

GRADUATION YEARS

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

When will the new curriculum be fully implemented?

- The redesigned K-9 curriculum was implemented this school year (2016/17).
- The draft Grade 10-12 curriculum is available for feedback and optional use until June 2017. As part of this process, the Ministry, in collaboration with teams of teachers, will review and incorporate the feedback when developing the final curriculum.
- Schools can continue to trial the redesigned 10-12 curriculum through the 2017/18 school year.
- The redesigned curriculum will be available in July 2018 for the start of the 2018/19 school year.

Why has the implementation schedule for the 10-12 curriculum changed?

- The Ministry of Education is responding to feedback received from its education partners.
- The change allows more time for educators to trial the redesigned curriculum, and for districts and schools to fully prepare for implementation.

To whom will the new grad curriculum apply?

- The requirements of the new graduation program will be applied to those students entering grades 10 and 11 in the 2017/18 school year. These students will be the first to take the new numeracy exam.

What's the difference between the 2004 and the new grad years program?

- There is a redesigned curriculum and different provincial assessments.
- The change has been made to respond to the ever-changing demanding world that students have entered.
- There is more space and flexibility in the curriculum and this will help teachers create learning environments that are both engaging and personalized for students.
- At the heart of the redesigned curriculum are core competencies along with a focus on literacy and numeracy.
- The Grade 10 and 11 provincial assessments have been replaced with literacy and numeracy assessments (currently being created) that will be a requirement for graduation.

What are the new graduation requirements?

- Graduation requirements are maintained at 80 credits total, with a minimum of 16 at the grade 12 level and 28 elective course credits. Required are 52 credits including:
 - two career education courses at four credits each replace Planning 10 and Graduation Transitions
 - Physical and Health Education (four credits)
 - Science 10 (four credits), and a Science 11 or 12 (four credits)
 - Social Studies 10 (four credits), and a Social Studies 11 or 12 (four credits)
 - A Math 10 (four credits), and a Math 11 or 12 (four credits)

GRADUATION YEARS

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

- Language Arts 10, 11 & 12 (12 credits)
- An Arts Education 10, 11, or 12 and/or an Applied Design, Skills & Technologies 10, 11, or 12 (four credits)

How will this change impact students who are already in progress towards completing the 2004 grad years' program? Will students have to take additional courses when new curricula are implemented?

- Students who have completed the former courses to meet graduation requirements will not have to take additional courses or retake classes to meet graduation requirements.
- The former courses will count on the new program as will the new courses for students completing requirements on the 2004 grad program.
- Students who started courses that used to have an exam – Math 10, English 10 and Social Studies 11 courses and equivalents – will not have to write the exams that used to go with those courses.

How has curriculum changed?

- Drafts of the new curricula are available for review on our website:
<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>
- The Ministry of Education is aligning the changes in the Graduation Years Program to the changes made in the Kindergarten-to-Grade 9 curriculum.
- These changes will enable our students to competently compete in a today's changing world.
- Curriculum will be competency-driven and concept-based, so that students learn the skills of the future.
- These include the foundation skills of literacy and numeracy along with communication and thinking skills, and personal and social awareness and responsibility skills.
- There are, however, still strong foundational knowledge pieces within the learning standards that all students are expected to know.

What happens to the old curriculum?

- Students in grades K-9 (effective September 2016) are already learning the redesigned curriculum.
- For the upcoming school year 2017/2018, teachers of grades 10-12 are able to use the old curriculum or parts of the redesigned curriculum.
- Starting the 2018/19 school year, only the redesigned curriculum will be available. There is flexibility within the redesigned curriculum to include topics that are of interest to students which may not be explicitly referenced.

GRADUATION YEARS

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Why are provincial exams being changed?

- An Advisory Group on Provincial Assessment, made up of all key education stakeholders, recommended areas of literacy and numeracy for provincial assessments. They suggested other areas are better assessed in the classroom.
- The former provincial exams do not align with the new Grade 10-12 curricula that teachers may be using.
- For students in Math 10 this year (2016/2017 school year) there is no provincial exam. Instead, students will need to take the new numeracy assessment in the 2017/18 or their Grade 11 year.

What will replace provincial exams?

- Science 10 and Social Studies 11 (and their equivalent) provincial exams will be replaced with classroom assessments.
- The Ministry is working to provide support materials for curriculum and classroom assessment.
- Math 10 exams will be replaced with a numeracy assessment that will be implemented in the 2017/18 school year.
- The Language Arts 12 group of exams will be replaced with a literacy assessment that will be implemented in the 2018/19 school year, when the new 10-12 curriculum is introduced

When will the new numeracy assessment be implemented? Will it be tied to a course, or standalone?

What assessment indicators will be used?

- The numeracy assessment will be trialed in 2017 and implemented in the 2017/18 school year.
- The numeracy assessment will be required for graduation.
- It will be available for students in Grade 10 in the 2017/18 school year, but can be written at any time in a student's graduation learning years.
- The numeracy assessment will not be tied to any course but will measure student proficiency across multiple core subjects.
- The proficiency level will appear as a standalone item on a student's transcript.
- Students can improve their proficiency by rewriting the exam during their graduation years(Grades 10-12).
- Students will also need to pass a Math 10 and a Math 11 or 12 course for graduation, as consistent with existing requirements.

GRADUATION YEARS

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

When will the literacy assessment be implemented? Will it be tied to a course, or standalone? What assessment indicators will be used?

- More detail about the timing of the implementation of the literacy assessment will be forthcoming.
- The literacy assessment will be a graduation requirement, and is not tied to any course.
- The literacy assessment, like numeracy, will be reported on a proficiency scale and appear as a standalone item on a student's transcript.
- Students can improve their proficiency by rewriting the literacy assessment during their graduation years (Grades 10-12).
- Until the literacy assessment is implemented in 2018/19, the Language Arts 12 exam will remain in place and will continue to be 40% of the final course mark for Language Arts 12.

How long do students have to write or rewrite the previous provincial exams?

- The current Math 10 exams will be replaced with a new numeracy assessment in the 2017/18 school year.
- Students who have completed courses associated with discontinued Grade 10/11 exams by June 30, 2016 will have until June 2017 to write / re-write their exams.

All current Grade 10 and 11 provincial exams will be discontinued on June 30, 2017. What about students who completed all of the required courses and provincial exams? Will they have to write the new numeracy and literacy assessments?

- No. The expectation is that students complete EITHER a Math 10 provincial exam OR the numeracy assessment, and a Language Arts 12 provincial exam, based on when they took the courses. Students will not have to write the new numeracy and literacy assessments if they have completed these current provincial exams.