

*So You're Planning to Start a **GERMAN** Language Program?*

Information and Resources (December 2006)

What provincial curriculum and resources are available to support a German program?

Provincial Programs of Study

The following provincial programs of study are available:

- German Language and Culture
 - German Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 4–5
 - German Language and Culture Six-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
 - German Language and Culture 10-6Y, 20-6Y, 30-6Y
 - German Language and Culture 10-3Y, 20-3Y, 30-3Y
- German Language Arts
 - German Language Arts, Kindergarten to Grade 9
 - German Language Arts 10–20–30

Current provincial programs of study may be viewed and downloaded at www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/default.asp.

Curriculum Handbooks for Parents and *Curriculum Summaries* contain information on subjects, programs and courses available in Alberta schools. For more information, visit www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks.

Learning and Teaching Resources

To obtain a copy of the German guide to implementation and the authorized resource lists and annotated bibliography, visit www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/default.asp.

Alberta Education's Authorized Resources Database is a searchable database of all authorized resources and may be viewed at www.education.gov.ab.ca/lrdb. To order authorized learning and teaching resources, contact the Learning Resources Centre at www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca.

Assessment Support

Teachers may find the following assessment tools useful:

- benchmarks for grades 6, 9 and 12
- performance standards for Grade 4
- performance standards for Grade 5 (under development)
- classroom assessment materials for Grade 4
- classroom assessment materials for Grade 5 (under development)

Support for German Language Programming

Alberta school jurisdictions benefit from the expertise and assistance of a German Language Consultant through an agreement between Alberta Education and the Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen (ZfA) in Germany. Edmund Borschel was posted to Edmonton in 2004 by the ZfA in Cologne and is pleased to assist Alberta schools, school jurisdictions and teachers. For more information, visit <http://zfa-edmonton.dasan.de>.

Questions? Contact:

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Additional Supports

The Deutsches Sprachdiplom (DSD), an internationally recognized Language Proficiency Examination, consists of both an oral and written component. The DSD is available to senior high school students and adults:

- DSD level I is available to students 15–17 years of age who have completed 6–8 years of studies.
- DSD level II is available to students 17–21 years of age who have completed 8–10 years of studies.

Successful completion of the DSD II examination grants Alberta students access to tuition-free post-secondary education at German universities. Contact the German Language Consultant for more information.

The Goethe-Institut Toronto provides language courses and/or professional development opportunities and supports German language education and culture in many ways. For more information, visit www.goethe.de/toronto.

The German Language Education Consortium is a collaboration of school jurisdictions, post-secondary institutions and stakeholders involved in German language education in Alberta. For more information, contact International Languages, Curriculum Branch, at (780) 427–2984 (toll-free within Alberta by dialling 310–0000 first).

Professional Development

Various professional development opportunities for language educators can be found at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/ProfDevl.asp.

Further information regarding language learning and professional development opportunities is available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/EducatorOpportunities.pdf.

Language teachers with three years of teaching experience in Alberta, who are planning to take a summer program of at least four weeks duration in a language or language-teaching methodology, may be interested in the Language Teacher Bursary Program. For more information, visit www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=874.

The Intercultural and Second Languages Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association has several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that may interest language teachers. For more information, visit www.islc.teachers.ab.ca.

Student Learning Opportunities

Information regarding language learning opportunities for students is available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/StudentOpportunities.pdf.

Further information regarding student exchange programs is available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/nie/exchange. Interested persons may also contact the International Education Branch at (780) 427–2035 (toll-free within Alberta by dialling 310–0000 first) or by e-mail at exchange.programs@gov.ab.ca.