

Learning Network Educational Services

www.learningnetwork.org

2017 – 2018 Staff

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Learning Network Educational Services Mission:

. . . to facilitate professional learning opportunities for education partners/providers in order to enhance student learning.

Learning Network Educational Services Board Members

Board Chair: Lorne Young - St. Paul Education Regional Division

Board Vice-Chair: Jean Murie – Buffalo Trail Public Schools #28

Bob Brown – Buffalo Trail Public Schools #28

Neil Markham – Tribal Chiefs Educational Foundation

Lorna Scharfenberg – Northern Lights School Division #69

Brent Allen – Executive Director - Learning Network Educational Services

Dalane Immeson- St. Paul Education Regional Division

Joanne McDonald – Lakeland College

Message from the Executive Director

What an exciting time to be in education! Curriculum Development work continues under the direction of Alberta Education. Over a six-year progression, the development of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum will occur in the following subject areas:

Arts Education, Language Arts (English, French, Français), Mathematics, Social Studies, Sciences and Wellness Education. This development of curriculum is also occurring simultaneously in English and in French.

All Curriculum Development work is based on The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum (Programs of Study).

<https://education.alberta.ca/curriculum-development>

One of the major shifts occurring with the development of new curriculum is the shift to Concept-based Curriculum:

A conceptually organized, or concept-based, curriculum departs from “traditional” curriculum, which is based primarily on topics, skills, and facts. A concept-based curriculum brings in another dimension because it includes a focus on the transfer of the important conceptual ideas of a discipline... When key concepts (ideas) of a discipline become the “drivers” for learning, we lead students to deeper understandings that transfer across different situations (pp. 6–7).

(Lanning, L.A., 2013. Designing a Concept-based Curriculum for English Language Arts. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin)

Why the Shift?

- The world is changing and what we need to know is constantly evolving. So much information (content) can change, but concepts stay the same.
- Concept-based learning is about big transferable ideas that transcend time, place, and situation.
- We can't possibly teach everything that is important, but we can teach the big ideas.
- Concepts are a way to organize and make sense of learning.
- Information is useless unless you can do something with it.
- We have promised fewer, but more focused, outcomes.

*Learning outcomes will strategically and clearly combine selected competencies with subject-specific conceptual and/or procedural knowledge (The Guiding Framework, p.15–16).

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together

– African Proverb

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

April 10 – IFNMI18-71 Cultural Appropriation - Webinar
<https://www.learning-network.org/program/1957>

April 16 – IPA18-15 Standard Transmission: Provincial Standards, Standardized Assessment and the Issue of “Grade Inflation”
<https://www.learning-network.org/program/1511>

April 18 - IMA18-130 - Guided Math: A Framework for Mathematical Instruction
<https://www.learning-network.org/program/2330>

April 23 – IPA18-159 Information Session: Mathematics 30-1 and Mathematics 30-2 Diploma Exams with Written Response – Morning Session (On-line)
<https://www.learning-network.org/program/2556>

April 23 – IPA18-160 Information Session: Mathematics 30-1 and Mathematics 30-2 Diploma Exams with Written Response – Afternoon Session (On-line)
<https://www.learning-network.org/program/2557>

April 23, 24 & 25 IFNMI18-27– Mental Health First Aid Through a First Nations Perspective
<https://www.learning-network.org/program/1663>

May 10 – ICLN18-170 Emergent Balance Literacy for Upper Elementary Through High School – Apps Included
<https://www.learning-network.org/program/2606>

May 22, 23 & 24 – IFNMI18-197 Third Annual Spring Gathering for Educators, Reconciliation Education: “Meet the Metis”
<https://www.learning-network.org/program/2662>

May 30 – IFNMI18-73 – UNDRIP – Webinar
<https://www.learning-network.org/program/1959>

In support of this shift to Concept-Based Learning, the Learning Network Educational Services is in the process of securing the services of Lynn Erickson to assist system leaders with their investigation of Concept-based Curriculum and supporting classroom teachers as they move forward. If you are interested, here is the link to Lynn’s co-authored book, “Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction for the Thinking Classroom.” Amazon link - https://www.amazon.ca/Concept-Based-Curriculum-Instruction-Thinking-Classroom/dp/1506355390/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1522112832&sr=8-1&keywords=concept+based+curriculum+and+instruction

The Curriculum Development Management Application (C.D.M.A.) is being populated with current curriculum with the intent of giving participating teachers the opportunity to experience the power and potential of this tool. As soon as this procedure is completed, the next phase of the refinement process will begin.

We remain in the “Development Phase” of Curriculum Development and are nearing the Spring 2018 Checkpoint. This review will take place through four identified Focus Groups:

1. The Specialist Review is with those post-secondary with content.
2. Teacher Focus Groups – those are those that applied last year and will be same group. If there are some that have dropped out then they will be selected from the pool of applicants from last year that were not initially chosen.
3. Stakeholder Focus Groups – CASS, ASCA, ASBA and all the other alphabet groups will be asked to nominate individuals to represent them in their meetings.
4. Small Scale Testing – selected and run by the ATA

Timelines for Development (English and French)

- Kindergarten–Grade 4 by end of 2018
- Grades 5–8 by end of 2019
- Grades 9–12 developed in phases from 2020 to 2022

Please note, these are NOT Implementation timelines. Current curriculum remains in effect until new curriculum is implemented.

Are you looking for innovative educators to follow on Twitter? Consider:

John Spencer - @spencerideas, Ted Fujimoto - @tedfujimoto, Lynn Erickson - @lynnreedy
 As always, to stay current regarding upcoming professional learning opportunities, we welcome you to follow us on Twitter - @Lnetworkes or go to our website at www.learning-network.org

Just a reminder that the Learning Network Educational Services Needs Assessment Survey 2018 is currently open and will remain open until 4:00 p.m. Friday April 20, 2018. Your participation and feedback is integral to our planning process! Please contact your Jurisdictional Leadership team if you have NOT received the link to this important survey.

The Learning Network Educational Services office will be closed for the Easter Break beginning Friday March 30, 2018 and will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Monday April 9, 2018.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of the Learning Network Educational Services we wish you a Blessed, Safe and Relaxing Easter Season.

Brent

Please visit the Learning Network Educational Services website www.learning-network.org to register for professional learning opportunities

Remember to go to our webpage www.learning-network.org and ‘Subscribe to Mailing List’ to receive our email reminders of upcoming P.L.O.’s!

