

EARNING CREDITS THROUGH CHALLENGING A COURSE POLICY

Policy

Challenge is a means of awarding graduation credit for undocumented demonstrated prior learning. Students are entitled to pursue the challenge process to receive credit for Ministry-Developed or BAA Grade 10, 11 and 12 courses.

Policy Objectives

1. To ensure that students earn credits towards graduation for “prior” undocumented learning.
2. To regulate the awarding of credits to students for their “prior” learning by a set procedure and time lines for accepting and reviewing challenge applications.

Administrative Procedures

1. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

Challenge: A formal process in which a student completes for credit, without taking the courses. Procedures are outlined in this policy.

2. PROCESS

Students must be able to demonstrate readiness before they are allowed to challenge for credit.

2.1 What courses can be challenged?

- All Grade 10, 11 and 12 courses may be challenged (after one year of IRP or BAA implementation of courses) at no charge to the student.
- Any fees associated with the challenge process will be borne by the school. The Ministry of Education will fund the school the equivalent per pupil funding of a credit course for each successfully completed course challenge.
- Successful challenge of a course does not result in credit being granted for previous level courses. To obtain credit for the previous level course, students must either enroll in that course or challenge it separately.
- There is no limit to the number of courses that a student may challenge. **However, a student may not challenge a course if he or she has completed the course through previous enrolment or has been granted equivalency for the course.**

2.2 Student Eligibility for Challenge:

- A student may challenge for credit where equivalency is not appropriate.

- A student who qualifies for challenge will have demonstrated ability or expertise in the subject.
- The final decision regarding eligibility rests with the principal of the school in which the student is registered.

2.3 Application to Challenge A Course For Credit:

- The student will demonstrate his/her readiness to challenge the specific course.
- This will be accomplished by having the student complete the Course Challenge Checklist and discuss it with a school administrator.
- As part of demonstrating his/her readiness, the student will provide a written explanation of how the challenge will meet the educational goals of his/her graduation plan.
- The entire course must be challenged; partial credit will not be granted through the challenge process.
- For a challenge in any course, a number of assessment and evaluation strategies will be used. These will include a student being expected to:
 - a) submit a portfolio, do a lab or project
 - b) be interviewed
 - c) write a test
 - d) in the case of the course having a provincial exam (En 10, Sc 10, Ma 10, SS 11, and En 12), the student must write the provincial exam in order to receive credit as well as the other 4 steps.

2.4 Assessment of a Challenge

- For a challenge to be successful, a student must achieve a minimum of a 75% rating in each of the first three components.
- A student will receive a percentage mark and a letter grade for a successful course challenge and these marks will be recorded on report cards and transcripts.
- A student will be granted only one opportunity to challenge a specific course.
- All challenges must be completed by October 15th of the current school year.**
- The challenge checklist must be signed off by the school principal and placed in the student's file.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLYING FOR A COURSE CHALLENGE FOR CREDIT

All students currently enrolled in the School are eligible to challenge the courses designated as available for challenge.

Only those students who give strong and compelling evidence that they can meet the required learning outcomes and that it is in their best interest will be permitted to proceed.

Challenge is intended to respond to unique needs in exceptional circumstances; it is not intended to replace the valuable experience of classroom learning, nor is it intended to be an opportunity for students to improve their course marks.

Name: _____ Grade: _____
Course being challenged: _____

YES NO

___1. I have read and understood the preamble and know that I must be able demonstrate a high level of competency related to the prescribed learning outcomes for this course.

___2. I recognize that the challenge process will involve a number of steps which may include a portfolio, a written test, a lab/project and an interview.

___3. I am aware that the full course must be challenged for credit.

___4. I understand that opportunities to challenge will be available only until October 15 of the current school year.

___5. I am aware that if this is a provincially examinable course, I write the provincial exam to finish the challenge process. This exam will take place in prescribed Ministry exam times as soon as possible after October 15th.

___6. I have met with an administrator who has approved this application.

___7. I can explain my desire to challenge this course in relation to my graduation plan.

A written paragraph, to be attached to your application, will explain how successfully challenging this course will help fulfill your Plan for Graduation. This paragraph will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- a demonstration that you have had a range of engaging learning which can successfully replace the regular classroom experiences;
- identification of the relationship to personal academic or career goals

signature

parent signature

Approval Signature

The application submitted by _____ to
challenge _____ course is approved.

School Principal signature

Please put copy of this form in student's file.