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**Although Alberta Education will not proceed with provincial implementation of a second language learning requirement in grades 4–9 at this time, school jurisdictions will continue to be encouraged and supported to make second language programs available.**

**Alberta Education will continue to support school jurisdictions that choose to implement a language requirement locally. The department will do so through phased development of programs of study, teacher support materials and student learning resources for grades 4–9 in Chinese, Cree, French, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian.**

## Language Advisors

Alberta Education is pleased to welcome two new Language Advisors:

- Dr. Xinxin Fang from Hanban, China, is supporting Chinese Language Education Programs. She can be contacted directly at [xinxin.fang@gov.ab.ca](mailto:xinxin.fang@gov.ab.ca).
- Ms. Romana Bedriy from the L'viv Board of Education, Ukraine, is supporting Ukrainian Language Education Programs. She can be contacted directly at [romana.bedriy@gov.ab.ca](mailto:romana.bedriy@gov.ab.ca).

They join three other Language Advisors in Alberta to assist with the implementation of language arts and language and culture programs:

- Mr. Shunko Muroya, the Japanese Language Advisor, who can be reached at [shunko.muroya@gov.ab.ca](mailto:shunko.muroya@gov.ab.ca).
- Mr. Wieland Petermann, the German Language Advisor, who can be reached at [wieland.petermann@gov.ab.ca](mailto:wieland.petermann@gov.ab.ca).
- Mr. Andrés Sánchez, the Spanish Language Advisor, who can be reached at [andres.sanchez@gov.ab.ca](mailto:andres.sanchez@gov.ab.ca).

## Programs of Study

Field testing has been completed for the following programs of study:

- Chinese Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grade 7
- Cree Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
- German Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
- Japanese Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
- Punjabi Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9
- Spanish Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grade 7
- Ukrainian Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 7–8–9

These programs of study will be posted in June 2008 on the Alberta Education Web site at <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/com.aspx>.

Provincial implementation of the high school programs of study for French (*French as a Second Language – Nine-year Program of Studies* and the *French as a Second Language – Three-year Program of Studies*) is to occur in September 2008. These programs of study are posted on the Alberta Education Web site at <http://education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/compl/fsl.aspx>.

## Learning and Teaching Resources

Two comprehensive print and audiovisual learning and teaching resources to support French as a second language are now available through the Learning Resources Centre (LRC):

- *Les fêtes hivernales en Alberta*, Gr. 4 FSL, September 2007, order # 679607
- *L'Alberta, ma province*, Gr. 6 FSL, May 2008, order # 715873

These are in addition to the previously developed Grade 4 resource, available from the LRC, to support the French as a Second Language Nine-year Program:

- *Ma classe*, order # 629785

A final grades 4 to 6 kit, *Les fêtes et les célébrations*, is in development and will be available in the spring of 2009.

Authorized learning and teaching resource lists are available online for the following programs:

- Chinese Language and Culture Nine-year, Six-year and Three-year Programs
- Chinese Language Arts K–12
- German Language and Culture Nine-year, Six-year and Three-year Programs
- German Language Arts K–12
- Italian Language and Culture Twelve-year, Six-year and Three-year Programs
- Japanese Language and Culture Nine-year, Six-year and Three-year Programs
- Punjabi Language and Culture Nine-year Program
- Spanish Language and Culture Nine-year, Six-year and Three-year Programs
- Spanish Language Arts K–9
- Ukrainian Language and Culture Nine-year, Six-year and Three-year Programs
- Ukrainian Language Arts K–12

Guides to implementation to support the Language and Culture Nine-year Programs, Grades 4–5–6, for Chinese, German, Japanese, Punjabi, Spanish and Ukrainian are available online and for purchase from the LRC. These guides can be located online via the language links at <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/com/interlang.aspx>.

Guides to implementation to support Ukrainian Language Arts K–3 and grades 4–6 are also available.

A draft guide to implementation to support the Cree Language and Culture Nine-year Program, Grades 4–5–6, is available on the Alberta Education Web site at <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/com/aborlang/resources/creelc4to6qi.aspx>, and a draft guide to implementation to support the Italian Language and Culture Three-year Program is available online at <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/com/interlang/italian.aspx>.

The guides to implementation contain:

- grade-level samples of teaching and learning activities
- information on the nature of second language learners
- information about planning
- learning and instructional strategies
- information about students with specific needs and about gifted and ESL students.

Appendices also include sample specific outcome charts, vocabulary and expression lists, sample lesson plans, and planning and assessment blackline masters.

The following assessment materials for the nine-year programs are available at <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/com/interlang/assessment.aspx>:

- Grade 4 Classroom Assessment Materials (also available for purchase from the LRC)
- Grade 5 Classroom Assessment Materials (draft version)
- Performance Standards for Grade 4
- Benchmarks for grades 6, 9 and 12

A CD-ROM entitled *Speak Globally: International Languages Support Resources*, which will contain links to guides to implementation, authorized resource lists, assessment materials and programs of study, will be available in the spring of 2008 at <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/com/interlang.aspx>. Copies will also be mailed to school jurisdictions. Information on availability will be provided to curriculum coordinators.

### **Student and Teacher Exchanges and School Partnering**

Promotional videos for the Alberta Education student exchanges can now be found online at <http://education.alberta.ca/apps/internationaleducation/languages/>. These videos will assist schools in the promotion of these exchanges.

Matches are currently being negotiated for the 2009 Educator Exchange year. Teachers interested in exchanges in 2010 should now begin researching destinations (Australia, New Zealand, UK, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland) and the exchange process. Visit <http://education.alberta.ca/students/internationaleducation.aspx> for further information.

This summer, 12 Alberta teachers will spend one week job shadowing in Denmark and Germany and will host their Danish and German counterparts in October. To participate next year, visit

<http://education.alberta.ca/students/internationaleducation/teacherexchange.aspx> and click on “Short Term Exchange.” There is no language requirement for this program.

Alberta schools interested in partnering with schools overseas can apply to the Alberta International School Partnership Program (AISPP). School partnerships provide students with the opportunity to practise their language skills with native speakers and develop their intercultural communication skills. Some partnerships have even evolved into school-to-school student and teacher exchange programs. For an application form, a list of currently twinned schools or more information on the AISPP, visit <http://education.alberta.ca/students/internationaleducation/schooltwinning.aspx>.

The Educator Exchange Program has an applicant from Finland hoping for an exchange to Alberta for the 2009–2010 school year. A grades 7–12 male physical education teacher is preferred at the school, and a four-bedroom house is available for exchange. Teachers who are interested should contact Sara Coumantarakis, Educator Exchange Program, at (780) 422–5047.

## Digital Resources

### Spanish

All 18 scenarios of the digital learning resource *¡Hola amigos!* are available on the LearnAlberta.ca Web site at <http://www.learnalberta.ca>. The direct link to *¡Hola amigos!* is <http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/ilha/index.html>. This resource supports grades 4 and 5 of the Spanish Language and Culture Nine-year Program and was developed in partnership with Instituto Cervantes. Enhanced support material has been added, including scripts of the mini-movies in Microsoft Word format for easy use by teachers and students.

### Japanese

The digital learning resource *Konnichiwa!* is available on the LearnAlberta.ca Web site at <http://www.learnalberta.ca>. The direct link to *Konnichiwa!* is <http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/ilk/index.html?launch=true>. This resource, which includes two scenarios, supports grades 4 and 5 of the Japanese Language and Culture Nine-year Program and Grade 10 of the Japanese Language and Culture Three-year Program.

### French

Two new scenarios of *Bonjour les amis!* will be added this spring. Once these scenarios are live, there will be five digital learning objects available to support French as a Second Language Grades 4 and 5. *Bonjour les amis!* is available on the LearnAlberta.ca Web site. The direct link is <http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/flbla/index.html?launch=true>.

### Language Learning Strategies

Two strategy learning objects to support all nine-year programs, grades 4–6, are now available online at the LearnAlberta.ca Web site.

- *Strategies for Learning a New Language: Imitation*  
<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/ils1/index.html>
- *Strategies for Developing Confidence*  
<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/ils2/index.html>

## Activities to Support Languages

- Alberta Education provided funding to the University of Alberta to support the first annual Second Language Pedagogy Conference on April 25 and 26, 2008. This conference highlighted discussions concerning the articulation of language students from secondary to post-secondary institutions and also featured a guest speaker who discussed the European Framework of Reference for Languages.
- Alberta Education is pleased to fund a research project at the University of Calgary that will examine how a blended teaching approach to Spanish as a second language in urban and rural schools could combine digital learning resources of the Aula Virtual de Español (AVE) online Spanish course with traditional face-to-face teaching practices.
- Alberta Education has funded the Chinese Language Education Consortium to develop performance assessment tasks for grades 4 and 5 of the Chinese language arts program.
- Alberta Education has funded the Ukrainian Language Education Consortium to develop performance assessment tasks for grades 3 and 5 of the Ukrainian language arts program.
- Alberta Education has funded the Spanish Language Education Consortium to develop performance assessment tasks for grades 6 and 7 of the Spanish language arts program.
- Alberta Education has provided a grant to the Alberta Assessment Consortium to provide Level 1 and 2 training in assessment that will meet the needs of novice and experienced teachers in order to help refine effective language assessment practices.
- A new educational resource was mailed to all Alberta schools in April 2008. This resource, *Open Your World with Languages—Celebrating Languages Week*, was designed to promote interest in and reflection on the benefits of language learning.

## Contact

For more information, contact Sigrid Olsen, Team Leader, Languages, at (780) 422–2669 or at [sigrid.olsen@gov.ab.ca](mailto:sigrid.olsen@gov.ab.ca). To be connected toll-free inside Alberta, dial 310–0000.