

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.

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.

- The following new language programming supports are now posted online at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/Implement.asp:
 - *School Administrator's Guide to Implementing Language Programming*
 - Brochures to help inform school communities about available provincial language programs of study for Chinese, Cree, German, Japanese, Spanish and Ukrainian
 - Information sheets for teachers and administrators new to the language program or wishing to start a program for Chinese, Cree, German, Japanese, Spanish and Ukrainian.
- Funded by Alberta Education, the University of Calgary's Language Research Centre has developed an engaging 23-minute video about the advantages of learning another language. ***Advantage for Life: Learning Another Language*** is an accessible overview of the cognitive, economic and social advantages that come with learning another language.
 - *Advantage for Life* is available for free download and viewing on the Alberta Education Web site at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/InfoParents.asp
 - You may also download and view *Advantage for Life* at www.ucalgary.ca/lrc/AdvantageForLife.htm.
- Mr. Jincheng Huang, the Chinese language advisor working at Alberta Education in support of Chinese language programs, returned to China in March. A new Chinese language advisor, Mr. Baolong Ni, was recently welcomed to Alberta Education. This position has been made possible through an agreement between Alberta Education and the Office of Chinese Language Council International (HANBAN). Mr. Ni will join the current language advisors for German, Japanese and Spanish at Alberta Education.

French as a Second Language (FSL)

- A draft of the new *French as a Second Language Three-year Program of Studies (Grades 10 to 12)* has been developed and is now available for feedback from teachers. Copies of the draft and a field review response survey can be accessed at www.education.gov.ab.ca/french/FSL/default_EN.asp. A pilot project for this program of studies is currently under way with nine Alberta high schools.
- A call for resources for FSL has been made for the three-year and nine-year programs of study for senior high school. New learning and teaching resources will be authorized for use in the mandatory implementation year for both course sequences.
- The schedule for 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 2008This schedule applies only to those schools that have offered FSL in the past and to those schools offering the nine-year course sequence.
- The following support resources are now available online:
 - An interim copy of *French as a Second Language Program Articulation: Nine-year Course Sequence (4–6)* is now available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/french/FSL/PrArticulation/guide.asp. An interim copy of *French as a Second Language Program Articulation: Nine-year Course Sequence (7–9)* will be made available online in fall 2007.
 - *Sample Year Plans with Supporting Authorized Resources: Grade 4, Grade 5 and Grade 6* is available at 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 Material: Nine-year Course Sequence (Grade 4)* is now available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/french/FSL/ClassAssessment/gr4/guide.asp. This resource contains strategies and activities that teachers can use to assess Grade 4 learning outcomes. A final version of this document will be available in September 2007 for download only.
- The FSL grades 4–6 guide to implementation is being finalized and is scheduled to be ready for distribution in fall 2007. It will be accompanied by a copy of the *French as a Second Language Classroom Assessment Material: Nine-year Course Sequence (Grade 5)*.

- 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 fall 2007:
 - *Alberta Winter Festivals – Les fêtes hivernales de l’Alberta*
 - *Alberta – My Province—L’Alberta – Ma province.*

Programs of Study

- Field tests of the Grade 6 level of the nine-year programs of study for Chinese, Cree, German, Ukrainian, Spanish and Japanese have been completed and new programs of study for grades 4–6 of the nine-year program will be available in September 2007.
- Revisions to the draft grades 7–9 levels of the nine-year programs of study for Chinese, Japanese, German, Ukrainian and Spanish are in progress. New field validation drafts will be completed and field testing of the Grade 7 levels will commence in September 2007.
- Community validation of the Cree language and culture three-year and six-year programs of study concludes in March. These programs of study will be available for optional implementation in September 2007.

Implementation Supports

- Grades 4–6 guides to implementation to support the language and culture nine-year programs for Chinese, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian are being revised and are scheduled to be available in summer 2007. The grades 4–5 Cree language and culture guide to implementation will be posted online in fall 2007.
- Field test drafts of the Grade 7 guides to implementation to support the language and culture nine-year programs for Chinese, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian will be available in fall 2007.
- Senior high school guides to implementation to support the language and culture three-year programs for Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Spanish and Ukrainian will be posted in spring and summer 2007.
- *Ukrainian Language Arts Kindergarten–Grade 3 Guide to Implementation* and *Ukrainian Language Arts Grades 4–6 Guide to Implementation* will be posted online in April 2007. The guides for grades 7–12 will be posted online in summer 2007.
- From April 1, 2006, to March 7, 2007, 776 new authorized titles were added to existing authorized resources lists for the Chinese, Cree, German, Italian, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian programs.

- A call for resources to support grades 7–9 of the language and culture nine-year programs for Chinese, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian will be issued in summer 2007.
- A resource review for all Italian language and culture programs is scheduled for June 2007.
- The first scenarios of a collection of digital learning resources that support the Spanish language and culture nine-year program are available on the LearnAlberta.ca Web site at www.learnalberta.ca. The resource package is called *¡Hola amigos!* and has been developed in partnership with the government of Spain as represented by Instituto Cervantes.
- Classroom assessment materials for Grade 4 and benchmarks for grades 6, 9 and 12 are now available for the Chinese, Cree, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian nine-year language and culture programs. Classroom assessment materials for grades 5 and 6 and performance standards for Grade 4 of these language programs have been developed.
- *A Review of the Literature on Second Language Learning*, 2nd edition, is available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/LitReview.asp.
- Expanded professional development opportunities are available for language teachers through various service providers. For links to these opportunities, see www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/ProfDev1.asp.
- Many thanks to school jurisdictions, First Nations authorities and private schools who have provided language program enrolment information to Alberta Education using the Extranet application. District level summary reports will be available later this spring.