

Secondary Schools Course Offerings Report 2017-2018

Presented by:

Andrew Holland, Neder Dhillon, Darren Bedard,

Raj Puri, Robin Smalley

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Context and Background:

As students advance through their high school years, their skills and thinking evolve as they age, and the content and competencies of their learning experiences become more specialized. As a result, the provincial curriculum and our secondary schools offer greater elective choices and programs for students as they progress through the graduation years. For example, in grade 8, students are offered one elective choice, while in grade 12, students are offered seven elective choices.

Every year, secondary schools in our district balance between providing a wide range of senior courses for students, with the student demand for these courses. Schools typically offer many elective courses for students, but only run those that enough students sign up for. Student interest in a course can vary from year to year, which means a course may run in one year but not the next. At times, this provides challenges in terms of course or program sustainability and continuity, and student choice.

This report is a survey on the range of courses offered in 2017-2018 at our secondary schools that are reliant on a single block of staffing. These courses may require additional resources to run and the intent of the report is to understand the extent to which secondary schools might be subsidising specialized or unique programs at the expense of core offerings, with the aim being to continue to provide choice to our students while being fair, equitable, and financially responsible.

Below is a list of unique course offerings in Surrey's secondary schools. As this report is focused on student choice, it does not comment on traditional courses found in every secondary school (i.e., Law, Marketing), but rather focuses on courses that are not regularly found at a majority of our secondary sites. This report also does not include Career or Partnership in Trades Programs, which are found throughout our district. For each of the courses, we have provided information on which schools are currently offering the course and how many students are currently enrolled.

Unique Program Offerings at the Secondary Level in Surrey 2017-2018:

Courses	Number of Students																		
	Clayton Heights	Earl Marriott	Elgin Park	Enver Creek	Fleetwood Park	Frank Hurt	Fraser Heights	Guildford Park	Johnston Heights	Kwantlen Park	LA Matheson	Lord Tweedsmuir	North Surrey	Panorama Ridge	Princess Margaret	Queen Elizabeth	Semi	Sullivan Heights	Tamanawis
Advanced Placement																			
AP Biology 12				19										30					
AP Calculus 12	30	26	27				129		30					31					30
AP Chemistry 12				19	12														
AP Computer Sciences 12									9*										
AP Design 12			11*																
AP English Literature 12			9*															14	
AP Physics Honours 11							44												
AP Physics Honours 12							44												
AP Psychology 12		45					22												
AP Statistics 12		22																	
AP Studio Art 12			11*	9*					6*										
Languages																			
Enhanced/Intensive French 11													21						
French Immersion 11**		69								45	51			39					
French Immersion 12**		78								42	42			51					
Japanese 11							44						18						
Punjabi 11				57		47					59			82	47	58		102	56
Punjabi 12											43			33	28	27		2*	20
Sports Academies																			
Hockey Academy		25										23							
Softball Academy												19							
Other																			
Applied Tech 11								27											
Social Justice 11								48											
District Programs of Choice																			
Inter-A 11-12																53			
International Baccalaureate 11-12																	257		
* this course is combined with another to make a viable number for a class																			
** French Immersion is a K-12 Program of Choice																			

Process of Determining Which Classes Will Run in a Secondary School:

The process for determining which classes will run each year is based upon the same general principles at each of our secondary schools. To begin the course selection process, schools survey students for their preferences by presenting them with options.

The factors that are considered when deciding which courses to run include the following:

- Student requests
- Meeting program needs of all students
- Providing for student and parent choice
- Staffing entitlements
- Teacher qualifications, strengths, and preferences
- Physical resources (classrooms/technology/labs/shops/gym)
- Program sustainability

Advanced Placement Classes:

Advanced Placement (AP) classes are offered at 10 of our 19 secondary schools for students in grades 11 and 12. Students enrolled in AP classes are in those classes for two blocks over the year and write an exam in May to receive the external AP credit, which is equivalent to a first-year university course credit. These classes are time intensive and involve a significant commitment for success. These classes are academically rigorous and the number of students enrolled in the class can decrease during a semester. These courses are a popular advanced learning opportunity for our students that are often linked to a university application or credit. In some situations, the class size for an Advanced Placement course is smaller than for other courses and in other situations it is greater. In situations where a small number of students are requesting an Advanced Placement course, the school staff must balance offering this opportunity for students with available resources.

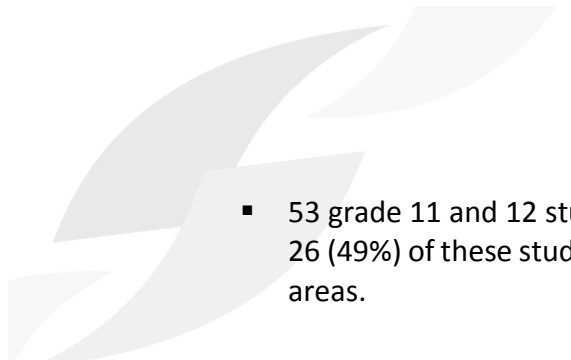
Secondary Programs of Choice:

Our district offers two Programs of Choice, specifically for secondary students; the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at Semiahmoo Secondary and the Inter-A Program at Queen Elizabeth Secondary.

- 257 students are currently enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Program at Semiahmoo, and 218 (85%) of these students come from the Semiahmoo, Earl Marriott, and Elgin Park catchment areas.

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Surrey Schools – Continuous Learning 14033 92nd Avenue, Surrey, BC, V3V 0B7
Tel: (604) 595-6077 Fax: (604) 595-6076 www.surreyschools.ca

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- 53 grade 11 and 12 students are enrolled in the Inter-A Program at Queen Elizabeth, and 26 (49%) of these students come from the Queen Elizabeth and Kwantlen Park catchment areas.

Points for Consideration:

- Access to unique course offerings and student choice are important elements of a high-quality district-wide graduation program.
- A significant number of students and parents in our district access unique courses.
- School-based administrative teams work to balance student demand with providing a wide range of course offerings, all within the resources they have available to them.
- As with other resources in the district, the Memorandum of Agreement has put increased pressure on the resources schools have to offer unique courses for students.