



## **Section Five: Instructional Programs**

### **541 - BOARD/AUTHORITY AUTHORIZED (BAA) COURSES**

The Board of Education is committed to serving the diverse educational needs of students while focusing on student achievement. The Board may, within the parameters of provincially prescribed and locally developed criteria, support school, parent and/or community-initiated educational programs, providing this program reflects the District's commitment to discrimination-free learning environments, anti-racism and equitable practices.

Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses are locally developed grade 10, 11 and 12 courses that meet the graduation requirements set by the Ministry of Education. BAA courses are offered by Boards of Education "to help educators respond to the local needs of schools and their communities and to provide choice and flexibility for their students." (Board Authority/Authorized (BAA) Courses - Requirements and Procedures Guidebook 2017)

#### **Policy**

To ensure that the underlying principles of public education and quality of educational programs are maintained, all Board/Authority Authorized courses must be approved by Boards of Education. Board/Authority Authorized course proposals will be reviewed in late fall and early spring.

#### **Approval and Coding Process**

The following outlines the steps involved in seeking the Board of Education's approval for a Board/Authority Authorized course:

- Step 1 A school or department submits the completed Board/Authority Authorized Course Framework Template to the Superintendent (or designate) for review/approval.
- Step 2 The Superintendent (or designate) submits the Board/Authority Authorized Course Framework Template to the Education and Student Services Committee for review and, if supported, the Education and Student Services Committee forwards the proposed BAA to the Board of Education for consideration.
- Step 3 Once the Board of Education approves the Board/Authority Authorized course, the Superintendent (or designate) retains a copy of the framework for the Ministry upon request.
- Step 4 District staff assigns a course code from the BAA Core Categories posted at [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/board authority courses.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/board_authority_courses.htm)
- Step 5 District staff sends an electronic copy of the Board/Authority Authorized Course Form to the Ministry of Education.



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### Proposal Criteria

Board/Authority Authorized course proposals must adhere to the criteria set out by the Ministry as well as include additional locally-developed criteria.

1. Each Board/Authority Authorized course proposal must follow the Board/Authority Authorized Course Framework Template and include the following:
  - a. course name;
  - b. grade level;
  - c. number of credits;
  - d. course synopsis;
  - e. rationale/goals;
  - f. curricula that upholds the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the inclusion of indigeneity;
  - g. learning standards that are assessable and observable and that can be understood by students and parents;
  - h. elaborations that clarify the Big Ideas, learning standards, curricular competencies, and content, providing a range of pedagogical opportunities;
  - i. assessment components that provide a range of both formative and summative assessment;
  - j. learning resources that support the learning standards;
  - k. learning resources that are inclusive of anti-discrimination and anti-racism initiatives;
  - l. qualified staff/external expertise required;
  - m. financial implications including an outline of fees relating to the direct costs incurred by the school, if any, in providing the Board/Authority Authorized course that are above the costs of providing a standard educational program; and,
  - n. an outline of the consultation process.

At the school level, the consultation process must include the Parent Advisory Council and at the District level, the Education Leadership Group must be consulted. Signatures of those consulted must be included in the proposal.

A complete outline of BAA course requirements and procedures, including the Course Information Booklet, is available through the Ministry of Education website.

2. Each Board/Authority Authorized course must adhere to the following locally-developed BAA criteria:
  - a. be free from any religious, political or ethnic affiliation;
  - b. provide equitable access opportunities for all students;
  - c. fulfill a recognized educational need separate from existing courses and services;



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- d. operate within the parameters of the School Act and regulations and authority of the Board of Education;
  - e. follow all relevant Board policy;
  - f. conform with collective agreements; and,
  - g. be funded at the same levels, by the district, with respect to resources and staff as those established for all other schools/grades/programs and incur no extraordinary costs for program maintenance, with any additional upgrade costs being the responsibility of the school and/or participating students.
3. A Board/Authority Authorized course must not be offered as meeting the graduation requirements set by the Ministry of Education until the Board has approved the BAA proposal.

Date Agreed: October 13, 2010

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April 11, 2018; February 10, 2021;

Date Reviewed: February 12, 2014;

Related Documents: 540, 540A, 541A, F541