

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

<i>Section</i>	PROGRAM	
<i>Policy Name</i>	PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION FOR MATURE STUDENTS	610

Board Approved: February 20, 2008

Review Prior To: December 2013

OBJECTIVE

To provide guidelines and direction for the implementation of PPM 132, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students, as outlined in Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements, 1999 (OSS), section 6.6 and section 8.2.

Definitions

- 1.1 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning. Prior learning includes the knowledge and skills that students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school. Students may have their knowledge and skills evaluated against the expectations outlined in provincial curriculum policy documents in order to earn credits towards the secondary school diploma.
- 1.2 The PLAR process for mature students involves two components: “equivalency” and “challenge”. Requirements concerning the application of these procedures differ from those for regular day school students because of the broader life experience of mature students.
 - 1.2.1 The “equivalency” process for mature students involves:
 - i) Individual assessment for the purpose of granting equivalency credits for Grade 9 or 10 courses.
 - ii) Assessment of credentials and other appropriate documentation from jurisdictions within and outside Ontario for the purpose of granting equivalency credits for Grade 11 or 12 courses.
 - 1.2.2 The “challenge” process for mature students is the process whereby students’ prior learning is assessed for the purpose of granting credit for Grade 11 or 12 courses.
- 1.3 Beginning in February 2004, the following groups of mature students are affected by this policy:
 - 1.3.1 Mature students who are new to the Ontario secondary school system as of February 1, 2004, and who are working towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) under OSS diploma requirements.

- 1.3.2 Mature students who were enrolled as regular day school students in the Ontario secondary school system, and were placed in Grade 9 in 1999-2000 or later, Grade 10 in 2000-2001 or later, Grade 11 in 2001-2002 or later, or Grade 12 in 2002-2003 or later; and who return to school as mature students on February 1, 2004 or later to work towards the OSSD under OSS diploma requirements.
- 1.3.3 All other mature students may be granted equivalent credits under Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions (Grades 7-12/OACs): Program and Diploma Requirements, 1989, rev.ed. (OSIS), section 6.14: Equivalent Standing for Mature Students.
- 1.3.4 Mature students who were enrolled previously in the Ontario secondary school system, and were placed in Grade 9 before 1999-2000, Grade 10 before 2000-2001, Grade 11 before 2001-2002, or Grade 12 before 2002-2003; and who are working towards the OSSD under OSIS diploma requirements; or mature students who were enrolled previously in the Ontario secondary school system and who are working towards the Secondary School Graduation Diploma (SSGD) under Circular H.S.1, 1979-1981.
- 1.3.5 Mature students who were new to the Ontario secondary school system, and were enrolled as mature students in the Ontario secondary school system before February 1, 2004 who were placed in Grade 9 in 1999-2000 or later, Grade 10 in 2000-2001 or later, Grade 11 in 2001-2002 or later, or Grade 12 in 2002-2003 or later, and who are working towards the OSSD under OSS diploma requirements.
- 1.4 The principal is responsible for determining whether the mature student was previously enrolled in the Ontario secondary school system (under OSS, OSIS, or Circular H.S.1, 1979-1981) on the basis of written evidence of previous enrolment.
- 1.5 As stated in OSS, section 6.6, principals will determine the number of credits, including compulsory credits, a mature student needs in order to meet diploma requirements.
- 1.6 Up to (16) Grade 9 and 10 credits may be granted to a mature student through the equivalency process at the discretion of the principal, following individual assessment.
- 1.7 Mature students may earn 10 of the 14 remaining Grade 11 and 12 credits needed to meet diploma requirements in three ways:
 - i) Demonstrate achievement of the required secondary school curriculum expectations and receive credit through the challenge process; or
 - ii) Present education and/or training credentials and/or other appropriate documentation for assessment through the equivalency process; or
 - iii) Successfully complete the course.

- 1.8 Mature students will earn a minimum of 4 Grade 11 and 12 credits by taking the necessary courses at a secondary school, through correspondence, or through any of the alternative ways described in OSS, section 6.8.
- 1.9 Mature students who have previously accumulated 26 or more credits towards the diploma must successfully complete the required number of courses to bring their total number of credits up to 30 before they will be eligible to receive the OSSD.
- 1.10 Other OSSD requirements:
 - i) Mature students working towards the OSSD under OSS diploma requirements must also satisfy the diploma requirement with regard to successful completion of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.
 - ii) Principals will determine the number of hours of Community Involvement activities that a mature student who is working towards the OSSD under OSS diploma requirements will have to complete.
- 1.11 Refer to Appendix I to review which diploma requirements apply for mature students under OSS, OSIS and Circular H.S.1, 1979-1981.
- 1.12 Refer to Appendix II to review a summary of the processes used for credit assessment for mature students.
- 1.13 Refer to Appendix III to review required PLAR forms for mature students.

APPENDIX I

<i>Diploma Requirements for Mature Students</i>		
OSS	OSIS	<i>Circular H.S. 1</i>
<p>OSS diploma requirements apply to mature students who were enrolled for the first time in an Ontario secondary school program and placed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 9 in 1999–2000 or later • Grade 10 in 2000–2001 or later • Grade 11 in 2001–2002 or later • Grade 12 in 2002–2003 or later 	<p>OSIS diploma requirements apply to mature students who were enrolled in an Ontario secondary school program and placed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 9 before 1999-2000 • Grade 10 before 2000-2001 • Grade 11 before 2001-2002 • Grade 12 before 2002-2003 	<p>Diploma requirements in Circular H.S.1 for the SSGD apply to mature students who were enrolled in an Ontario secondary school program before September 1, 1984.</p>

APPENDIX II

Assessment Processes for Mature Students	
PLAR Process Under OSS	Process Under OSIS
<p><u>Group 1 students</u> OSS section 6.6: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition policy and OSS diploma requirements apply to mature students who enrolled for the first time in the Ontario secondary school system and who were placed in Grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 on or after February 1, 2004.</p>	<p><u>Group 3 students</u> OSIS section 6.14: Equivalent Standing for Mature Students policy and OSIS diploma requirements apply to mature students who were enrolled previously in the Ontario secondary school system and who were placed in: Grade 9 before 1999–2000 Grade 10 before 2000–2001 Grade 11 before 2001–02 Grade 12 before 2002–03 OSIS section 6.14: Equivalent Standing for Mature Students policy and SSGD requirements under Circular H.S.1, 1979–81 apply to mature students who were enrolled in the Ontario secondary school system before September 1, 1984.</p>
<p><u>Group 2 students</u> OSS section 6.6: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition policy and OSS diploma requirements apply to mature students who were enrolled as regular day school students in the Ontario secondary school system and who were placed in: Grade 9 in 1999–2000 or later Grade 10 in 2000–2001 or later Grade 11 in 2001–02 or later Grade 12 in 2002–03 or later OSS PLAR policy applies to those in this group who return to the Ontario secondary school system as mature students on or after February 1, 2004.</p>	<p><u>Group 4 students</u> OSIS section 6.14: Equivalent Standing for Mature Students policy and OSS diploma requirements apply to mature students who were new to the Ontario secondary school system and who were enrolled as mature students in the Ontario secondary school system before February 1, 2004, and who were placed in: Grade 9 in 1999–2000 or later Grade 10 in 2000–2001 or later Grade 11 in 2001–02 or later Grade 12 in 2002–03 or later Note: Mature students to whom the OSIS process applies may choose to have their prior learning assessed and credits granted according to OSS PLAR requirements. Such students will be required to meet OSS diploma requirements.</p>

APPENDIX III

Required PLAR forms for Mature Students

1. [Individual Assessment for Grade 9 and 10 Credits: Cumulative Tracking Record](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/cumulative.pdf)
available for download at (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/cumulative.pdf)
2. [Individual Assessment for Grade 9 and 10 Credits: Interim Tracking Record](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/interim.pdf)
available for download at (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/interim.pdf)
3. [Challenge Process for Grade 11 and 12 Credits: Cumulative Tracking Record](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/cumulative2.pdf)
available for download at (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/cumulative2.pdf)
4. [Challenge Process for Grade 11 and 12 Credits: Interim Tracking Record](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/interim2.pdf)
available for download at (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/interim2.pdf)
5. [Equivalency Process for Grade 11 and 12 Credits: Cumulative Tracking Record](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/cumulative3.pdf)
available for download at (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/cumulative3.pdf)
6. [Equivalency Process for Grade 11 and 12 Credits: Interim Tracking Record](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/interim3.pdf)
available for download at (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/ppm/ppm132/interim3.pdf)