DATE:	June 28, 2023
TO:	Board of Trustees
FROM:	Shawna Warren, Superintendent
ORIGINATOR:	Jonathan Konrad, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services
GOVERNANCE POLICY:	*Policy 700 – Superintendent of Schools*
ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:	*AP820 – Locally Developed Courses* Assurance Domain – Student Growth and Achievement
SUBJECT:	Authorization of Junior High Locally Developed Optional Course – Academic Skill Building

PURPOSE:

For approval. Motion required.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

a) That the Board of Trustees approve the Authorization of the Junior High Locally Developed Optional Course – Academic Skill Building to be authorized as a course of study within Sturgeon Public School Division from September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

School divisions have the flexibility to develop locally developed courses at the Junior High level. These learning opportunities can extend or expand on the Program of Studies. Additionally, locally developed courses accommodate student needs and interests as well as encourage and support innovative learning and teaching practices.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the June 28, 2023, Public Board meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Course Outline – Junior High Locally Developed Optional Course – Academic Skill Building

LOCALLY DEVELOPED OPTIONAL COURSE PROPOSAL

Reference – [Education and Training/Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education/Curriculum and Programs of Study/Locally Developed Courses/Overview](#)

_____

School Authority:	Sturgeon Public School Division
School(s) where course may be offered:	All junior high schools
Title of Course:	Academic Skill Building
Grade(s) at which the course may be offered:	7, 8, 9
Start Date:	September 2023
End Date:	June 30, 2026

Philosophy:

Students have a wide range of abilities and skills. While a vast array of learning strategies are taught within each course, students benefit through development of their personal learning skills, as well as work and study habits. When students become actively involved in their learning, they take greater responsibility to plan, monitor and assess their achievement.

Rationale:

This course is designed to assist students to experience success in their core courses. It will provide alternate tools, skills and learning strategies tailored to individual needs. Through explicit instruction, guided practice and ongoing feedback, students will have the opportunity to maximize their achievement.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS (CTF) and STATEMENT OF GENERAL LEARNER EXPECTATIONS:

1. **Students will become aware of their personal learning styles or preferences**
   1.1 Students will recognize that individuals learn in different ways and at different rates.
   1.2 Students will identify strategies that are effective for them as learners.
   1.3 Students will monitor effectiveness of strategies used.

2. Students will develop a greater sense of responsibility for independent learning

    2.1   Students will demonstrate the ability to manage time wisely.

    2.2   Students will demonstrate the ability to set goals and to establish and carry through a plan of action.

    2.3   Students will demonstrate ability to prepare an action plan to deal with barriers to learning.

    2.4   Students will demonstrate willingness to take risks by attempting new approaches and strategies.

Anticipated Enrolment:
- Up to 30 students per class

Special Facilities and Equipment:
- As required by individual students

Controversial or sensitive course components and treatment:
- None

Learning resources:
- Student planners
- Digital and print material

No significant overlap with provincially developed curriculum

Assessment standards:
Students will be assessed according to the learner outcomes of the course. Teacher assessment will be based on good practice including research-based assessment tools, teacher observations, and other relevant evidence. Student participation, cooperation, attendance and attitude will be monitored and reported separately from the course mark.

Plan for course evaluation and monitoring:

- Course offering will be evaluated as part of the school's program planning and the Division's monitoring of school programs.