

# PLAR Drop-In Virtual Session – Q&A

## Questions

- 1. When processing the Grade 9/10 PLAR, you have to put in the zero PLE and that initiates the funding. But how do you get funding for Grade 11/12 when they aren't eligible for 9/10? Do you still put in the zero PLE and begin the process for 11/12 to trigger the funding?**

### **Answer:**

Funding for the Grade 9/10 assessment process is triggered by checking the mature student status and adding zero PLE to your SMS once student eligibility is determined.

Funding for the Grade 11/12 process is triggered by checking the mature student status and granting 1-10 Senior Equivalent Credits into your SMS. Senior Equivalent Credits are granted when third party supporting documentation is submitted along with the Senior Equivalency Credit Application (SECA)

Grade 9/10 funding can be obtained for the initial assessment for all eligible and willing students. Once the student has 16+ PLE credits, schools should not enter the zero PLE in year two. Funding for the Grade 11/12 process will be generated once the student earns a Senior Equivalency credit.

- 2. For the Grade 9/10 process, a person has to agree to the process to be eligible. A 22-year-old has 27 credits, but when they were younger and were PLAR eligible, they only had 24 credits. Are they now PLAR eligible?**

### **Answer:**

PLAR Assessors **must not backdate PLAR eligibility for students under PPM 132 updated Feb 2022**. It is important to review each Grade 11/12+ student for eligibility (18 on or after January 1, and not on track to graduate in June). All eligible students (and parents as required) must agree to using PLAR as a student success strategy to graduation. If the student declines and eligibility is not recorded in the SMS or via the school tracking mechanism, PLAR cannot be reassessed and introduced post graduation in June if the student has more than 26 credits.

PLAR eligible students under the old PPM 132, **can have PLAR eligibility backdated** if they were off a day school register for at least 10 months and returned as a mature student and earned credits. Example: 35-year-old student (DOB 1989) returned in 1999 at 25 years of age to take a PSW program. Courses earned via the PSW program could count towards the final four.

**3. If a student failed the GED test, but passed some of the tests, can any of that be used for PLAR?**

**Answer:**

You can use the results of the GED to grant equivalent credits. A student who presents evidence of a completed GED could receive up to 26 credits, final four, including Grade 12 English and three other senior credits. The Grade 11 English, Grade 11 Math and Senior Science can be awarded as equivalencies to a student who has successfully completed the GED. If a student was unsuccessful on a portion of the test, an assessor would have to determine which assessment the student would need to complete to determine the final four credits to be completed.

**4. Is it important to have discussions with students in secondary school before they leave?**

**Answer:**

Generate a list of students who are 18+ as of August 2024 who are at risk of not graduating. Discuss PLAR with all PLAR eligible students and indicate their willingness in SMS and via school tracking mechanism. Students must be identified prior to earning their 26<sup>th</sup> credit. (See Question 2)

**5. Many adult students already have PLE credits on their status sheet when they arrive. When they already have more than 20 PLE it is very hard to support them because so many of those were electives, which means they are going to have to do more credits to get the compulsory credits.**

**Answer:**

It is important to discuss with mainstream and alternative educators the difference between PPM 129 PLAR for Adolescents and PPM 132 PLAR for Mature Students. Guidance needs to review the status sheet for PLE1N (Grade 9/10 credits) and PLE3N (Grade 11/12). If PLE3N is present, the student was evaluated under PPM 129.

If the student has 20 credits, including PLE and was assessed as a mature student under PPM 132, staff need to understand how granting Grade 9/10 elective credits or attaching co-op credits to Grade 9 and 10 credits will disadvantage an at-risk student who would have had the opportunity to earn compulsory Grade 9/10 credits via written assessments. Information needs to be shared with the Supervised Alternative Planning team on the importance of scheduling at risk students into senior courses where possible. It is also important for Cooperative Education teachers to use the stand-alone co-op (DC030), and where possible, attach co-op credits to senior credits only.

**6. We have an internal process for ESL/LBS students coming into the credit program with fairly low CLB levels. Are there any translation services available to support these learners?**

**Answer:**

If students are lower than CLB 6, they will have a hard time with the Grade 9/10 process. Assessments cannot be translated. Students would benefit from additional support via LBS.

**7. If a student is at 25.5 credits, can you grant the student 0.5 senior EQV credits?**

**Answer:**

Yes, if the student is eligible and provides third party documentation along with the SECA to support the granting of a 0.50 Senior Equivalent credit.

**8. If a mature student has completed Grade 11 in another province, including Grade 11 English, must she take Grade 11 English as one of her “final four”?**

**Answer:**

Yes, you can grant a Senior Equivalency in Grade 11 English based on out of Province transcripts. However, the Student is still required to complete the final four senior credits.

**9. Do the four credits have to come after a PLE was entered or after they were identified as being PLAR eligible?**

**Answer:**

Students must complete the final four senior credits after PLAR eligibility is determined. Ideally, this date would be identified by the date of mature student status and the entering of zero PLE into your student management system; however, data entry can be delayed. If eligibility is tracked or recorded elsewhere, this documentation can be used as the PLAR eligibility date for the final four and for an audit.

**10. If a student has a high school diploma from another country and has also earned a two-year diploma in Canada, can they be granted 29 credits?**

**Answer:**

If the student has a diploma from an accredited Canadian post-secondary institution, the student is eligible for up to 30 credits (PPM 132 revision September 2023). 16 PLE, 14 Senior Equivalent Credits. All PLAR eligible students are required to fulfill the literacy requirement course or test and up to 40 community service hours at the discretion of the principal.

**11. If a PLAR candidate has a Diploma or Certificate of Apprenticeship is the only difference that they can go through PLAR to earn up to 14 senior credits instead of 10? Do I still need to complete the cumulative tracking records and award credits based on their experience. If they are missing a junior math credit, is an assessment still required?**

**Answer:**

Students who present evidence of completed Canadian post-secondary, including apprenticeships, can earn up to 30—16 PLE and up to 14 Senior Equivalencies. The Senior Equivalencies must be recorded on the cumulative tracking record or PLAR report card. Senior Equivalencies must match the course expectations of the most recent Ontario curriculum. For example, a student who provides evidence of a completed registered practical nursing diploma from St Lawrence college, might receive the following 14 credits: ENG3E, ENG4E, MEL3E. SBI3C, GWL30, TPJ3C for 3, TPJ4C for 3, TOJ4C for 3.

**12. I have a student working towards an OSSC. I see a reference to OSSD and granting PLAR credits, but do the same rules apply if the student is working towards an OSSC? Can they be granted credits in the same way using the same rules towards an OSSC? In other words, could they meet the requirements of the OSSC through PLAR?**

**Answer:**

Students can use Mature PLAR to obtain an OSSC. The student award type in your SMS would be changed from an OSSC to an OSSD 1999. Students would attempt the Grade 9/10 process and Grade 11/12 process. Once PLAR activities are completed, the students award type should be changed back to an OSSC. SMS will make the necessary changes for compulsory and elective courses.

**13. If a student has earned a diploma from an accredited Canadian college, but has not taken Grade 11 math in a secondary school and has not taken a math course as part of their college diploma program, must they earn a Grade 11 math credit for the OSSD?**

**Answer:**

Students must submit a Senior Equivalent credit application to be assessed for the Grade 11/12 process. I would ask the student to include in their application work/life experiences that align with the key expectations for the Grade 11 workplace math.

**14. Is there a practice of waiving community hours according to the learner's age? For example, would the work experience of someone of a 40 year-old count towards their community hours?**

**Answer:**

The principal has the discretion to waive community service hours for all PLAR eligible students or request any number of hours for individual students up to 40.

**15. How is the funding for Grade 11/12 generated? Is it based on FTE while the student is taking the course or based on courses completed or granted?**

**Answer:**

Funding for the Grade 11/12 process is triggered by checking the mature student status and granting one to 10 Senior Equivalent credits into your SMS. Senior Equivalent credits are granted when third party supporting documentation is submitted along with the Senior Equivalency Credit Application (SECA).