

CALGARY SCIENCE SCHOOL SOCIETY

Policy Title: **Locally Developed Courses**

Policy No. **6.11**

Legal Reference: Alberta Education, Policy 1.2.1

RATIONALE: Locally developed courses allow the Calgary Science School flexibility in meeting the needs of students and teachers and in maintaining a culture of innovation.

POLICY: The Board of the Calgary Science School may approve locally developed courses that do not substantially replicate existing provincially approved courses.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Locally developed courses promote a culture of innovation and excellence. At the same time, they provide for variety in our program that appeals to students' diverse interests and abilities.
2. Locally developed courses allow teachers to bring their interests, expertise and experience to the students.
3. School administration will monitor locally developed courses in order to maintain high standards and to assess the appropriateness of those courses.
4. No significant overlap is permitted between locally developed courses and existing provincially approved courses. A course in which the method of delivery or the provision of additional instructional time to attain the learner expectations of other courses are the only differences from that of a provincial course will not be considered as a locally developed/acquired and authorized course.

First Reading June 24, 2008

Adopted November 25, 2008

Amended _____

PROCEDURES:

1. Teachers wishing to offer a locally developed course must make an application to the school administration. Such an application must include:
 - a. course name;
 - b. grades at which the course is to be offered;
 - c. implementation date;
 - d. the philosophy and rationale for the course;
 - e. a statement of general learner expectations and a statement of specific knowledge, skill and attitude learner expectations for the course;
 - f. any special facilities or equipment necessary;
 - g. the identification of controversial or sensitive course components and treatment at the school level;
 - h. a statement indicating that significant overlap with provincially developed courses does not exist; and
 - i. the assessment standards for the course, which indicate the means that may be used to assess student achievement, and the overall level of difficulty of the course.
2. The Board of the Calgary Science School shall approve locally developed courses. This approval is for a period of no more than 3 years, after which the course must be approved again.
3. Locally developed courses must have an instructional focus and not replace activities that are a normal part of extra- or co-curricular activities or activities offered by community programs.