

Although Alberta Education will not proceed with provincial implementation of a second language learning requirement in grades 4–9 at this time, school boards will continue to be encouraged and supported to make second language programs available, where possible.

Alberta Education will continue to support school boards that choose to implement a language requirement locally.

Alberta Education is on track and will continue with the development of programs of study, teacher support materials and student learning resources, on a phased-in basis for grades 4–9, in Cree, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian.

- An interim three-year French as a Second Language (FSL) Grades 10–12 Program of Studies and an accompanying activities manual have been developed. Both documents are scheduled to be delivered to senior high schools for field testing in fall 2006. A pilot project for the field test of the program of studies is scheduled to begin in February 2007.
- The schedule for the mandatory implementation of the FSL nine-year program of studies is:
 - grades 4–6: September 2006
 - grades 7–9: September 2007
 - grades 10–12: September 2008.This schedule applies only to those schools that have offered FSL in the past and to those schools that choose to offer the nine-year course sequence.
- The following support resources are now online.
 - An interim copy of *French as a Second Language Program Articulation: Nine-year Course Sequence (4–6)* is now available at <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/french/fsl/PrArticulation/guide.asp>. This resource outlines the progression of learning outcomes, by grade, for each component in three sections:
 1. Scope and Sequence
 2. Grade Level Communicative Functions (Targets)
 3. Planning for Communication.
 - A copy of *Sample Year Plans with Supporting Authorized Resources: Grade 4, Grade 5 and Grade 6* is now available at <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/french/fsl/ClassAssessment/Year%20Plans.pdf>. This resource includes a list of approved resources.

- An interim copy of *French as a Second Language Classroom Assessment Materials: Nine-year Course Sequence (Grade 4)* is now available at <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/french/fsl/ClassAssesement/gr4/guide.asp>. This resource contains strategies and activities that teachers can use to evaluate learning outcomes.

A hard copy of the documents listed above is scheduled to be distributed to schools at the end of October 2006. All draft documents will be field tested/validated before a final version is printed. To help with the process, French Language Services Branch (FLSB) would greatly appreciate if teachers could complete and forward to the branch the field review forms at the back of the resources.

- The FSL grades 4–6 guide to implementation is being finalized and is scheduled to be ready for distribution in February 2007.
- Alberta Education has produced *French as a Second Language: Grade 4 Kit – Ma classe*, a comprehensive learning and teaching resource in audiovisual and print forms. The resource is available from the Learning Resources Centre (order number 629785). Two additional resources are being developed and are scheduled to be available in March 2007:
 - *Alberta Winter Festivals*
 - *Alberta – My Province*.
- Newly authorized international and Aboriginal languages programs of study are now available, including:
 - grades 4–5 of the nine-year programs of study for Chinese, Cree, German, Japanese, Spanish and Ukrainian
 - grades 7–9 for Italian language and culture
 - Chinese Language Arts K–9 and Chinese Language Arts 10–20–30.These programs of study and many others can be found on the International Languages Programs Web site at http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages.
- Field testing of the Grade 6 level of the nine-year programs of study for Chinese, Cree, German, Ukrainian, Spanish and Japanese is scheduled to commence in fall 2006.
- Community validation sessions for the Cree language and culture three-year and six-year programs of study are planned for 2006–2007.
- Alberta Education is supporting curriculum orientation sessions for teachers throughout Alberta for the new FSL program of studies and for provincially developed international and Aboriginal language and culture programs of study. These sessions will be hosted by the Regional Professional Development Consortia. Information regarding session dates and locations was distributed to

each school authority and is also available through each individual regional professional development consortium.

- New learning and teaching resources continue to be reviewed, authorized and developed. For Chinese, Cree, German, Italian, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian programs, from April 1 to September 12, 2006, 815 new authorized titles were added to our existing authorized resources lists.
- The Learning and Teaching Resources Branch (LTRB) has created a CD-ROM, *International Languages: Resources to Support Implementation, Nine-year Language and Culture Programs, Grade 4* (Draft May 2006) to support the nine-year language and culture Grade 4 programs. The CD-ROM is also available on the Alberta Education International Languages Programs Web page at http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k-12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/res_cd/main.html. Included in this resource are Grade 4 guides to implementation for Chinese, German, Spanish and Ukrainian; classroom assessment materials; benchmarks for grades 6, 9 and 12; and active links to programs of study, authorized resource lists, contact information and the *Implementation Schedule for Programs of Study and Related Activities*.
- Grade 5 guides to implementation, to support the nine-year language and culture programs for Chinese, Cree, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian, are being revised and are scheduled to be available in summer 2007. The Grade 5 guides to implementation will be posted with the existing Grade 4 guides to implementation and support resources.
- Field testing of the Grade 6 guides to implementation for the nine-year program in Chinese, Spanish and Ukrainian is scheduled to commence in fall 2006. Expert validation of the German, Japanese and Punjabi guides to implementation is also scheduled to take place in the same time period.
- An Italian language and culture Call for Resources is scheduled to occur in early 2007, with a resource review scheduled for June 2007.
- The first scenarios of an 18-scenario package of digital learning resources that support the Grade 4 level of the new nine-year Spanish language and culture program of studies is now available on the “Preview Zone” on the LearnAlberta Web site at <http://www.learnalberta.ca>. The resource package is called *¡Hola amigos!*
- Grade 4 classroom assessment materials, and benchmarks for grades 6, 9 and 12, are now available in Chinese, Cree, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian. Grades 5 and 6 classroom assessment materials, and performance standards for Grade 4, are currently under development.

- The document *A Review of the Literature on Second-Language Learning*, 2nd edition, is now updated and available at <http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/LitReview.asp>.
- The application form and process for the Language Teacher Bursary Program has been revised. The local school authority now reviews and forwards endorsed application package(s) to Alberta Scholarship Programs by February 10, 2007. Further information is available at <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=874>.
- For the 2006–2007 school year, school jurisdictions are able to report language program enrollment information to Alberta Education using an Extranet application. Schools are asked to report this information by December 15, 2006. School jurisdictions will receive information regarding this new application in October 2006.
- International language advisors who are posted to Alberta Education continue to provide support to the field.
 - Mr. Edmund Borschel, German Language Consultant (Central Agency for German Schools Abroad)
 - Mr. Shunko Muroya, Japanese Language Education Advisor (Japan Foundation)
 - Mr. Jincheng Huang, Special Advisor (Office of Chinese Language Consul International–Hanban)
 - Mr. Andrés Sánchez, Spanish Language Advisor from the Government of Spain, Ministry of Education and Science

For contact information, please contact the Curriculum Branch, Alberta Education at 780-427-2984.