

Ministry of Education Curriculum Review Cycle

The Ministry of Education is responsible for the development of curriculum policy documents. In 2003, the Ministry established an ongoing 5-year cycle of curriculum review. However, the curriculum review is now on a 7-year cycle.

The review is not a development of a completely new curriculum, but is intended to ensure that the curriculum remains current and relevant and is age appropriate from Kindergarten to Grade 12. A number of subject disciplines enter the review process each year. The review supports students, teachers, schools and boards by identifying targeted areas in need of support and allows lead-time for development or updating of related support materials as required. This year marks Year 5 of the cycle, which sees the start of the review for the Health and Physical Education curriculum - Grades 1 to 12.

The review of each curriculum policy document includes a technical analysis of the current curriculum documents by teams of classroom teachers and subject experts (the participants in the technical analysis are identified by subject/division associations) and content analysis of information gathered from educators from all Ontario school boards through province-wide Focus Group Sessions. For the focus group sessions, participants are asked to be prepared to discuss the strengths of the current curriculum policy documents, to identify potential areas for improvement and to comment on how a specific change may impact on the curriculum. Consultations also take place with the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education, faculties of education, parents and students, universities, colleges and workplace organizations, and other ministries. The Ministry of Education also gathers research with the benchmarking or comparing of the Ontario curriculum with the curriculum of other provinces and international jurisdictions as well as a literature search of recent curriculum reviews. Information from the technical analysis, focus group sessions, consultations, focussed benchmarking of Ontario's curriculum, and research on the curriculum review process is analysed. Based on all of the information gathered, recommendations for revisions to the curriculum policy documents are made. Parallel English/French writing teams of classroom teachers and subject experts draft revised documents based on the recommendations.

The Ministry subsequently hosts a Feedback Consultation process with teachers, principals, school board staff and stakeholders on the draft of proposed revisions to the Ontario curriculum documents under review. Participants in the process are asked to prepare a report on the draft of proposed revisions gathered through a consultation process within their board or organization. All of the input from this process and other consultations is used to guide further revisions to these curriculum documents prior to the finalization and release of the documents to schools and school boards.

H&PE 1-8 release spring of 2009 for optional implementation during the 2009-2010 school year and mandatory implementation beginning September 2010.

H&PE 9-12 release spring of 2010 for mandatory implementation beginning September 2011.