

Curriculum Renewal JK-12 Educator Professional Learning FAQ

How will the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) support educators trialling the new Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 (JK-12) curriculum?

As requested, ECE will be offering tailored, in-person professional learning that was co-developed with Education Bodies. ECE is also developing a suite of online courses using the learning management system [ConnectED NWT](#). Furthermore, ECE will provide opportunities for online collaboration and connection through ConnectED courses and housed professional learning networks. A brief description of the support that ECE is offering is detailed in the *Curriculum Renewal: JK-12 Educator Professional Learning Plan*.

What is the expectation of trialling educators for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year?

There are no specific expectations; however, ECE is recommending that educators trialling the draft curriculum in the 2023-2024 school year take some time to review courses on ConnectED. This suite of courses will assist those educators with understanding the foundational pieces of the new, adapted curriculum.

How is ECE supporting trialling educators as they implement the new curriculum during the next school year?

Clear and open communication between ECE and education body superintendents is crucial to supporting the trialling educators in the implementation of the new curriculum. ECE is working closely with the education bodies to provide relevant, effective, and supplementary support as needed. ECE is committed to offering a wide range of professional learning, be it in person or online using ConnectED, catering to the needs of the trialling educators, as and when possible. A brief description of the support that ECE is offering is detailed in the *Curriculum Renewal: JK-12 Educator Professional Learning Plan*.

Will ECE follow the same plan for the remainder of grades/courses as they roll out?

Yes, as ECE works toward a full transition to the new curriculum, it is committed to working with education bodies and educators to tailor ongoing educator training. Throughout the roll-out of the new, adapted curriculum, ECE and education bodies will continue to support educators through professional learning both in-person and virtually. The intention is that networking opportunities will grow to become a foundational support for educators to connect within the NWT, as well as with our counterparts in both BC and the Yukon who are familiar with the curriculum and aligned pedagogical approaches.

Will trialling educators be given additional training time?

Trialling educators will be able to access curriculum-specific training through the professional development mechanisms already provided for in the legislation and collective agreements. This includes working with education bodies to devote one full day for each of the next three years to training associated with curriculum renewal. ECE recognizes that Strengthening Teacher Instructional Practices (STIP) time serves as an excellent opportunity for educators to dive deeply into the new curriculum, both individually and collaboratively with their colleagues.

- The [2020 Ministerial Directive on Strengthening Teacher Instructional Practices](#) (STIP) is an initiative that intends to improve students' academic results by providing educators with more structured time within the school day to develop skills, plan, and assess student learning. STIP provides educators with both "Individual" time that is determined by individual educators, and "Collaborative" time, which is determined by education bodies in accordance with the directive. Both educators and education bodies are encouraged to access some STIP time to support their use of the new curriculum. These activities might include:
 - Accessing professional learning on ConnectEd;
 - Working individually or with other educators in becoming more familiar with the new curriculum;
 - Planning and co-planning of student learning activities and lessons;
 - Preparing of assessment tools;
 - Engaging in professional reading; or
 - Developing integrated year planning.

Who can a trialling educator connect with?

The most important connection that trialling educators can make is with one another. Through in-person sessions, online courses and professional learning networks, ECE will be providing opportunities for JK-12 educators to connect with one another and support each other through this transition.

There will also be scheduled opportunities to connect with educators who have transitioned to/implemented the competency-driven curriculum. These dates and times will be shared via the ConnectED platform.

Will there be costs associated with this professional learning?

ECE has budgeted for the costs associated with the in-person, regional one-day workshops. The ConnectED courses are free for all NWT educators to enroll in, as are the NTWorks (online networks for professional development and learning). Beyond that, ECE and education bodies will discuss any additional costs related to educators trialling the new curriculum.

How can an educator who is expected to begin trialling in 2024-25 prepare for the switch in curriculum?

Educators trialling the curriculum in the 2024-25 school year can enroll in the suite of ConnectED NWT courses available to all educators in Summer 2023. They can also begin to connect and collaborate with peers, either in-person or online, who are trialling the renewed curriculum in the 2023-24 school year, and those who will also trial in the 2024-25 school year.