

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: December 20, 2022
Regarding: **Winter 2023 Curriculum Updates for Implementation in September 2023**

Message from Sharon O'Halloran, ETFO Provincial - Memo to boards on curriculum updates including Science and Math in Grades 1-8:

Memorandum to: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities
From: Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister
Subject: Winter 2023 Curriculum Updates for Implementation in September 2023

Yesterday, the Minister of Education announced revisions to the Ontario secondary school curriculum in Computer Studies for September 2023 and Technological Education for September 2024. This builds on our work to strengthen STEM education across the province and modernize the curriculum to better engage students in their learning and to prepare them for the future.

These curriculum changes build upon other actions taken by the government to bolster its Skilled Trades Strategy that will help attract more students into the trades including investing \$4.8 million over two years to expand the [Dual Credits program](#).

The curriculum revisions are also part of the [next steps in Ontario's Plan to Catch Up](#) and ensures students have exposure and access to learning opportunities to consider STEM fields and skilled trades as a future career. Other recent curriculum updates include:

- Ontario's revised [Science and Technology curriculum](#) for Grades 1 to 8 implemented in September 2022.
- Ontario's new [de-streamed Grade 9 Science course](#) implemented in September 2022.
- Ontario's new [de-streamed Grade 9 Mathematics course](#) implemented in September 2021.
- Ontario's new [Mathematics curriculum](#) for Grades 1 to 8 implemented in September 2020.

Below please find updates on upcoming revised curriculum for September 2023, including new course codes and descriptions to be used in course registration processes and materials for the 2023-24 school year.

Revised curriculum and courses for September 2023 will be issued in spring 2023 and will be available for educators and parents on the [Curriculum and Resources website](#).

Elementary Language, Grades 1-8, and Grade 9 English

On February 28, 2022, the Minister announced the revision of the elementary Language curriculum and a new de-streamed Grade 9 English course to align with scientific, evidence-based approaches that emphasize direct, explicit and systematic instruction.

The new de-streamed English, Grade 9 course (ENL1W) replaces English, Grade 9, Academic (ENG1D). As of September 2023, English, Grade 9, Academic (ENG1D) should not be offered, and the associated course code will expire at the end of the 2022-23 school year. Please note, English, Grade 9, Applied (ENG1P) expired September 1, 2022.

English, Grade 9 (ENL1W)

Course description: This course enables students to continue to develop and consolidate the foundational knowledge and skills that they need for reading, writing, and oral and visual communication. Throughout the course, students will continue to enhance their media literacy and critical literacy skills, and to develop and apply transferable skills, including digital literacy. Students will also make connections to their lived experiences and to society and increase their understanding of the importance of language and literacy across the curriculum.

Social Studies, Grades 1-3 and Grade 6

On November 9, 2022, the Minister announced that the Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum would be updated for implementation in September 2023 to include new mandatory learning on the Holocaust to help younger students gain a deeper understanding of its significance and combat rising cases of antisemitism in Ontario schools. A follow up communication was sent to school boards on November 25, 2022, by Assistant Deputy Ministers, Yael Ginsler and Denys Giguère, with additional information and links to educational resources.

The ministry will work with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) to develop professional learning for teachers (i.e., an Additional Qualification) so they can further support efforts to educate students on the Holocaust. Investments are also being made in community partnerships for resource development that will support the implementation of the new learning.

In addition, the ministry is also continuing revisions to introduce mandatory Indigenous-focused learning to the Grades 1-3, Social Studies curriculum through a co-development process with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit partners. These revisions will complement the mandatory learning already present in Social Studies, Grades 4-6 and History, Grades 7, 8 and 10, introduced in 2018, and will complete the spectrum of learning across this curriculum.

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Secondary Computer Studies

As announced yesterday, the ministry is revising the secondary Computer Studies curriculum, beginning with a new Grade 10 Computer Studies course: ***Digital Technology and Innovations in the Changing World (ICD20)*** to be implemented in classrooms in September 2023. This course will replace *Introduction to Computer Studies, Grade 10, Open (ICS2O)*. As of September 2023, the ICS2O course should not be offered, and the associated course code will expire at the end of the 2022-23 school year.

The Computer Studies curriculum has not been revised since 2008. Since then, there have been significant technological innovations such as the advancement of smartphones and wearable technologies, connected and automated vehicles, and the rise of social media. The revamped Grade 10 course for September 2023 will respond to these changes with the goal of positioning Ontario as a leading jurisdiction in STEM education, helping to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow.

Digital Technology and Innovations in the Changing World, Grade 10, Open (ICD20)

Course description: This course helps students develop cutting-edge digital technology and computer programming skills that will support them in contributing to and leading the global economic, scientific and societal innovations of tomorrow. Students will learn and apply coding concepts and skills to build hands-on projects and investigate artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and other emerging digital technologies that connect to a wide range of fields and careers. Using critical thinking skills with a focus on digital citizenship, students will investigate the appropriate use and development of the digital technologies that they encounter every day, as well as the benefits and limitations of these technologies.

Secondary Technological Education

In addition to the curriculum revisions above, the Minister also announced the revision of the secondary Technological Education curriculum, beginning with implementation of the revised Grade 9 and 10 Technological Education courses in September 2024. These revisions will include enhanced learning on recent and emerging technologies and will allow students to develop valuable practical skills and knowledge through experiential, hands-on learning. In the coming months, the ministry will be engaging with school boards and stakeholders on the revisions to the curriculum.

Implementation Supports

The ministry is committed to supporting educators to implement revised curriculum through training and resources, including webinars, classroom-ready resources, and parent guides. Timely implementation supports will continue to be provided following the issuance of revised curriculum.

Throughout the current school year, educators can access implementation supports developed through ministry partnerships with third party organizations. For example, educators can access a variety of resources and training for the recently revised Grade 10 Civics and Citizenship course, such as course packages, workshops and videos through [CIVIX](#) and the [Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association](#). The ministry also recently released a call for proposals to Indigenous partners to develop implementation supports for the Civics and Citizenship course.

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Elementary science and technology resources and training supports, such as lesson and assessment plans, educator videos and professional learning webinars, are also available through [Science North](#), the [Ontario Science Centre](#), the [Ontario Principals' Council](#), [Sustain Ontario](#), the [Science Teachers' Association of Ontario](#) as well as [Windigo Councils'](#) websites. Grade 9 Science curriculum implementation supports are also being made available through the [Ontario Science Centre](#) and [k2i's](#) website. The ministry has also recently published sample long-range plans for both [elementary Science and Technology](#) and [Grade 9 Science](#) on the Curriculum and Resources website.

As we continue to modernize curriculum, I would like to thank you for your partnership and ongoing commitment in implementing these important revisions.

Nancy Naylor
Deputy Minister

c: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
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General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
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Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
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For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the Local office by phone at 519-474-3150, or by email at etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com

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