
COURSE CHALLENGE

Background

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

All students enrolled in Grades 10, 11 and 12 in the District are entitled to undertake a challenge process to assess their prior learning for any Ministry authorized graduation program course offered by any District in the province that school year. As well as any Board Authorized (BAA) course taught in the District that school year, provided the student has not already completed the course through previous enrolment.

International students must comply with the challenge procedures set out in the [Ministry's International Student Graduation Credit Policy](#).

Procedures

1. A student can challenge to receive credit for Ministry-authorized or Board/Authority Authorized Grade 10, 11 or 12 courses if:
 - 1.1 They are currently enrolled in the District or are registered as a home-schooler in the District.
 - 1.2 They have not completed the course or its equivalent learning standards through previous enrollment.
 - 1.3 They can give compelling evidence that they will succeed in the challenge.
2. Prior to engaging in a challenge process, Principals must review any documentation of prior learning that a student presents in order to determine if credit can be awarded through equivalency. Refer to Ministry of Education Policy, [Earning Credit Through Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials, Post-Secondary Credit and Independent Directed Studies](#) and the [Ministry Handbook of Procedures](#).
3. Students must be able to demonstrate their readiness to challenge a course based on factors such as a recommendation from a previous teacher, or from evidence that relevant learning has been acquired outside the regular classroom setting. The demonstration is not to be an onerous process. School staff, in consultation with students and parents, are to make the decision about readiness.

4. Principals must document the challenge assessment delivered to each student, including a pre-Challenge Equivalency review, and the documentation must be made available to Ministry auditors if requested. Examples of assessment strategies that could be used in a challenge process include such things as hands-on demonstrations, oral performances, interviews, written examinations, or presentations of a collection of work.
5. In some subject areas, specifically Languages, students may be able to participate in a course challenge procedure through the Coast Metro Challenge Consortium. This information will be provided to secondary school students in the fall term.
6. Credit awarded through challenge is measured by the same standards used for students who have taken the course through enrollment. A challenge is considered successful when a student has achieved at least a C- and fifty percent (50%).

*Reference: Sections 20, 22, 65, 85, School Act
Education Policy, Earning Credit Through Equivalency, Challenge, External Credentials,
Post-Secondary Credit and Independent Directed Studies
Ministry Handbook of Procedures*

SD No. 40 (New Westminster)

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Modification to this document is not permitted without prior written consent from SD No. 40 (New Westminster)