

BOARD AUTHORITY AUTHORIZED (BAA) COURSES

Background

The district recognizes the importance of board authority authorized (BAA) courses in providing unique programs which are appropriate to the local needs of students and the community while providing choice and flexibility. With authority granted from the Ministry of Education, Boards of Education may support school, parent and/or community-initiated locally developed grade 10, 11 and 12 courses that are deemed to meet the parameters and graduation requirements set by the Ministry of Education, as well as locally developed criteria.

Procedure

1. Schools or departments interested in seeking approval for a BAA or locally developed course must first complete a course framework.
2. The completed course framework needs to be submitted by the school or department to the assistant superintendent to determine whether the course will be submitted to the board for approval or whether revisions will be required prior to submission. All BAA applications must be approved by the assistant superintendent before they will be submitted to the board for their consideration.
3. The assistant superintendent submits the recommended course framework and a board authority approved course form to the Board of Education for their consideration and approval.
4. Once a locally developed course has been granted BAA status by the board, the assistant superintendent will retain a copy of the approved course framework for the Ministry of Education upon request.
5. District staff assigns a course code from the BAA core categories posted at: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/board_authority_courses.htm
6. District staff sends an electronic copy of the board authority authorized course form to the Ministry of Education.
7. A BAA course shall not be offered as meeting the graduation requirements set by the Ministry of Education until the board has approved the BAA proposal.

8. Proposal Criteria

- 8.1 BAA course proposals must adhere to the criteria set out by the Ministry as well as include additional locally-developed criteria.
- 8.2 Each board authority authorized course proposal must include the following:

Course Name	The name of the course.
Grade Level	The grade level.
Number of Credits	The credit value reflects the length and scope of a course. A full course is 4 credits (100 to 120 hours)

Course Synopsis	A clear and concise synopsis of the course. It outlines what a student has gained when the course is completed.
Rationale	Is a statement of the reasons for wanting to offer opportunities to study this course and answers the question: Why is it important for students to take this course?
Organization Structure	Includes the curriculum organizer (the big ideas) and the specific topics or units, which include the learning outcomes, instruction and assessment components, and time allotments.
Learning Outcomes	The learning outcomes are statements of what students are expected to know and be able to do within each course curriculum organizer.
Instructional Component	Should expand on and make clear the intent of the learning outcome. It involves the use of activities, techniques, and methods that can be employed to meet diverse student needs and to deliver the curriculum. The nature and features of the course will influence instructional strategies and activities.
Assessment	Provides opportunities to assess formatively and summatively the students' achievement of the learning outcomes.
Learning Resources	The learning resources selected for the course should be age appropriate and support the learning outcomes. The selection and development of learning resources should take into account the needs of learners. Major learning resources, including teacher resources, should be listed.

A complete outline of BAA course requirements and procedures, including the Course Information Booklet, is available through the Ministry of Education website.

- 8.3 Each BAA course must adhere to the following locally-developed BAA criteria:
- be free from any religious, political or ethnic affiliation;
 - provide equitable access opportunities for all students;
 - fulfill a recognized educational need separate from existing courses and services;
 - operate within the parameters of the School Act and regulations and authority of the Board of Education;
 - follow all relevant board policy;
 - conform with collective agreements; and,
 - be funded at the same levels, by the district, with respect to resources and staff as those established for all other schools/grades/programs and incur no extraordinary costs for program maintenance, with any additional upgrade costs being the responsibility of the school and/or participating students.

Reference: Sections 22, 65, 85 School Act
 BC Ministry of Education Board/Authority Authorized Courses
 Requirement and Procedure Handbook
 Board Authorized Course Ministerial Order 285/04