Career Education: What’s New?

Career Education K–12 is a redesigned provincial curriculum that focuses solely on the competencies and content required for career development. In the past, Career Education was part of the Health and Career Education (HACE) K–9, Planning 10, and Graduation Transitions programs. The review of all curricular areas has resulted in the health curriculum being combined with physical education to create a new, holistic Physical and Health Education curriculum. The career components of Health and Career Education, Planning 10, and Graduation Transitions have been re-envisioned as the Career Education K–12 curriculum.

The new curriculum addresses the concern often expressed by students, educators, parents, employers, and post-secondary institutions that a student’s career development education needs to begin at a much earlier age. Career development is an ongoing process that requires a variety of explorations and experiences both within and outside the school environment.

The Career Education curriculum provides students with the opportunity to make connections between what they learn in school and the local and global community. The curriculum encourages students to actively pursue new relationships or build on existing relationships with their community. Mentorship, volunteerism, and community and global responsibility form an integral part of the curriculum. Students are encouraged to reflect on their experiences to gain an awareness and understanding of the role they play as individuals in supporting and strengthening their communities.

Kindergarten to Grade 5

What’s the same?

• Career-related curricular objectives are similar to those of the HACE curriculum.

What’s new?

• This is a redesigned Career Education provincial curriculum for K–5 focused solely on career development.
• During these years the focus is mainly on awareness and early exploration.
• In K–5, students develop an awareness of their personal interests and strengths, and the roles and responsibilities of family, school, and community.

Grades 6 to 9

What’s the same?

• Career-related curricular objectives are similar to those of the HACE curriculum.
What’s new?

- This is a redesigned Career Education provincial curriculum for Grades 6–9 focused solely on career education.
- In Grades 6–9, students explore concepts such as identity, leadership, personal planning, and transferable skills.
- As students build on the foundation developed from experiences in K–5, they begin to explore in greater depth their skills and passions, and begin to determine possible pathways to their goals.

Grades 10 to 12

What’s the same?

- There is a continued emphasis on career and post-secondary transitions.
- A work experience/apprenticeship component will be maintained as an elective.

What’s new?

- Emphasis on real-world experiences both within and outside the classroom environment allows students to further develop their understanding of career possibilities.
- With emphasis on experience, there will be extended opportunities for developing job readiness through opportunities to obtain workplace certificates.
- Career Education curriculum may be clustered with other courses for larger-impact career exploration options.
- Graduation transition plans and a final capstone project will replace Graduation Transitions.
- The concept of a capstone project will be introduced to form part of a student’s graduation transition plan. The capstone project design is under development, and more details are forthcoming.
- The demonstration project in Graduation Transitions will meet the Capstone requirement until further notice.

What else is coming for Grades 10 to 12

- Details regarding graduation transition plans and the capstone project are still under discussion. More information will be provided as directions are determined.
- More details on credit allotment and graduation requirements are also forthcoming.

Considerations for delivering Career Education K–12

The ministry recognizes that school configurations vary among districts. The new curriculum was purposely designed to be flexible in order to accommodate differences in school structures and grade groups. The Curricular Competencies, Content, and Big Ideas are created to represent where a student would be in his or her development by the end of each cluster of grades.