

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

## **Information and Resources (December 2006)**

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

### ***Provincial Programs of Study***

The following provincial programs of study are available:

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

Current provincial programs of study may be viewed and downloaded at [www.education.gov.ab.ca/k\\_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/default.asp](http://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](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks).

### ***Learning and Teaching Resources***

To obtain a copy of the Spanish language and culture Grade 4 guide to implementation and the authorized resource lists for the Spanish language arts and Spanish language and culture programs, visit [www.education.gov.ab.ca/k\\_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/default.asp](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/default.asp). Note: Guides to implementation for Grade 5 of the Spanish Language and Culture Nine-year Program and for the Spanish Language and Culture 10-3Y, 20-3Y, 30-3Y program are under development.

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](http://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](http://www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca).

A digital resource, *An Interactive Spanish Learning Tour* (Grade 10), is available at [www.learnalberta.ca](http://www.learnalberta.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 Spanish Language Programming***

Alberta school jurisdictions benefit from the expertise and assistance of the Spanish Language Consultant, assigned to Alberta through an agreement between the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science and Alberta Education.

### **Questions? Contact:**

Sigrid Olsen  
Program Manager  
International Languages  
Curriculum Branch  
Phone: (780) 422-2669  
E-mail:  
[sigrid.olsen@gov.ab.ca](mailto:sigrid.olsen@gov.ab.ca)

Xenia Bubel  
Resource Manager  
International Languages  
Learning and Teaching  
Resources Branch  
Phone: (780) 422-0594  
E-mail:  
[xenia.bubel@gov.ab.ca](mailto:xenia.bubel@gov.ab.ca)

Alan Chouinard  
Assessment Manager  
International Languages  
Learning and Teaching  
Resources Branch  
Phone: (780) 422-4426  
E-mail:  
[alan.chouinard@gov.ab.ca](mailto:alan.chouinard@gov.ab.ca)

Andrés Sánchez  
Spanish Language Consultant  
Phone: (780) 422-0664  
E-mail:  
[andres.sanchez@gov.ab.ca](mailto:andres.sanchez@gov.ab.ca)



### ***Additional Supports***

The Education Office of the Embassy of Spain assists Spanish language programming in Canada and the USA by sponsoring:

- a Web site at [www.sgci.mec.es/usa/eng](http://www.sgci.mec.es/usa/eng)
- program supports (e.g., visiting teacher program, language and culture assistants)
- the Ruta Quetzal-BBVA program, which offers two \$14,000 scholarships to Canadian high school students for summer travel of a predetermined route through Spain and Latin America. For more information, visit [www.sgci.mec.es/usa/quetzal/indexe.shtml](http://www.sgci.mec.es/usa/quetzal/indexe.shtml).

An International Spanish Academy (ISA) is an Alberta school recognized by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science, where students receive Spanish and English bilingual programming. For more information on becoming an ISA or on ISAs, contact the Spanish Language Consultant.

The Spanish Language Education Consortium is a collaboration of school jurisdictions, post-secondary institutions and stakeholders involved in Spanish 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/ProfDev.asp](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/ProfDev.asp).

Further information regarding language learning and professional development opportunities is available at [www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/EducatorOpportunities.pdf](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/EducatorOpportunities.pdf).

Aula virtual de Español (AVE) is an online course offered by the Instituto Cervantes. For more information, visit [www.cvc.cervantes.es](http://www.cvc.cervantes.es).

### ***Student Learning Opportunities***

Internationally recognized examinations are available in Spanish. The Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera (DELE) examinations are offered by the Instituto Cervantes. For more information, visit [www.diplomas.cervantes.es/index.jsp](http://www.diplomas.cervantes.es/index.jsp).

The beginner level, for students 12 to 16 years of age, may be of particular interest; however, students must specifically request this examination. There are a number of writing centres in Canada and two writing centres in Alberta. To find out more about the examinations and the nearest writing centre, contact Andrés Sánchez.

Reciprocal student exchanges are available to senior high school students studying Spanish (Alberta/Mexico, Alberta/Spain). For more information, visit [www.education.gov.ab.ca/nie/exchange/student](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/nie/exchange/student).

Information regarding language learning opportunities for students is available at [www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/StudentOpportunities.pdf](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/StudentOpportunities.pdf).