



## **Board/Authority Authorized Courses**

### **What are Board/Authority Authorized Courses?**

Board/Authority Authorized Courses are courses offered by School Boards or Independent School Authorities to meet local needs and student interests. There is no limit to the number of Board/Authority Authorized Courses, formerly known as locally developed courses, that may be used as part of the 28 credits of electives needed to fulfill the graduation requirements for the Graduation Program 2004.

### **What will happen to existing Locally Developed courses?**

A Board/Authority may 'convert' an existing local program, designated LD, to a BAA course by signing an authorization that the course meets the requirements set by the Ministry of Education. The BAA course title is then submitted to the ministry on Form 1526 in order to receive a new course code.

### **Which Courses should be 'converted' to BAA?**

The following information may provide more clarity and guidance to help you when making decisions regarding whether quality courses might be converted to BAA so they can count for graduation credits.

A Board/Authority-Authorized Course is a course at the Grade 10, 11 or 12 level that meets the BAA requirements as modelled in the template, and that does not have a significant overlap with the learning outcomes of a Ministry-Authorized Course. School boards will need to decide whether there is a significant overlap between the outcomes of locally developed courses and Ministry courses before they authorize them as BAA courses.

### **What will happen to Locally Developed courses that do not fulfill Graduation Requirements?**

Courses such as modified, adapted, some ESL courses, and bridging courses used by GED students will retain the LD designation and will not count as credit toward graduation. LD courses are not subject to ministry review. It is important to note that individualized support services, such as support blocks or resource blocks, are not "courses" and do not count for credit towards graduation.

### **What will happen to existing Career Prep courses?**

For students entering Grade 10 in 2004, Career Prep courses will no longer be coded with CP designation, and must either be reviewed and made eligible for Board/Authority authorization as BAA Courses or be designated LD courses.

**How will Board/Authority Authorized Courses be developed or adopted?**

The Ministry of Education has set requirements for Board/Authority Authorized Courses (BAA courses), based on recommendations from a consultative group of school districts. Ministry Requirements are available at: [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad2004.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad2004.htm)  
An optional word template has been provided for use when 'converting' or developing courses.

**How will BAA courses be authorized and coded?**

All School Boards/Authorities will be responsible for ensuring that converted LD courses and newly developed or adopted courses meet the ministry requirements for BAA Courses before granting authorization and submitting course titles to the Ministry of Education on Form 1526. New BAA course codes will be assigned.  
The due date for the Form 1526 is April 30, 2004

**Will there be any verification that the Board/Authority Authorized Courses have followed the requirements set by the Ministry of Education?**

Each year the ministry will conduct a review of randomly selected courses. Boards/Authorities will be notified of the results of each review.

**Do all existing courses have to be 'converted' to BAA and submitted at once?**

In preparation for September 2004, Boards/Authorities may wish to concentrate on those courses which they plan to offer in the 2004-2005 school year as part of the new Graduation Program.

**Where can I find the Board/Authority Template?**

The template is available as a word document at:  
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/boardauth.htm>

**What kinds of things can Boards/Authorities do to begin to prepare for these changes?**

- Revise present list to check for outdated, redundant and inactive courses or courses that deal with curriculum that is now covered by a ministry IRP
- Revise Board/Authority delisting policy
- Decide which courses will become BAA and which will remain LD
- Determine Grade 10 course information that will need to be submitted, using the new process, in time to receive authorization in order to be offered in 2004-2005
- Determine the most active Grade 11 and 12 courses with the highest enrollment that are likely to be offered as part of the new Graduation Program

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