SD42 PROCEDURE 8801

COURSE CHALLENGE

The District supports opportunities for students to receive credit for prior learning through a Course Challenge process administered in accordance with Ministry requirements and District procedures.

PURPOSE

Students may earn credit toward graduation in a variety of ways. In addition to earning credits by successfully completing courses, students may earn credits through a course challenge.

Course Challenge provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate prior learning and earn credit toward graduation without enrolling in a course where the required knowledge, skills, and competencies have already been acquired.

Course Challenge recognizes that learning occurs in a variety of settings and may be acquired through educational, cultural, work, volunteer, athletic, artistic, community, or other life experiences. Credit may be awarded when a student demonstrates achievement of the learning standards associated with an eligible course.

PROCEDURE

Eligibility

Students enrolled in the District, registered as home school students with the District, or enrolled in a District online learning program may request a course challenge.

Students may challenge a Ministry-authorized Grade 10, 11, or 12 course, or a Board/Authority Authorized course offered by the District during the school year.

Before approving a course challenge, the Principal or designate shall review any documented prior learning presented by the student to determine whether credit may more appropriately be awarded through equivalency in accordance with Ministry policy.

A student is not eligible to challenge a course if the student has:

- previously completed the course through enrolment;
- previously been granted equivalency for the course; or
- previously challenged the course and received a passing grade.

The graduation literacy and numeracy assessments are not part of the challenge process.

International students must comply with the Ministry's International Student Graduation Credit Policy.

Readiness for Challenge

Students seeking to challenge a course must provide compelling evidence that they have acquired the relevant learning associated with the course and are likely to be successful in the course challenge process.

Evidence may include, but is not limited to:

- prior educational experiences;
- work or volunteer experience;
- community involvement;
- cultural learning experiences;
- participation in athletics, fine arts, trades, or other specialized programs; or
- recommendations from teachers or other qualified individuals.

The determination of readiness shall be made by the Principal or designate in consultation with the student and, where appropriate, the student's parent/guardian.

Challenge Process

Course Challenge applies to the entire course. Partial credit will not be awarded through the challenge process.

The assessment process must evaluate the learning standards, curricular competencies, and content associated with the course being challenged.

Assessment methods may include:

- written examinations;
- interviews;
- demonstrations;
- performances;
- portfolios;
- projects;
- presentations;
- practical assessments; or
- other methods appropriate to the course being challenged.

Credit awarded through course challenge shall be measured against the same standards used for students who complete the course through enrolment.

Course Challenge is not intended to:

- improve an existing course mark;
- replace established reassessment or re-examination processes; or
- provide an alternative to participation in a course where sufficient evidence of prior learning does not exist.

Assessment and Reporting

A successful course challenge shall result in the awarding of credit, a letter grade, and a percentage.

Schools shall record and report challenge credits in accordance with Ministry requirements.

Schools shall maintain documentation supporting:

- the students' request;
- the readiness determination;
- any equivalency review completed;
- challenge assessment materials;
- assessment results; and
- the final decision regarding credit awarded

Roles and Responsibilities

The Principal or designate shall:

- review course challenge requests;
- determine student readiness for course challenge;
- ensure equivalency has been considered before approving a course challenge;
- approve course challenge opportunities;
- ensure course challenge assessments align with Ministry requirements;
- determine whether sufficient evidence has been provided to award credit; and
- ensure appropriate records are maintained.

The teacher responsible for the course challenge assessment shall:

- develop and administer assessment activities;
- apply assessment standards consistent with those used for enrolled students;
- evaluate the student's performance; and
- recommend a final grade and percentage.

The student shall:

- request the course challenge opportunity;
- provide evidence of prior learning;
- complete the required assessment activities; and
- demonstrate achievement of the learning standards associated with the course.

UPDATED: October 2026