



May 26, 2016

Ref: 187824

Dear Parents:

The world is changing, and we need to ensure our kids have the skills they need to succeed in a changing world. Technology and innovation are reshaping society—and the future. That is why we are updating British Columbia’s curriculum—an update based on solid research, classroom successes from around the world, extensive consultations with teachers and education leaders in BC.

During the 2015/16 school year, we introduced draft new curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 9. That curriculum will be fully implemented in all public and independent schools in September 2016.

Now we are bringing in new curriculum for Grades 10 to 12. For the 2016/17 school year, teachers have the option to use the draft 10 to 12 curriculum in their classrooms. At the same time, we are also updating the graduation program and provincial assessment. These changes will be implemented between 2016 and 2018:

Provincial Assessment

- Provincial exams for Science 10, Social Studies 11 and equivalents will no longer be used; classroom assessments will be used instead.
- Students will complete two provincial assessments focused on literacy and math skills, instead of five individual provincial exams. More information will follow (offerings begin in 2017/18).
- For 2016/17 only, there are no changes to the Language Arts 12 provincial exam and equivalents. Exams will run as scheduled, aligned with the current curriculum—not the redesigned curriculum.

Graduation Program

- As of the 2016/17 school year, students will write two provincial assessments (literacy and math skills) before they graduate.
- Starting in the 2017/18 school year, Career Education courses become required, replacing Planning 10 and Grad Transitions.

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Modernizing our graduation program and associated provincial assessments is a key step in making sure our children are learning the core skills of success. The future our children must succeed in is different from the one we envisioned even 10 or 15 years ago. It is our job to prepare all children for success in whatever life path they choose.

Starting next month and continuing through October 2016, we will be asking parents for input on what they would like to know about their child's progress and how they want to get that information.

To help guide new graduation directions while ensuring the best learning environment for students, extensive consultation has been held with BC educators and a provincial assessment advisory group. This was built on wide-ranging previous consultations. As we move forward on this work, we will be bringing together teachers from across the province to help design the new assessments. More details on this will be shared soon.

For detailed information on the graduation program and the provincial assessments your child will write, please see the attached Question and Answer document and grade-by-grade transition chart.

For further details on the redesigned curriculum, please visit <http://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca>, or contact Service BC at the following telephone numbers:

In Victoria: (250) 387-6121

In Vancouver: (604) 660-2421

Elsewhere in BC: 1 (800) 663-7867

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bernier", with a small blue circular mark to the right.

Mike Bernier
Minister

Attachments:

Changes to Provincial Assessment Chart
Questions and Answers document