NWT or other provinces
- Developed within Nunavut either locally at a school level or by the department for the entire territory based on the 2004-2008 K-12 Curriculum Development and Implementation strategy
- From the Western and Northern Canadian Protocol (WNCP) framework

Adopting and adapting curriculum from a partner jurisdiction provides many advantages:

- It provides clear learning outcomes that reflect a national level of expectation
- There are well developed resources for teaching and assessing the curricula which better supports teachers and students
- Common assessment strategies will exist that provide an accountability framework to help us make well-informed decisions on the effectiveness of the study programs.

Adopting and adapting math, science and English language arts curriculum and resources from our partner jurisdictions of NWT and Alberta will provide us with updated standard curriculum that will ensure consistent and relevant learning experiences for all Nunavut students.

Mathematics curriculum (program of studies) to be adopted:

- NWT/Alberta Mathematics curriculum for K-Gr 6.
- Alberta Mathematics curriculum for Gr 7-8-9, including the Knowledge and Employability course options at Gr 8 and 9.
- Continue to use the Alberta Mathematics curriculum for Gr 10-12, including the Knowledge and Employability course options at Gr 10 and 11.

Science curriculum (program of studies) to be adopted:

- Use the NWT (2004) Science curriculum for K-Gr 6.
- Use the NWT/Alberta (2014)Science curriculum for Gr 7-8-9, including the KAE course options at Gr 8 and 9.
- Continue to use the Alberta Science curriculum for Gr 10-12, including the KAE course options at Gr 10 and 11 based on the most current editions (Ex. 2014) available
- Use the Alberta Science 14 (2014) and Science 24(2014) to replace the old Science 15/25
- Allow the use of the NWT Experiential Science 10-11-12

Nunavut has adopted the NWT Kindergarten to Grade 9 English Language Arts curriculum. This curriculum provides:

- Clear learning outcomes that reflect a national level of expectation
- Well developed resources for teaching and assessing the curricula which better supports teachers and students
- Common assessment strategies, achievement charts, and clear grade level learning outcomes will provide an accountability framework. These same grade level benchmarks will be reflected in the new K-6 Inuktitut Language Arts Curriculum

Adopting this curriculum will allow our Department the time to continue to develop Nunavut specific resources to complement the curriculum. These resources will contain Nunavut

specific content, which will assist in developing critical thinking skills, technology skills and literary and research skills to meet students' needs as 21st century learners.

The Department will provide schools with in-service for new resources and courses, teacher manuals, and print and media resources. Teachers also have ongoing access to Curriculum Coordinators for support and advice.

The Department of Education has invested close to \$1 million to update our school resources by purchasing math and science text books, intervention materials and literacy program and assessment systems for all schools in Nunavut.

Adopting the best practices and successes from our partner jurisdictions will give teachers the tools they need to help our students achieve grade levels and successfully move forward in the school system.