

So You're Planning to Start a CHINESE Language Program?

Information and Resources (December 2006)

What provincial curriculum and resources are available to support a Chinese program?

Provincial Programs of Study

The following provincial programs of study are available:

- Chinese Language and Culture
 - Chinese Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 4–5
 - Chinese Language and Culture Six-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
 - Chinese Language and Culture 10-6Y, 20-6Y, 30-6Y
 - Chinese Language and Culture 10-3Y, 20-3Y, 30-3Y
- Chinese Language Arts
 - Chinese Language Arts, Kindergarten to Grade 9
 - Chinese Language Arts 10–20–30

Current provincial programs of study may be viewed and downloaded at www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/default.asp.

Curriculum Handbooks for Parents and *Curriculum Summaries* contain information on subjects, programs and courses available in Alberta schools. For more information, visit www.education.gov.ab.ca/parents/handbooks.

Learning and Teaching Resources

To obtain a copy of the Chinese guide to implementation and authorized resource list and annotated bibliography, visit www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/languages/default.asp.

Alberta Education's Authorized Resources Database is a searchable database of all authorized resources and may be viewed at www.education.gov.ab.ca/lrdb.

To order authorized learning and teaching resources, contact the Learning Resources Centre at www.lrc.education.gov.ab.ca.

Assessment Support

Teachers may find the following assessment tools useful:

- benchmarks for grades 6, 9 and 12
- performance standards for Grade 4
- performance standards for Grade 5 (under development)
- classroom assessment materials for Grade 4
- classroom assessment materials for Grade 5 (under development)

Additional Supports

Alberta school jurisdictions benefit from the expertise and assistance of the Special Advisor for Chinese Language and Culture through an agreement between the Ministry of Education in the People's Republic of China and Alberta Education. In addition to providing workshops on a variety of topics upon request, the Special Advisor provides information to teachers about:

- materials/resources to support Chinese language education
- professional development opportunities
- exchange and study opportunities for teachers, students and schools
- potential support available through The Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban).

Questions? Contact:

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Organizations and Support

Currently, two parent organizations are actively supporting Chinese bilingual education:

- The Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association (ECBEA) – www.ecbea.org
- The Calgary Chinese Bilingual Education Parent Group (CCBEPG) – www.ccbepeg.calgarycentral.com

The Chinese Language Education Consortium is a collaboration of school jurisdictions, post-secondary institutions and stakeholders involved in Chinese language education in Alberta. For more information, contact International Languages, Curriculum Branch, at (780) 427–2984 (toll-free within Alberta by dialling 310–0000 first).

Professional Development for Teachers

Various professional development opportunities for language educators can be found at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/ProfDevl.asp.

Further information regarding language learning and professional development opportunities is available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/EducatorOpportunities.pdf.

Hanban (The Office of Chinese Language Council International) offers study and professional development. For more information, visit www.hanban.edu.cn.

- The Chinese Bridge (Research and Study for Teachers of Chinese in the World) Scholarship provides Chinese language teachers with an opportunity for professional development. Hanban offers tuition, accommodation, domestic travel and a living allowance. Teachers with at least two years' teaching experience are eligible to apply for a pedagogical and cultural course that includes two phases: four weeks' classroom study and two weeks' study tour. The application deadline is April 1 of each year.

The Intercultural and Second Languages Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association has several Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that may interest language teachers. For more information, visit www.islc.teachers.ab.ca.

Student Learning Opportunities

The following internationally recognized Chinese proficiency examinations are available:

- The Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) examination is designed for students learning Chinese as a second language who are at least 15 years of age. For more information, visit <http://english.hanban.edu.cn/market/HanBanE/413810.htm>.
- The Youth Chinese Test (YCT) is a proficiency examination designed for young learners and may only be taken by students under 15 years of age. For more information, contact the Special Advisor for Chinese Language and Culture.

Post-secondary students are eligible to participate in an essay/speech-writing contest. Winners of the contest are awarded a Chinese Bridge Scholarship to study at a post-secondary institution in China. For more information, visit <http://english.hanban.edu.cn/market/HanBanE/415457.htm>.

Information regarding language learning opportunities for students is available at www.education.gov.ab.ca/languages/StudentOpportunities.pdf.

Students in Edmonton may be interested in the ECBEA Centennial Scholarship Fund. For more information, visit www.ecbea.org.