

Program and Diploma Requirements, 1989, rev. ed. (OSIS), section 6.14: Equivalent Standing for Mature Students.

2.0 POLICY

2.1 In accordance with provincial Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) No.129, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR): Implementation in Ontario Secondary Schools, students may challenge for credit only Grade 10, 11, and 12 courses in provincial curriculum policy documents, (See Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9-12: Program and Diploma Requirements (OSS), section 6.6.).

2.2 Each secondary school course calendar shall contain information regarding challenges for credit and opportunities for challenge. Schools may not charge students any fee for undergoing the challenge process.

Students may earn no more than four credits through the challenge process, including a maximum of two credits in any one discipline.

2.3 Students may use certificates or other records of accomplishment earned outside Ontario classrooms as reasonable evidence of eligibility to challenge for credit for a related course within the Ontario curriculum, if they wish to earn credit for the course without taking the course. Students with music certificates that are accepted for credits in OSS, Appendix 4, Music Certificates Accepted for Credits, however, are not required to challenge for credit for the appropriate music courses, but are granted credits in accordance with OSS Program and Diploma Requirements, Appendix 4, OSS.

2.4 Students may challenge for credit for a course, only, if they can provide reasonable evidence to the school principal that they would likely be successful in the challenge process. The responsibilities of the student include:

- a) initiating the PLAR challenge by approaching the school principal for information regarding the process;
- b) completing the application process by gathering “reasonable evidence” to support the application;
- c) completing the formal tests and other assessments as determined by the school.

2.5 Arrangements may be made with other boards to provide opportunities for eligible students to challenge for credit for courses that are not offered by the Board.

2.6 A record of all challenges for credit that were completed – that is, all challenges for which students earned a final percentage grade, whether a passing or a failing grade, shall be included in the Board’s September and March Reports to the Ministry.

2.7 The responsibility for PLAR shall be carried out under the direction of the school principal in the school in which the student is registered. A student must obtain

permission from the principal of the school in which h/she is registered if h/she intends to apply for a PLAR at any other public school or inspected private school.

- 2.8 In cases where, a student who is an adult or the parent of a student who is not an adult, disagrees with the decision of the principal to allow or disallow the challenge, the parent or adult student may ask the appropriate supervisory officer to review the matter.
- 2.9 The challenge process is an evaluation process and shall not be used as a way for a student to improve a final course mark in a previously earned credit. Nor is it a way to obtain a credit for a course, h/she has failed.
- 2.10 Students who are eligible for equivalency credits are those who transfer to Ontario Secondary schools from non-inspected private schools or schools outside Ontario. Equivalency credits are granted for placement purposes only.
 - 2.10.1 The principal of the receiving school shall, in the process of deciding where the student should be placed, determine as equitably as possible the total credit equivalency of the student's previous learning, and the number of compulsory and optional credits still to be earned.
 - 2.10.2 In cases where, a student who is an adult or the parent of a student who is not an adult disagrees with the principal's placement decision, the adult student or the parent may ask the appropriate supervisory officer to review the matter.
 - 2.10.3 Principals shall ensure that equivalency is recorded in accordance with the Ontario Student Transcript (OST): Manual, 1999.
- 3.0 The Director of Education is authorized to issue such procedures as may be necessary to support this policy.