

NWT JK-12 Curriculum Renewal

Timeline to implement BC's curriculum



The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has released its timeline and implementation plan for renewing the Northwest Territories (NWT) Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 (JK-12) school curriculum.

Throughout public and stakeholder engagement on curriculum renewal, the GNWT heard that it should not rush the transition and implementation of the new curriculum. As such, the finalized timeline to shift to British Columbia's competencies-based curriculum will see a gradual transition.

Quick facts

- BC's curriculum will be adapted and implemented in the NWT by multi-grade divisions (JK/K, Grades 1-3; 4-6; 7-8; 9*; 10-12).
 - *Schools where Grade 9 is more closely aligned with Junior High School can choose for those students to be included in a 7-9 grouping; if Grade 9 is more closely tied to Senior High School, schools can opt for the multi-grade division of 9-12.
- Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, schools will have the option to "trial" one, some, or all subjects of the BC draft curriculum in certain grades.
- The first group to trial the draft curriculum will be Grades 4-6. This group is best able to take on learning in the BC curriculum that is 'inquiry-based,' which means it's interactive and engaging, emphasizing the student's role in learning, based on questions or ideas students want to explore. Students in this age group, and their teachers, are already familiar with these approaches.
- Grades 10-12 will implement the curriculum after the earlier grades, as the GNWT works to determine to what degree BC's high school curriculum will be adapted to the NWT.
- The last group to trial the draft curriculum will be Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten. Although the current play-based NWT Junior Kindergarten/Kindergarten curriculum is a good fit with BC's, the curriculum renewal process requires further review to ensure a seamless transition for young children moving into our elementary schools.
- By August 1, 2026, the new **draft** curriculum will be in place in all grade levels and subject areas.
- The 2027-28 school year will be the final year of implementation, with the **final** curriculum implemented in all grades and subjects, and all of BC's assessment tools (exams, standardized testing) will be in place.

Changes by school year

In the 2022-23 school year:

- It will be the final year that NWT students take the Alberta Achievement Tests (AATs), as the territory phases out Alberta's curriculum and large-scale assessment tools, and phases-in BC's.

In the 2023-24 school year:

- Grades 4-6 will trial the draft BC curriculum.
- Grade 9 students in Grade 9- 12 cohort will trial draft curriculum.
- It will be the final year for the current Locally Developed Courses 5-credit system to align with BC's high school credit system (overall course hours will be minimally impacted).
- Schools will have the opportunity to conduct BC's Grade 4 Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) and Grade 10 Literacy and Numeracy examinations in the 2023-24 school year; however, they will be optional.

In the 2024-25 school year:

- Grades 4-6 will implement the draft BC curriculum in all subjects.
- Grade 9 (in 9-12 cohort) will implement final curriculum.
- Grades 7-9 cohort will trial draft curriculum.
- Grade 10 will implement draft curriculum. This will be first class to fall under the new graduation requirements.
- Locally Developed Courses will be renewed on a 4-credit system.
- BC's assessment tools in Grade 4 Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) and Grade 10 Literacy and Numeracy will be implemented.

In the 2025-26 school year:

- Grades 1-3 will trial draft curriculum.
- Grades 4-6 will implement finalized curriculum in all subjects.
- Grades 7-9 will implement draft curriculum in all subjects.
- Grade 10 will implement final curriculum.
- Grade 11 will implement draft curriculum.
- Schools will have the option to implement the Grade 7 FSA examination.
- This will be the last year of the Alberta Grade 12 Diploma Exams.

In the 2026-27 school year:

- JK/K will implement the draft curriculum.
- Grades 1-3 will implement the draft curriculum in all subjects.
- Grades 7-9 will implement the finalized curriculum in all subjects.
- Grade 11 will implement the final curriculum.
- Grade 12 will implement the draft curriculum.
- Grade 7 FSA and Grade 12 Literacy examinations will be implemented.

In the 2027-28 school year (final year):

- JK/K will implement the finalized curriculum.
- Grades 1-3 will implement the finalized curriculum in all subjects.
- Grade 12 will implement the final curriculum.
- All BC assessment tools (exams, standardized testing) will be in place.

The GNWT will continue to update the public as it progresses on implementing the renewed curriculum.

More information

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