

## **Frequently Asked Questions:** Understanding Concept Based Instruction:

### **When will future curriculum be implemented?**

We know that getting schools ready for future curriculum will take time, support and a number of resources. We have been working with stakeholders to develop a plan for Kindergarten to Grade 12 provincial curriculum implementation. This implementation plan will look at timing and approach, readiness tools for school jurisdictions, professional learning, and resourcing.

Our current curriculum remains in effect until the implementation of future provincial curriculum is approved. Timelines for implementation of future curriculum have not been set.

### **What resources and supports will be available for teachers to implement future curriculum?**

We are committed to ensuring that teachers, school leaders, and school authorities can access learning opportunities so that they can develop the necessary skills and knowledge they need to implement future curriculum. Identifying learning and teaching resources to support teachers in implementing future curriculum is part of the provincial implementation plan that is being developed with stakeholders.

### **Do all school authorities in the province have to use the same curriculum?**

Yes. Provincial curriculum ensures students in Alberta have the same basis for their learning across the province. All teachers will use the same learning outcomes but will continue to have flexibility on how they teach the curriculum based on the individual needs of students in their classrooms.

### **How will provincial assessments shift to reflect the future concept-based curriculum?**

Future curriculum will require updated provincial assessments. No decisions have been made regarding the structure of provincial assessments.

### **What is changing?**

Education now has a process to update curriculum within shorter development cycles, which means that we won't have 30-year-old curriculum ever again.

Subjects will share a common design and architecture, and the digital planning tool on the new LearnAlberta.ca website will make it easier for teachers to work with curriculum in interactive ways, including planning across subjects or collaborating with peers.

Easy-to-understand curriculum will build on common "big ideas" across subjects, which will allow students to engage more deeply in their learning and to make connections between what they are learning and everyday life.

Students will develop literacy and numeracy skills, and competencies, like problem solving and critical thinking, throughout grades and subjects.

Our curriculum work helps us address our commitments to improve diversity within curriculum, and it provides opportunities for all students to learn about the historical and contemporary contributions of Francophone, First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

### **Will future curriculum help students with special education needs?**

Yes. Future curriculum provides opportunities for all students to develop literacy and numeracy skills, and competencies across all subjects and grade levels. Future curriculum also provides opportunities for students to revisit concepts in multiple grades across more than one subject. This helps reinforce their understanding of concepts and content across subjects and grades and to practice the skills, strategies, and processes they need to develop to be successful.

### **Does future curriculum address the basics?**

We are ensuring that Alberta's curriculum focuses on foundational elements, such as reading, writing, and arithmetic, while also incorporating competencies like problem solving and critical thinking.

We are making literacy and numeracy foundational in every subject and at every grade level, and we are placing greater emphasis on the development of competencies to ensure that our students are prepared to learn, work, and live in the 21st century.

## **How will broader/fewer learning outcomes ensure that students are learning what they need to learn?**

The design for future curriculum is new for Alberta and is an important part of moving our educational system into the 21st century. It reflects the design that other high-performing countries and jurisdictions have been using for more than a decade.

Future Kindergarten to Grade 4 curriculum organizes students' learning around concepts rather than around isolated facts. This allows teachers to bring a new depth to students' learning and to provide a greater focus on understanding rather than simply knowing. Having fewer learning outcomes that are broader in nature provides more opportunities for teachers to tailor learning and assessment to students' individual needs.

## **What is the plan for transitioning my child's learning from the old to the new curriculum when implementation begins?**

The implementation process and timelines are being developed. This work includes consideration for transitioning student learning and providing time for teachers and jurisdictions to learn about future curriculum before full implementation begins. This preparation period will be part of the process for every grade as future curriculum rolls out.

## **Why is there an emphasis on Francophone, First Nations, Métis and Inuit content?**

We live in a pluralistic society with multiple, diverse perspectives. Our curriculum work allows us to honour the commitments that we have made to authentically include a greater focus on the experiences, contributions, and perspectives of Francophone, First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

