

1. Rationale

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) recognizes and acknowledges that mature students acquire knowledge and skills through informal and traditional learning experiences. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) allows mature students to have their skills and knowledge evaluated against the expectations outlined in Ontario curriculum policy documents to earn credits toward the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or Secondary School Graduation Diploma (SSGD), depending on the year they entered an Ontario secondary school. This policy differs from that of regular day school students due to the recognition of prior learning experience of adult learners.

2. Policy

It is the policy of the SCDSB to evaluate a mature student's skills and knowledge against the expectations outlined in current Ontario curriculum policy documents to earn credits toward the OSSD or SSGD through an equivalency and challenge process.

3. Definition

- 3.1 Challenge – an evaluation process, which includes a formal examination and appropriate assessment strategies, based on the expectations and achievement charts in the Ontario curriculum for the particular course.
- 3.2 Equivalency – Grade 9 and 10 credits may be granted through assessments. For Grade 11 and 12 credits, students may provide education and training credentials and/or other appropriate documents.
- 3.3 Mature student – a student who is at least 18 years of age on or after January 1 of the current school year and who is enrolled in a program for obtaining an OSSD.
- 3.4 OSSD – graduation diploma for students who entered the Ontario secondary school system in Grade 9 before September 1, 1999.
- 3.5 SSGD – graduation diploma for students who entered the Ontario secondary school system in Grade 9 before September 1, 1984.

4. Guidelines

- 4.1 This policy applies to the responsibilities of the SCDSB in the granting of credits toward an OSSD or SSGD for mature students through the PLAR process. Credits may be obtained through both a challenge and equivalency process.

5. Administrative Procedures

- 5.1 The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

ADOPTED APRIL 27, 2022

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