

December 14, 2016

Dear Parents and Yukon school communities,

Re: Changes to exams in 2017

As you may have heard, British Columbia is making changes to its curriculum and the graduation requirements for students. Yukon schools follow B.C.'s curriculum and graduation program.

An important change is that B.C. is phasing out the provincial exams (BCPEs) for Math 10 (or equivalent), Language Arts 10 (or equivalent), Français langue première 10, Science 10, Social Studies 11 (or equivalent), English 12 (or equivalent), Français langue première 12 and Français langue seconde immersion 12.

B.C. will have two new provincial numeracy and literacy assessments to replace the BCPEs that will be the standard measures of student learning in the key skills of reading, writing, math and problem solving. The expected introduction of these assessments is in January 2018.

This year there will be a transition to the new graduation program:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Grade 10 Students in 2016-17 | Will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow most of the current graduation program requirements (80 credits).• Meet Math 10, Language Arts 10 (or equivalent), Science 10 and Social Studies 11 (or equivalent) requirements with in-class assessments instead of provincial exams.• Write a provincial numeracy and literacy assessment before graduation. |
| Grade 11 Students in 2016-17 | Will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have completed Math 10, Language Arts 10 (or equivalent) and Science 10 (or equivalent) and have written these provincial exams.• Meet Social Studies 11 (or equivalent) graduation requirements with in-class assessments instead of a provincial exam.• Write a provincial literacy assessment before graduation.• Not write the new provincial numeracy assessment. |

| | |
|---|--|
| Grade 12 Students in 2016-17 | <p>Will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish all the current graduation program requirements. • Have completed Math 10, a Language Arts 10 (or equivalent), Science 10 and Social Studies 11 (or equivalent) and have written these provincial exams. • Take Language Arts 12 (or equivalent) and write the provincial exam (BC exams will not be offered after August of 2017). • Not write the new provincial numeracy and literacy assessments. |
| <p>Note: There are no changes to school calendars planned at this time. Each school will determine how to use the existing scheduled exam periods.</p> | |

Courses and credits to graduate

There are no changes to the number of credits or courses required to graduate. They are the same as in the old graduation program. Yukon schools will assist students during the transition to make sure they understand what they need to complete in order to graduate.

Guidance and support will also be available to teachers to assist them in designing in-class assessments to meet the high standards we expect in the graduation program.

For further detail on the new graduation requirements, please visit:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/graduation-info>.

Post-secondary entrance requirements

The B.C. Ministry of Education is working closely with the Yukon Department of Education and universities, colleges and other post-secondary institutions on these changes to make sure that the graduation program continues to meet entrance requirements.

Yukon Excellence Awards

There are no changes to the excellence awards at this time. Students will continue to qualify for these awards when they achieve an 80 per cent final grade in the qualifying courses. More information is available at: <http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/excellence-awards.html>.

More information on the curriculum changes and provincial assessments

From January to June 2017, Yukon Department of Education staff will be working with schools and partners to adapt the B.C. curriculum to include Yukon northern perspectives and Yukon First Nations culture and context. Implementation will begin for the Kindergarten to Grade 9 curriculum in September 2017. We are also continuing to work with B.C. to develop the new provincial assessments and on the changes to the Grades 10 to 12 curriculum coming in 2018.

We look forward to discussing these changes with each of our school communities in the New Year when we will share detailed information on the new curriculum.

For more information on B.C.'s new curriculum, please visit: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please contact your school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicole Morgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Morgan
ADM, Public Schools - Learning Branch