

COURSE CHALLENGE

- POLICY -

The Board of Education will comply with Ministerial directives and guidelines regarding course challenge and believes that granting credit for prior learning is an appropriate method of permitting students to develop to their maximum potential as expressed in the Board's mission statement.

Course Challenge

The purpose of the challenge portion of this policy and the attached regulation is to acknowledge, within parameters, learning which students have accomplished in other settings which corresponds to grade 11 and 12 courses currently being offered in the district. A successful challenge results in a student receiving course credit for the appropriate content and a final mark which is recorded on the student's transcript.

Although all students are entitled to challenge courses, challenging is a rigorous process and it is anticipated that only small numbers of students will be able to give strong and compelling evidence that it is in their best interests to attempt to challenge a course and that they will succeed. Challenge is not envisioned as a method for students to improve their course marks, nor as a replacement for the valuable experience students gain from learning in a classroom setting.

The underlying principles of challenge are that students learn in a variety of ways and at different rates and that their diverse needs and abilities should be acknowledged by providing opportunities to obtain credit for relevant learning. Students must demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes for the course being challenged, and the process should maintain the high standards of a quality education.

COURSE CHALLENGE

- REGULATION -

1. Challenge Information Package

- 1.1 A Challenge Information Package is available at schools enrolling grade 11 and 12 students and at the school board office.

2. Challenge Approval

- 2.1 Before approval to challenge a course is granted, students must complete the preliminary checklist available at the school board office.
- 2.2 Through an application form available in the Challenge Information Package, the students will provide a written explanation of how the challenge will meet educational goals as outlined in the student's learning plan.
- 2.3 The approval for the challenge process must be given by the principal or designate of the student's home school, in consultation with the designated advisor or counsellor, the parents or guardians, and the student.

3. Challenge Eligibility

- 3.1 The student must be enrolled in the district.
- 3.2 A student previously enrolled in a course will not normally be eligible to challenge that course for credit.
- 3.3 Students in grade levels other than grade 11 or 12 may apply to challenge grade 11 or 12 level courses.
- 3.4 A student must give compelling evidence that he or she will succeed in challenging a course.

4. Requirements for Challenge

- 4.1 A student will be given one opportunity to challenge a specific course.
- 4.2 Courses eligible for challenge must be at the grade 11 or 12 level.
- 4.3 A student may challenge only one course at a time, although there is no limit to the number of courses a student may challenge.
- 4.4 A student may not challenge a course for the purpose of improving a previously assigned grade.
- 4.5 The entire course must be challenged. Partial credit will not be granted through the challenge process.
- 4.6 A student must demonstrate, through a variety of ways, that the learning outcomes of the course have been met. Examples of performance and assessment activities are: research reports, essays that express student opinion about the issues being explored, a "product" that in some way reflects or summarizes the area of study, a journal that reflects student learning, a learning log of the time spent on activities, a portfolio of student work, documented research time spent in a library, letters of recommendation or

certificates of achievement, an interview, a presentation, or a test or examination.

5. Challenge and Provincial Examinations

5.1 In order to challenge a course with a provincial examination a student must first successfully challenge the school portion of the mark. If successful, the student will then be provided the opportunity to write the provincial examination at the first available Ministry-set examination date. In accordance with Ministry policy, the final letter grade and percentage mark will be based on the blended school and examination mark.

6. Challenge Dates and Fees

6.1 A student may apply to challenge a course at any time during the school year; however, the opportunity to undergo the formal challenge review will be available at the end of September and the end of February.

6.2 A cost-recovery fee will be charged for direct costs incurred by the Board for administering the challenge. This fee will be communicated to the student and the parent or guardian.

7. Challenge Credits and Reporting

7.1 The school is responsible for the transcript of marks under current Ministry policy and guidelines.