



Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students – Revised Mandatory Requirements (2021): Q&A Themes

Eligibility/Age?

- Credits earned through the PLAR process may be granted before their 18th birthday at the discretion of the principal and in alignment with school board policies and procedures
- Students may remain enrolled in a secondary day school and participate in the PLAR process
- International students who reside abroad, but are registered with a school board are eligible to participate in the PLAR process
- Mature students under OSIS or Circular H.S. 1, may choose to have their prior learning assessed either under OSIS or Circular H.S. 1, or through the PLAR process leading to an OSSD outlined in this memorandum. See [Appendix 1: Ontario schools intermediate and senior divisions equivalent standing for mature students](#) for more information

Grades 9/10 Equivalency Process?

- All assessment activities are carried out under the direction of the principal
- Access is provided to school boards to sample Grade 9 and 10 subject-based assessments for the equivalency process and a range of second language challenge assessments which may be used and/or modified. These assessments are available on the [e-Community Ontario website](#)
- Subject based assessments do not require percentage grades – but are recorded as successful or unsuccessful (i.e. Pass/Fail)
- A student who presents evidence of having earned the [General Educational Development \(GED\) certificate](#), may be granted 16 equivalency credits at the discretion of the principal

Grades 11/12 Equivalency Process?

- All assessment activities are carried out under the direction of the principal
- Any lived experience may be given consideration for credit as part of the senior equivalency process (e.g. a student who became a parent at age 16)
- The final four courses and any other outstanding coursework is to be determined by the principal **following** the senior equivalency process
- Credits in co-operative education may be attached to a related course granted through the equivalency process
- Equivalent credits do not have percentage grades and are not recognized as post-secondary pre-requisites
- With the exception of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course – all courses from the Ontario curriculum may be granted as an equivalency
- A student who presents evidence of having earned the [General Educational Development \(GED\) certificate](#), may be granted 10 senior equivalency credits at the discretion of the principal

Diploma Requirements for Mature Students?

- Principals will determine, at their discretion, the number of hours of community involvement activities that a mature student who is working towards the OSSD under Ontario Schools may have to complete (between 0 and 40)
- A **minimum of four** Grade 11 and 12 credits **MUST** be earned by taking the necessary courses (with the exception of those who present evidence of an accredited Canadian post secondary diploma and/or degree)
- The final four courses and any *other* outstanding coursework is to be determined by the principal **following** the senior equivalency process
- OSSD/SSGD requirements under OSIS (1989) and Circular H.S.1 (<1984) may be found in [APPENDIX 1 Summary of Diploma Requirements, 1974 to 1999](#)
- The fourth compulsory credit: *Computer Studies, Science, Technological Education, or Math, Grade 11 or 12* is open to substitution
- College delivered dual credit courses may not be used as a substitution for a compulsory credit
- All compulsory English courses may be used to satisfy the Grade 11/12 English compulsory requirements (e.g. OLC, NBE, etc.). Students may count a maximum of three credits in ESL or ELD towards the four compulsory credits in English. The fourth credit must be for a Grade 12 compulsory English course
- Students may receive **only one** credit for Grade 12 Advanced Learning Strategies, either for GLS40 or for GLE40

Post-Secondary Recognition?

- At the discretion of the principal, mature students who present evidence of a completed postsecondary **diploma** and/or **degree** from an *accredited* Canadian postsecondary institution may qualify for the OSSD under Ontario Schools by completing a minimum of one Grade 11 or Grade 12 credit. The credit course to be completed will be determined by the principal in consultation with the student
- 16 equivalent credits are awarded at the Grades 9/10 level
- Up to 13 equivalency credits in Grades 11/12 may be awarded (in alignment with the discipline of their diploma/ degree)
- The literacy requirement must be met
- A principal may consider, in alignment with their school board policies and procedures – to accept a post-secondary credential assessment attesting to Canadian equivalency. In such cases the language of instruction would be English or French
- For more information regarding credential assessments – see [Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada](#)
- For a listing of educational institutions currently recognized, authorized, registered and/or licensed by the competent authorities in the provinces and territories of Canada – see [The Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials](#)

Reporting/Funding?

- All school types offering secondary credit courses – with the exception of ‘Summer’ are able to report PLAR activity. During summer – boards may use their Continuing Education ‘Night’ school to report PLAR activity
- Full time day school students are eligible for PLAR assessment funding
- PLAR assessment activities generate funding through *The Continuing Education and Other Programs Grant - [Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\) Allocation](#)*. The PLAR Allocation is projected to be \$2.5 million in 2021–22.
- PLAR assessment services that are funded include the following:
 - \$129 for an individual student assessment for Grade 9 and 10 credits (maximum of one such assessment per mature student in any one school year)
 - \$129 for an individual student equivalency assessment for Grade 11 and 12 credits (maximum of one such assessment per mature student in any one school year)
- \$387 for each completed challenge assessment for a Grade 11 or 12 full credit course, whether successful or unsuccessful School boards are funded based on their reporting of these assessment activities
- PLAR assessment activities may be reported in OnSIS throughout the school year – and aggregate board level data is reported following on the Continuing Education Schedule 12 in EFIS

- At the **recommendation** of the principal, a mature student may be enrolled in the **GLE 30/40 Advanced Learning Strategies: Skills for Success After Secondary School**, courses **without** an Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- PLAR may also be delivered within the context of an appropriate secondary credit course (e.g. a senior math or English course, etc.) in which you would receive the relative per course funding through the [Grants for Student needs \(GSN\)](#). Specifically in the revised PPM, we also have removed the IEP requirement to allow all mature students to enrol in GLE credit courses from the Guidance and Career Education curriculum to ensure opportunities for [preparation and support](#)
- There are also funds available through the *Learning Opportunities Grant* (LOG), particularly the [Literacy and Math Outside the School Day Allocation](#), to support students who may be preparing to participate in the grade 9/10 assessment process under PLAR