

Appendix D

Provincial Policy Framework - Use of Instructional Time

Two Learning for Life Plans - Extracted References

Since 2002, the Department of Education has had multi-year plans for the public education system. The first plan, *Learning for Life: Planning for Student Success*, was introduced in September 2002 as a three year plan. The second plan, *Learning for Life II: Brighter Futures Together* is a four-year plan which was released in 2005, and which was based on input from all education partners. Both plans referred to use of instructional time.

In the first plan, within a theme called *Basics First*, more time for learning was addressed.

- For reading and writing: “As of September 2002, standard minimum times are in place to ensure students spend adequate time, on a daily basis learning language arts.
 - Within the minimum standard, the importance of uninterrupted time is reflected in a required Active Reading Hour for grades primary to 3.
 - In grades 4 to 6 ... structured, uninterrupted time to support [students’] growth as readers.
 - For junior high, the department has released a Time to Learn strategy. Schools are expected to review time now spent on language arts and maximize ways to help students develop literacy skills in other school subjects.
 - Semestered high schools have been asked to review ways to provide continuity and uninterrupted learning by offering year-long language arts courses.”

- For mathematics: “A standard minimum time has been set to ensure students spend adequate time, on a daily basis, in mathematics.
 - In early elementary, students should now spend at least 45 minutes a day on mathematics, and in later elementary, at least an hour.
 - As in language arts, the Time to Learn strategy asks schools to review and maximize time now spent on mathematics in junior high.
 - Semestered high schools have been asked to maximize ways to provide continuity and uninterrupted learning, such as offering year long math courses, particularly in grade 10.”

The second plan includes a theme which builds on what was in the first plan. It says:

- “Today’s youth need to know much more than ever before if they are to participate fully in a global society. By taking a fresh look at the structure and use of instructional time, we can ensure students have the time they need to learn, and teachers have more time to teach.
- In consultation with education partners, ways will be identified to alleviate the pressures on school schedules and to find more instructional time. Results will be monitored, to ensure students have the time they need to succeed in their education.”