

# Making the move to high school

2016 - 2017 High School Guide





## First things first

When making the move to high school, the most important step is choosing a school that suits **YOU**.

So take a moment to think:  
What are your goals? Your interests?

*Write them down!*

*My goals:*

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*My interests:*

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Answering these questions will help guide your decisions over the next few months as you:

1. Research your options
2. Apply to a school
3. Choose your courses

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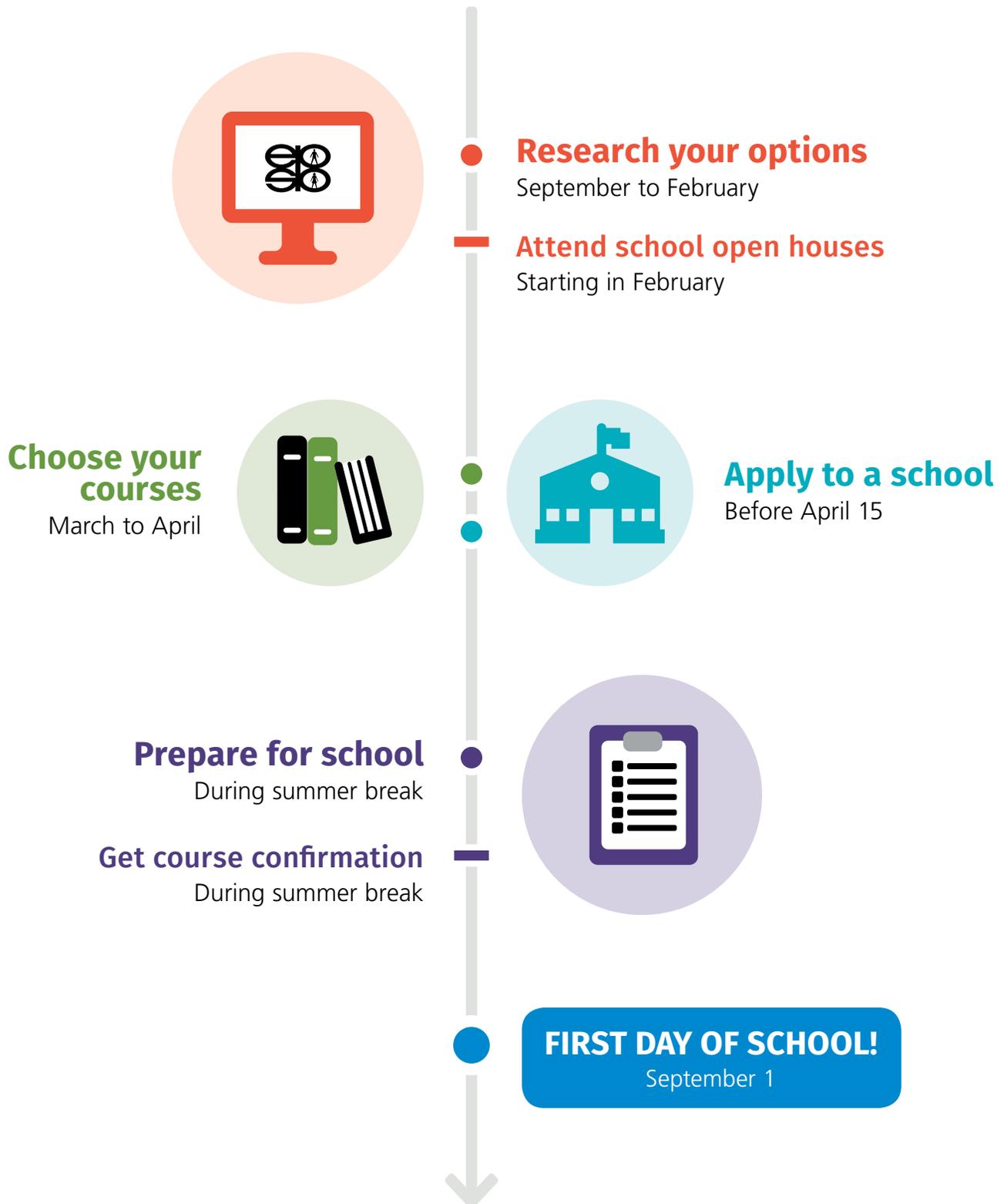
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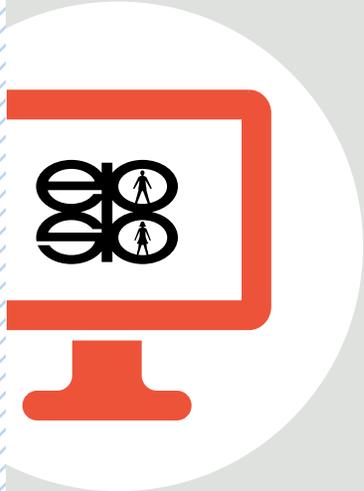
# Get on track . . . . . →

There are lots of steps between finishing Grade 9 and starting your first day of high school. Here's what you need to know to get on track!



# Research your options

No lab coats required.



*Schools I'm interested in  
and their open house dates:*

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Take the time to find information about schools you're interested in and choose one that suits you.

### Visit websites and social media accounts

Find a list of high schools at [epsb.ca/schools/findaschool/list/seniorhigh](https://www.epsb.ca/schools/findaschool/list/seniorhigh). School websites will help you learn more about what you can look forward to at each school, including:

- programs and courses
- athletics and clubs
- services for students
- registration dates
- news and events

School social media accounts will give you a snapshot of student life and exciting ways to get involved.



### Review school program guides

High school program guides share information about school programs, courses, clubs and services. Review these guides to learn about each school's academic focus and what makes it unique.

### ▶ Attend school open houses

Our schools come alive and look forward to welcoming you to their open houses **starting in February!** This is your chance to get an all-access pass to see what different high schools are like. Explore the hallways and classrooms, chat with teachers and students to learn about programs the school offers, and get a glimpse of where your locker and classes might be. Be wowed by science experiments, dance performances, theatrical presentations, musical ensembles and so much more.

Find open house dates at [openhouse.epsb.ca](https://www.openhouse.epsb.ca).





## Registration vs. pre-enrolment



### Not sure which school to choose?

This is a big decision. Talk to your family and teachers, and meet with a counsellor or assistant principal at your school to help you decide what's best for you.

**APPLY BY APRIL 15**

Are you **new** to Edmonton Public Schools?

**YES**

### REGISTER

If you are new to Edmonton Public Schools, **register as a new District student.**

You'll need to complete a Student Registration form. You can register at any of our schools throughout the year, but applying after **April 15** may limit your options.

**NO**

### PRE-ENROL

If you're currently an Edmonton Public Schools student, **tell your parents about pre-enrolment.**

Once you've chosen which high school you'd like to attend, **your parents need to sign in to their SchoolZone account to select your preferred school between March 14 and April 15.**



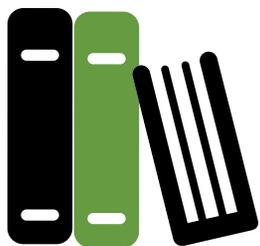
If you have questions, or need help completing pre-enrolment before the April 15 deadline, contact your current school principal.



For more information about high school registration, visit [epsb.ca/schools/register/highschoolregistration](https://epsb.ca/schools/register/highschoolregistration).



## Choose your courses *(continued)*



### What are core courses?

Core courses are required to graduate.

They include:

- English
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education 10

▶ **Career and Life Management (CALM)** is not a core course, but it is required for an Alberta High School Diploma.

### Course sequences

Course numbers are arranged in sequences. For example, an English course sequence might involve taking English 10-1 in Grade 10, English 20-1 in Grade 11 and English 30-1 in Grade 12.



### Prerequisites

A prerequisite is something you need to do or know before doing or learning something else. Most Grade 11 and 12 courses have prerequisites. In most cases, you need to earn a grade of at least 50% in a prerequisite course to take the next course in a sequence.

For example, you'll need **at least 50%** in Social Studies 10-1 to take Social Studies 20-1.

If you earn less than 50%, you may:

- choose to repeat the course or
- continue to the next level in a less challenging course sequence and earn credits retroactively

For example, if you earn less than 50% in Social Studies 10-1, but continue to Social Studies 20-2 and complete the course, you will earn credits for Social Studies 10-2 and Social Studies 20-2.



## Choose your courses *(continued)*

### Diploma exams

are tests given to Alberta high school students who are taking 30-level diploma examination courses. Final marks in these courses are a blend of school and diploma exam marks.

Diploma exams are required in:

- English 30-1 and 30-2
- Social Studies 30-1 and 30-2
- Mathematics 30-1 and 30-2
- Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30 and Science 30
- Français 30-1
- French Language Arts 30-1

### Alberta High School Diploma requirements

To obtain an Alberta High School Diploma, you must earn at least 100 credits by taking required courses, plus other courses that interest you and help you achieve your goals.

At least 56 credits from these required courses

- English 30-1 or 30-2
- Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2
- Mathematics 20-1 or 20-2 or 20-3
- Science 20 or 24 or Biology 20 or Chemistry 20 or Physics 20
- Physical Education 10
- Career and Life Management (CALM)

The science requirement may also be met with the 10-credit combination of Science 14 and Science 10.

Earn 10 credits or more, in any combination, from:

At least 10 credits from these courses

- Career and Technology Studies (CTS)
- Fine arts
- Second languages
- Physical Education 20 and/or 30
- Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) courses
- Knowledge and Employability courses

Earn 10 credits or more in any 30-level course (in addition to English and social studies), in any combination, from:

At least 10 credits from these courses

- 30-level mathematics, science, fine arts, second languages, CTS, or physical education
- 30-level locally developed courses
- 30-level Work Experience
- 30-level Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)
- 30-level Knowledge and Employability courses
- Advanced level (3000 series) in CTS courses
- 30-level Green Certificate Specialization courses
- Special Projects 30

Locally developed courses give you a chance to explore a range of interests like film studies, forensic science or paleontology.

Learn more about these course options from high schools you're interested in.

More information: [education.alberta.ca](http://education.alberta.ca).

## Core courses

### English Language Arts *Ah, the beauty of words!*

Studying English involves much more than learning how to read and write. The two aims of the high school English Language Arts (ELA) program are to:

- provide you with an understanding and appreciation of a broad range of texts
- enable you to use language for many purposes

English focuses on six areas: listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing.

**English 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1** focus on engaging with various texts and refining the ability to use language to express your comprehension of those texts. Students who take this course sequence will spend much of their time studying, creating and analyzing a variety of complex literary texts.



**English 10-2, 20-2 and 30-2** allow you to improve your grammar and sentence-building skills through a variety of assignments in functional, creative and analytical writing. Similar to the English 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1 course sequence, students will engage with a wide range of texts, but there will be less emphasis on literary analysis.

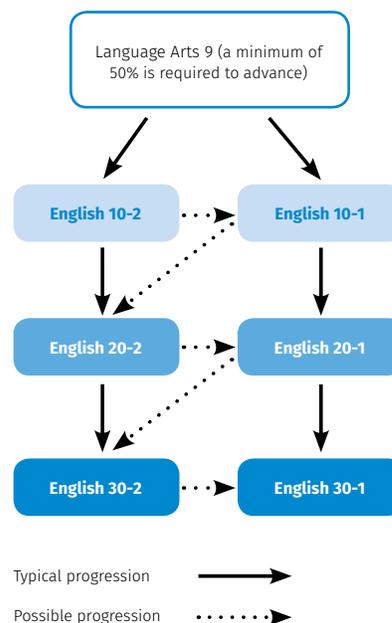
Both course sequences meet diploma requirements and require you to write a diploma exam upon completion of the 30-level course.

Not all post-secondary schools accept English 30-2 for entry, so make sure you're familiar with entrance requirements for the programs you're considering. Talk to your counsellors to make sure your chosen course sequence is right for you.

**REQUIRED**

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to:

- ✓ **complete English 30-1 or 30-2**



## Choose your courses *(continued)*

### Social Studies *Connect with your world.*

Social studies is the study of people in relation to each other and the world around them. You'll learn about the issues our world and communities face, helping you better understand who you are, what you want to become and the society in which you want to live.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to:

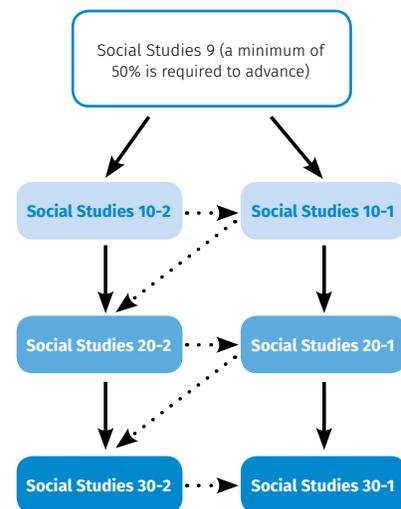
- ✓ **complete Social Studies 30-1 or 30-2**

There are two main course sequences in social studies:

- **Social Studies 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1;** and
- **Social Studies 10-2, 20-2 and 30-2**

In both course sequences, students explore the meaning and effects of globalization, nationalism and ideologies. Additionally, both sequences meet diploma requirements upon completion of the 30-level course. However, the expectations for Social Studies 10-1, 20-1 and 30-1 are more challenging—particularly in concept development, critical thinking and skill development.

Not all post-secondary schools accept Social Studies 30-2 for entry, so make sure you're familiar with entrance requirements for the programs you're considering. Talk to your counsellors to make sure your chosen course sequence is right for you.



Typical progression →

Possible progression ····→

# Mathematics *Here's where it should all add up.*



When it comes to math, it's important to choose courses appropriate to your abilities, interests and future goals. Your previous math marks can help you decide which courses are most appropriate for you.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to:

- ✓ **earn at least 10 credits by taking a 10- and 20-level math course**

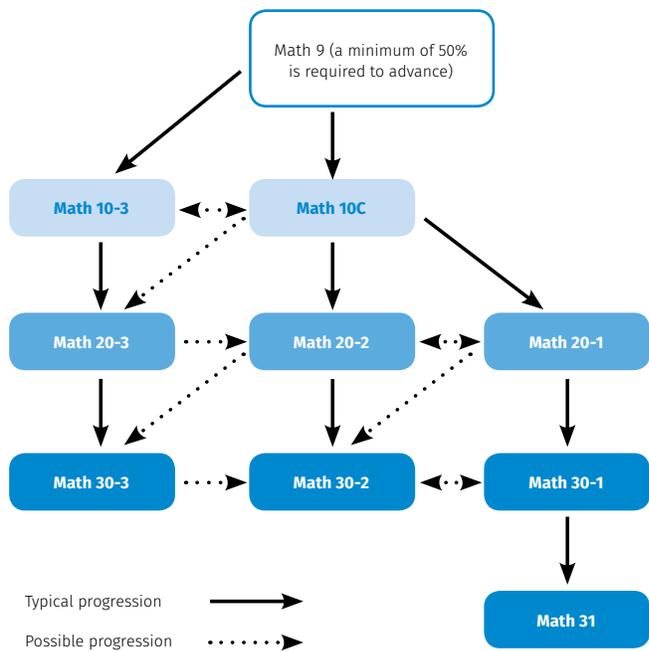
**Mathematics 10C** (Combined) is the starting point for both course sequences and will prepare you for entry into post-secondary programs that may require math. You must have 50% in Math 9 to enter this course.

**Mathematics 20-1** and **30-1** prepare you for entry into post-secondary programs that require the study of calculus. Topics include algebra, measurement, relations and functions, trigonometry, permutations, combinations and binomial theorem.

**Mathematics 20-2** and **30-2** prepare you for post-secondary studies in programs that do not require the study of calculus. Topics include geometry, measurement, numbers, logical reasoning, relations and functions, statistics and probability.

**Mathematics 10-3, 20-3** and **30-3** prepare you for entry into the majority of trades and for direct entry into the workforce. Topics include algebra, geometry, measurement, numbers, statistics and probability.

**Mathematics 31** is an advanced math course that prepares you for post-secondary programs that recommend or require high school calculus for entrance. If you're considering Math 31, you'll need to take Mathematics 30-1. Math 31 is also offered in AP and IB programs.



# Choose your courses *(continued)*

## Science *Curiosity thrives here!*

Science can help students develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to solve problems and make decisions. Studying science also helps students become lifelong learners who maintain a sense of wonder about the world around them.



To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to:

- ✓ **complete Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physics at the 20-level or both Science 14 and 10**

**Science 10** is the prerequisite for all the academic sciences. In other words, you need to complete Science 10 before advancing to other science courses. Science provides you with a unified view of the biological, chemical, physical and earth sciences, and an awareness of the connections among them.

**Biology 20 and 30** explore the interactions of living systems with each other and their environment, and emphasize the context of science by considering the relationships among science, technology and society. In Biology 20, the focus is on energy and matter exchange. In Biology 30, the emphasis is on adaptation and change.

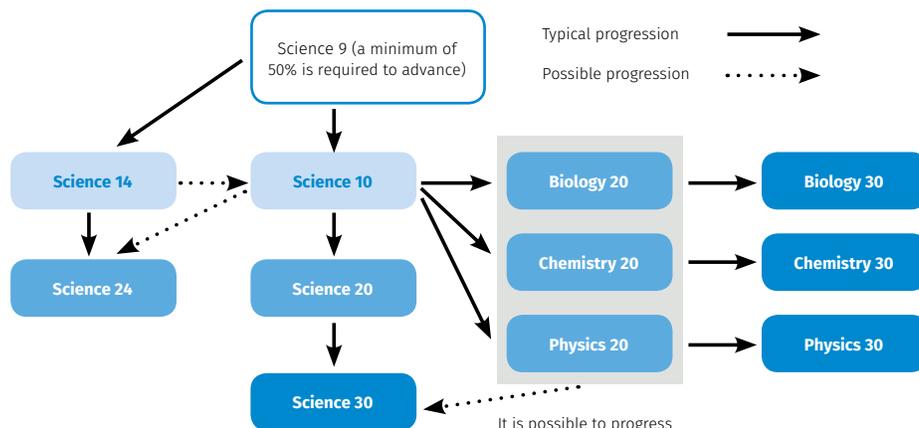
**Chemistry 20 and 30** are the study of matter and its changes, and emphasize the context of science by considering the relationships between science, technology and society. You'll get a chance to explore and understand the natural world and see chemistry's great influence on your everyday life.

**Physics 20 and 30** are the study of matter and energy and their interactions. These courses will help you understand the physics principles behind natural events you might experience and the technology you use daily.

**Science 20 and 30** integrate concepts related to physical, biological and earth sciences.

Students may use any 20-level Science (biology, chemistry or physics) as a prerequisite to Science 30.

**Science 14 and 24** are general programs that allow you to meet the credit requirements for an Alberta High School Diploma—a minimum of 10 credits (two 5-credit courses) in approved science coursework.



It is possible to progress from any of these 20-level courses to Science 30

## Physical Education *(a.k.a. gym and phys-ed)*

A great way to continue leading a healthy and active lifestyle is through a physical education class. Daily active living is the theme of the entire physical education program, and this theme is explored through four main outcomes: movement activities, health benefits, interacting positively with others and personal responsibility.

**Physical Education 10** is one of the requirements for a high school diploma. Physical education gives you the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) instruction is also included.



Physical Education 9

Physical Education 10

Physical Education 20

Physical Education 30

CORE COURSE  
**REQUIRED**  
CORE COURSE

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to:

- ✓ **complete Physical Education 10**

**Physical Education 20** and **30** are optional courses and involve increased exposure to life skill activities and leadership experience. The skills taken from these courses aim to help students make choices that lead to an active, healthy lifestyle.

## Career and Life Management (CALM)

CALM helps you develop communication and career planning skills, giving you ways to cope with the stresses of living in our rapidly changing society. You will learn to make well-informed, thoughtful decisions in all aspects of your life.

**CALM** is organized around three main themes:

- self-awareness and health
- independent living
- career and life choices

Students will participate in independent assignments, group projects and discussions. Guest speakers may visit the class to provide information on a wide range of health and wellness issues.

**REQUIRED**

To earn an Alberta High School Diploma, you need to:

- ✓ **complete CALM**

## Choose your courses *(continued)*

### Honours programs

Many high schools offer honours programs to provide challenging classes that prepare you for success in post-secondary studies. If you are considering an honours program, your courses might differ from a regular high school program. Check with your school to learn more before planning your courses.

#### Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) courses give you a chance to explore university-level material in a supportive high school environment. AP courses help students develop the critical thinking and time management skills they'll need to be successful in post-secondary studies. The AP program allows you to write challenging exams recognized by over 600 universities in more than 60 countries. AP is offered at:

- Eastglen
- Edmonton Christian
- J. Percy Page
- Jasper Place
- Millwoods Christian
- Queen Elizabeth
- Strathcona
- W.P. Wagner

More info: [apcanada.collegeboard.org](http://apcanada.collegeboard.org)

#### International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB) provides excellent preparation for university or college. It helps students develop inquiring minds, a sound base of knowledge and a strong work ethic. IB qualification is internationally recognized and accepted by more than 100 universities worldwide. IB is offered at:

- Harry Ainlay
- Jasper Place
- Lillian Osborne
- M.E. LaZerte
- McNally
- Old Scona
- Ross Sheppard
- Victoria

More info: [ibo.org](http://ibo.org)



# Choose your courses *(continued)*

## Knowledge and Employability

### Earning a Certificate of High School Achievement

Knowledge and Employability courses are for students who demonstrate a level of achievement two to three grade levels below their age-appropriate level. These courses give you the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities at school and off-campus. You can take advantage of community partnerships to prepare for employment, further studies, active citizenship and lifelong learning.

Earn a **Certificate of High School Achievement** when you complete 80 credits in a combination of Knowledge and Employability and other courses.

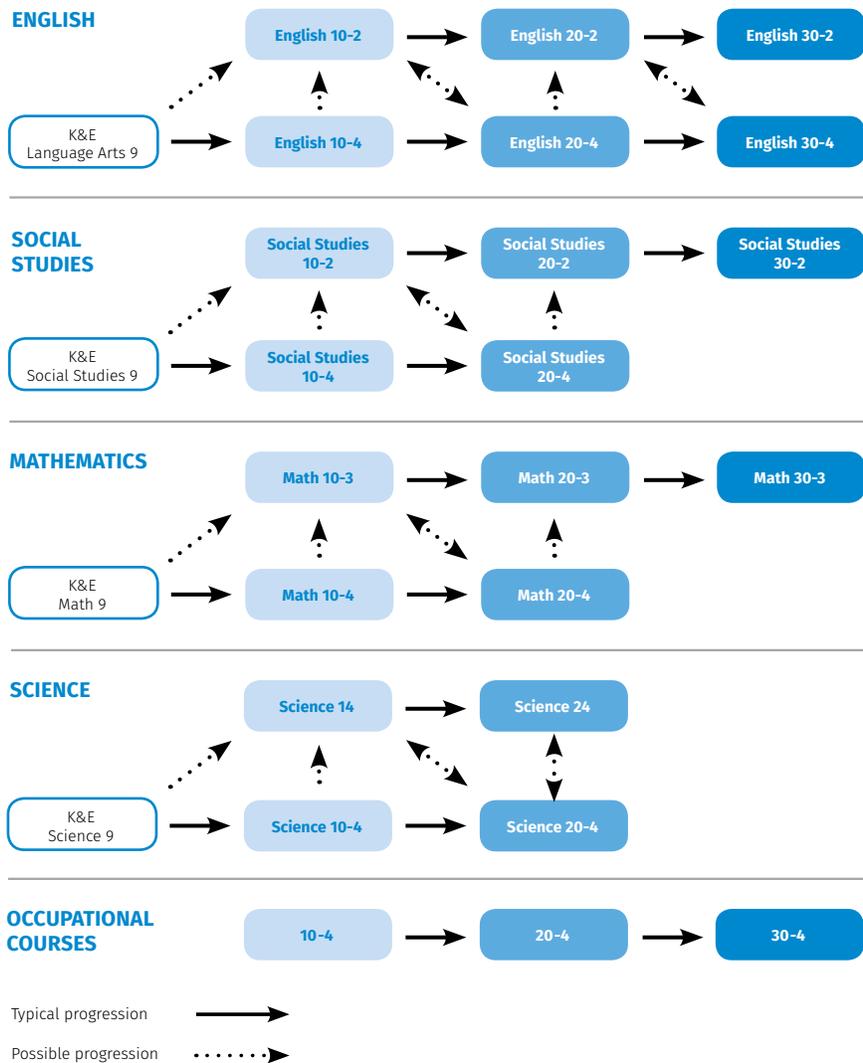
OR

Earn an **Alberta High School Diploma** if you meet the requirements listed on page 8.

#### Knowledge and Employability courses are for you if:

- you plan to complete a Certificate of High School Achievement (rather than an Alberta High School Diploma) and enter the workforce
- your goals for the future include succeeding in school to better prepare for the workplace
- you achieve your greatest success through hands-on learning activities

To transition from Knowledge and Employability courses to other high school courses, you'll need to consult with your school and parents/guardians. Transitions will be decided based on the course as well as your needs, goals and achievements. You may also transition to training opportunities and continuing education (which includes some colleges and apprenticeship programs).



## Your high school plan

Use what you learn from this guide to make decisions about your studies over the next three years. By planning ahead, you can make sure your studies meet requirements and serve your goals and interests.



### Checklist

Make sure you:

- choose core and option courses needed for your program\*
- have the prerequisites you need for each course selection
- consider what you need to apply for post-secondary studies and achieve your career goals

\* Career and Life Management (CALM) is not a core course, but it is required for an Alberta High School Diploma, so don't forget to add it to your list!

## Sample plan

The sample plan gives you a sense of the courses required to get an Alberta High School Diploma.

Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS	COURSE	CREDITS
English	5	English	5	English	5
Social studies	5	Social studies	5	Social studies	5
Mathematics	5	Mathematics	5	30/35/30-4 level course:	5
Science	5	Science	5		
Physical education	5	CALM	3	30/35/30-4 level course:	5
Option:	5	Option:	5	Option:	5
Option:	5	Option:	5	Option:	5
Option:	5	Option:	5	Option:	5
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>		<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>		<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	
Recommended credits: 40		Recommended credits: 35 minimum		Recommended credits: 30 minimum	

### Need a bit more help planning your courses?

Visit [myblueprint.ca/epsb](http://myblueprint.ca/epsb) to design a plan based on courses offered at the school of your choice. You can also find a Canada-wide database of post-secondary and employment opportunities based on that plan.

# Prepare for school

*Rise and shine for your first day!*

*Buses that go by  
my school:*

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*What I need to bring for  
my first day:*

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## Need a ride to school?

Some students drive themselves to school while others are driven by their family or take public transit. Check [takeets.com](https://www.takeets.com) to see if there's an Edmonton Transit System (ETS) route that will take you to school.

## Watch for your course confirmation

During the summer break, you'll get an information package from your high school with confirmation of the courses you've requested. If you need to change any classes, let your high school know.

You may also be invited to attend an orientation day (some schools call this a registration day) where you'll pick up your timetable, get textbooks and smile for your student ID photo.



## Save the date!

The first day of school is  
**September 1!**



*My goals for after high school:*

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### **Summer school**

Summer school can help you prepare for upcoming classes, earn credits toward a high school diploma, upgrade, or repeat a course. It can even help you get a head start on next year. High school students can choose from a variety of 10-, 20- and 30- level subjects and complete a 3- or 5-credit high school course in under four weeks.

As a flexible programming alternative, most high schools offer correspondence and online courses.

For more information, contact a high school, call Metro Continuing Education at 780-428-1111 or visit ***metrocontinuingeducation.ca***.

### **Planning post-secondary studies**

Student Services or an assistant principal at your future high school can help you plan for post-secondary studies. You'll want to become familiar with admission requirements for the post-secondary schools you're considering. Check each school's website for up-to-date requirements, registration deadlines and program info.

Find lists of post-secondary institutions, planning resources and more at:

- ***education.alberta.ca***
- ***eae.alberta.ca***
- ***alis.alberta.ca***



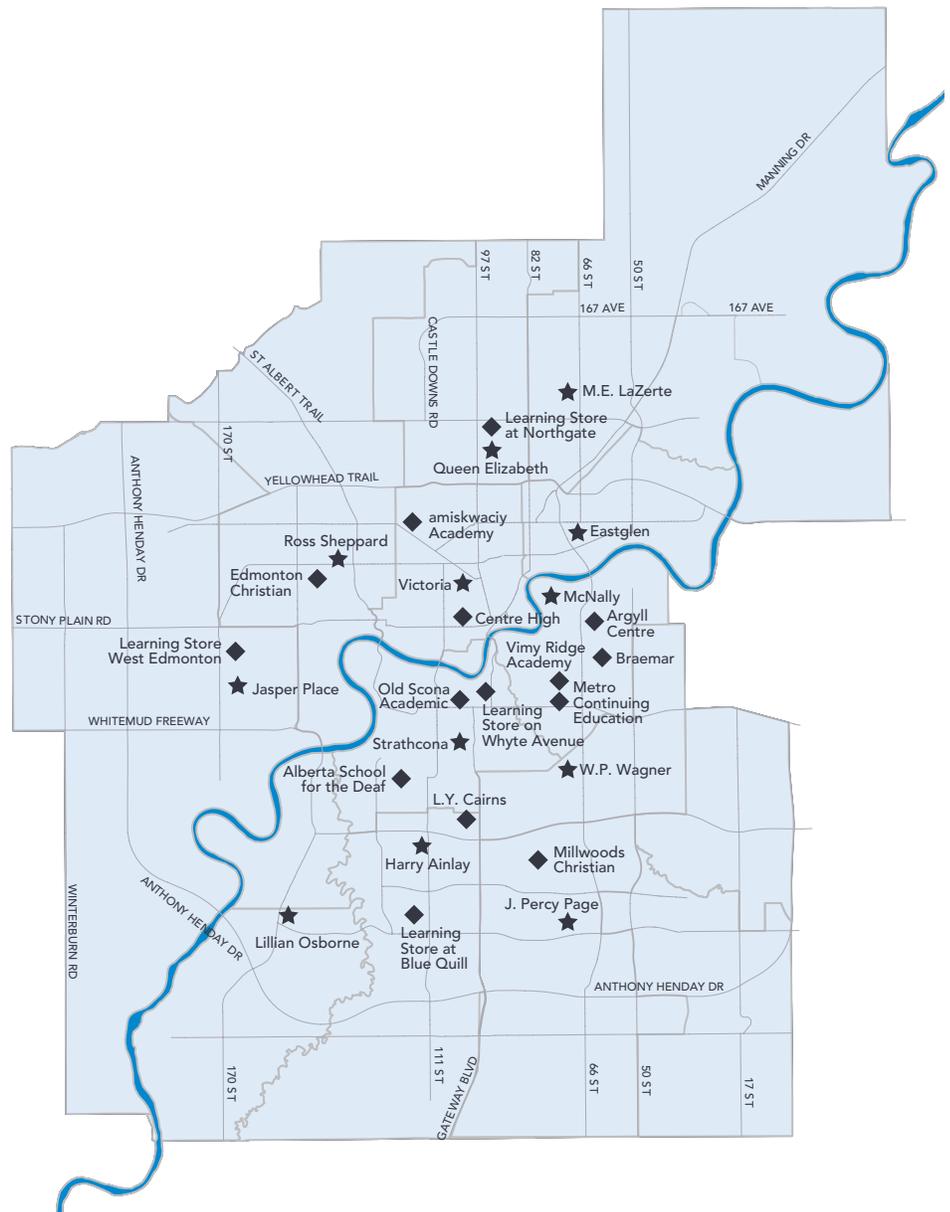
# High school locations . . . . . →

## High schools with designated attendance areas:

- ★ Eastglen
- ★ Harry Ainlay
- ★ J. Percy Page
- ★ Jasper Place
- ★ Lillian Osborne
- ★ M.E. LaZerte
- ★ McNally
- ★ Queen Elizabeth
- ★ Ross Sheppard
- ★ Strathcona
- ★ Victoria
- ★ W.P. Wagner

## Specialized high school programs without designated attendance areas:

- ◆ Alberta School for the Deaf
- ◆ amiskwaciy Academy
- ◆ Argyll Centre
- ◆ Braemar
- ◆ Centre High Campus
- ◆ Edmonton Christian
- ◆ L.Y. Cairns
- ◆ Learning Store at Blue Quill
- ◆ Learning Store at Northgate
- ◆ Learning Store West Edmonton
- ◆ Learning Store on Whyte Avenue
- ◆ Metro Continuing Education
- ◆ Millwoods Christian
- ◆ Old Scona
- ◆ Vimy Ridge Academy



Use the Find a School tool to locate your designated school, or search by program, name or keyword at [epsb.ca/fast](https://epsb.ca/fast)

Find the most up-to-date version of this information at **[epsb.ca](http://epsb.ca)**.

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