



MPLAR Programming and the Impact on Student Engagement Retention, Enrollment and Achievement

Mature PLAR

Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition

What is Mature PLAR?

An assessment and credit granting process where eligible mature students may earn credits for prior learning. PLAR recognizes and values the knowledge and skills that students have gained from formal and informal ways, outside of secondary school.

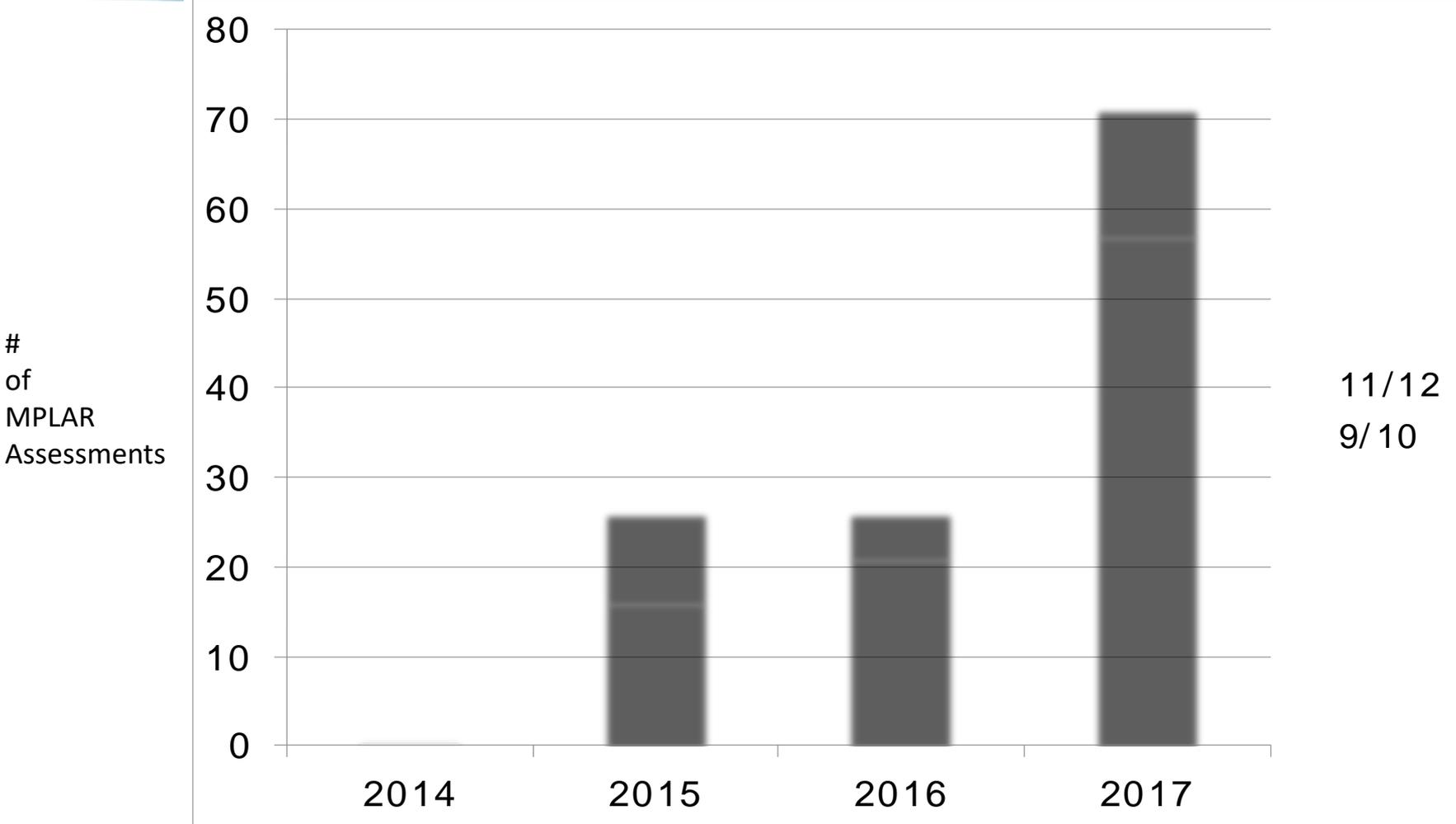
Grade 9 and 10 credits (up to 16) may be granted through: Transcripts from outside Ontario, and/or completion of individual assessments: English, Math, Science, Canadian Geography, History

Grade 11 and 12 credits (up to 10) may be granted through: Transcripts from outside Ontario, and/or proof of documentation of learning gained through other programs, courses, or life and work experiences. ** PLAR credits must have the same standards of achievement as credits granted to students who have taken the course.

Graduation requirements If a student achieves 26 credits (max allowed) through the MPLAR process, they will need to complete 4 Grade 11/12 courses including: Grade 11 and 12 English, 1 Math (11/12) credit, 1 additional senior credit, Ontario Literacy requirement and Community Service Hours.

CESBA Action Research - PLAR Assessments

1 period (2 ½ hours/day) for 44 days



Qualitative Data - Student Voice

What are the benefits of the PLAR Assessment for you personally?

- Achieve credits more quickly
- Achieve OSSD sooner than expected
- Alleviates stress
- Stay in school (retention)
- Able to attend college sooner
- Improve reading and writing
- Positive experience
- Helped me to see that college is possible
- Helped me to set goals

Findings: MPLAR had an impact on student engagement and supported a better student experience which made a difference in student retention and achievement.

Durham Region News

She got a credit for being a mom: How adults in Durham are getting their high school diploma faster

Durham Catholic District School Board expanding program that gives credits for life, work experience

NEWS Jun 01, 2017 by Jillian Follert Oshawa This Week



OSHAWA — Robb McCabe and Noelle Kippen are students in the Durham Catholic District School Board's continuing education program, which is working to make it easier for adult students to get their high school diploma. A new program is allowing adult learners to get credits for their life experience, such as being a parent. May 8, 2017 - Jason Liebrechts / Metroland

DURHAM — When Noelle Kippen left high school at age 16 to have a baby, she didn't know if she would ever go back.

"It's been a struggle. I was a single parent, it was always a fight between work and school," she says. "It just felt like a job was more realistic."

2016-2017 CESBA (Action Research Project) Mature PLAR



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Catholic education. Learning is living in faith.

Highlights

from the April 24, 2017 Board Meeting

Continuing Education: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition



Continuing Education staff presented a research project on the Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process for adults. As a result of the research, the team worked together to achieve positive outcomes, some of which include:

- Increased number of assessments
- Improved intake process
- Greater support for pathways planning and transition to the workplace
- Credit accumulation
- Enhanced student engagement
- Improved student experience

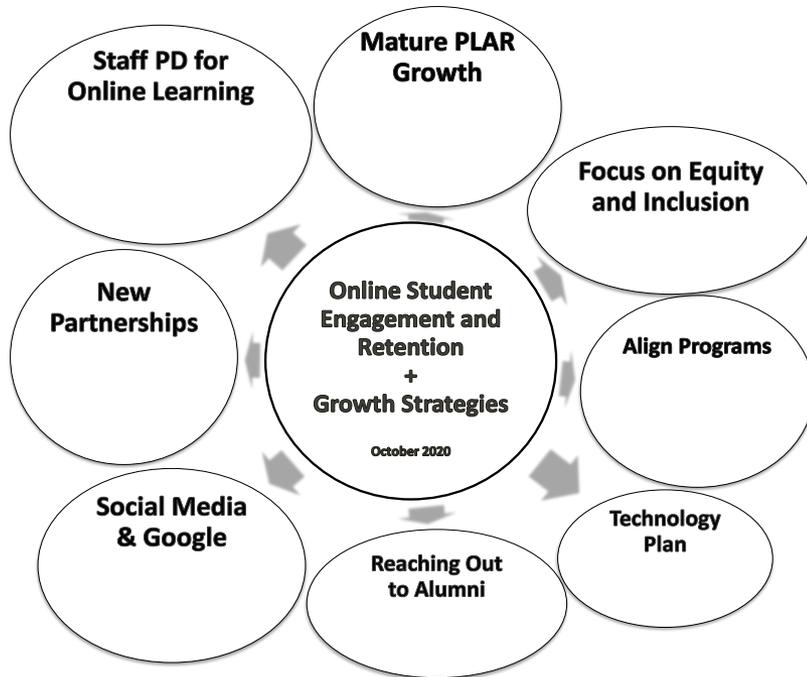
Impact of MPLAR (2015 – 2020)

- Rising student enrollment each year
- Increased # of MPLAR Assessments
- Increased credit achievement
- Increasing # OSSD Graduates each year
- Student Voice surveys indicate ongoing positive feedback about MPLAR and their overall student experience
- MPLAR Funding supports Guidance/PLAR Assessor role
- New Fast Track Program to support MPLAR Assessments
- Improved Intake Process (Caring adult, Online booking)
- Refining Non-Credit to Credit Pathways – ESL, LBS to Credit
- Students in Employment Training Programs achieving OSSD
- Expanding Outreach Programs for OSSD attainment
 - Rose of Durham, Ontario Shores, YMCA



October 26, 2020 Board Meeting

Excellence, Equity and Engagement



Supporting Student Achievement in A&CE

Refining Learning & Intake Processes (MPLAR) during Covid-19

- MPLAR and Fast Track
- Adult Day Credit, Correspondence, Fast Track + MPLAR

Community Outreach Programs (MPLAR)

- Ontario Shores
- Rose of Durham
- YMCA

Benefits of MPLAR for Secondary Students Transitioning to A&CE

- CESBA support - Reaching out to P/VP's, Guidance, SST's, PST's
- Process for supporting secondary students transitioning to A&CE
- Increasing enrollment from secondary schools



**ARCHBISHOP
ANTHONY MEAGHER**
Catholic Continuing Education Centre

Mature PLAR

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition

Information for Secondary School Staff

MPLAR is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby mature students may obtain credits for prior learning – the knowledge and skills that mature students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school.

up to 16 Grade
9/10 credits
up to 10 Grade
11/12 credits

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knowledge,
experience,
skills, training

MPLAR Eligibility

To be eligible for MPLAR students must be:

- 18 years of age or before December 31st of the school year
- Not registered as a secondary student for 10 consecutive months
- Enrolled at Archbishop Anthony Meagher CCEC

9/10 Assessment

This is an individual assessment/equivalency process for the purpose of granting up to 16 Grade 9 and 10 credits through (a) review and analysis of transcripts, or (b) review and analysis of transcripts and completion of individual assessments, or (c) completion of individual assessments in the 5 following subject areas:

- English Science
- Math History/Geography

11/12 Equivalency

Students can earn up to 10 credits by providing evidence of experiences, training and accomplishments that indicate completion of learning similar to the expectations of specific courses in the Ontario Grade 11 and 12 curriculum. Examples include: transcripts, training certifications, letters of appraisal or recommendation from employers, volunteer experiences, documentation of languages, resume, T4's, ROE's, pay stubs, etc.

Graduation Requirements

If a student achieves 26 credits (max allowed) through the MPLAR process, they will need to complete 4 Grade 11/12 courses including:
Grade 11 and 12 English, 1 Math (11/12) credit, 1 additional senior credit, Ontario Literacy requirement and Community Service Hours.

MPLAR FAQ'S For Secondary School Staff

How can a student benefit from Mature PLAR and Adult & Continuing Education (A&CE)?

- Mature students have the potential to earn OSSD faster with the MPLAR process.
- Through MPLAR students earn high school credits for their knowledge, life and work experiences.
- A&CE has courses/inhibe options and flexible programming such as:
 - ✓ First Track, Correspondence, evening, Day School, Night School, Summer School, Adult Upgrading, ESL, Work-4-Credits Co-op and Employment Training Program.
- Students can have a job or work from home and complete OSSD at the same time.

How can secondary schools help with course selection for students who are at risk of not graduating, and may transition to Adult & Continuing Education?

- Where possible, try not to timetable too many Gr. 9/10 credits for students who may finish secondary school with few credits. Students can earn Gr. 9/10 credits more quickly through the Mature PLAR process.
- If a student has repeatedly failed a Gr. 9/10 class, encourage Gr. 11/12 classes in the student's area of interest.
- If a student is taking Co-op, consider co-op credits that are Gr. 11/12 credits (not Gr. 9/10).

Where can students obtain MPLAR credits and graduate with OSSD?

Archbishop Anthony Meagher Catholic Continuing Education Centre

<p>Durham Campus: 850 Knox St. W., Unit 26, Durham, L1J 8N5 Tel: (905) 438-0570 Fax: (905) 438-0571</p>	<p>Ajax Campus: 458 Fairview St., Unit 7, Ajax, L1S 1R5 Tel: (905) 683-7713 Fax: (905) 683-9436</p>
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How can schools support a student's transition to Adult & Continuing Education?

- Book a Visit - Students/parents/secondary schools can facilitate the transition to A&CE where secondary students can meet friendly PLAR Assessors and staff who can help ease concerns about next steps.
- Course Guides or Website - provide to students who want to upgrade high school marks, participate in employment training programs or strengthen their literacy, numeracy or computer skills to prepare for work or post-secondary. *Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter.
- Contact Andrea Ellsworth andrea.ellsworth@cdceb.ca or (905) 438-0570 (ext. 57164) to book a visit (Ajax or Oshawa Campus) to learn about MPLAR and the flexible options available to support students who are at risk of not obtaining OSSD from their secondary school.
- Secondary Presentations about the benefits of MPLAR and courses/programs at Archbishop Anthony Meagher CCEC can help students and staff learn about the benefits of MPLAR. Contact Andrea Ellsworth to facilitate a presentation at your school.

MPLAR Assessor Contact Information

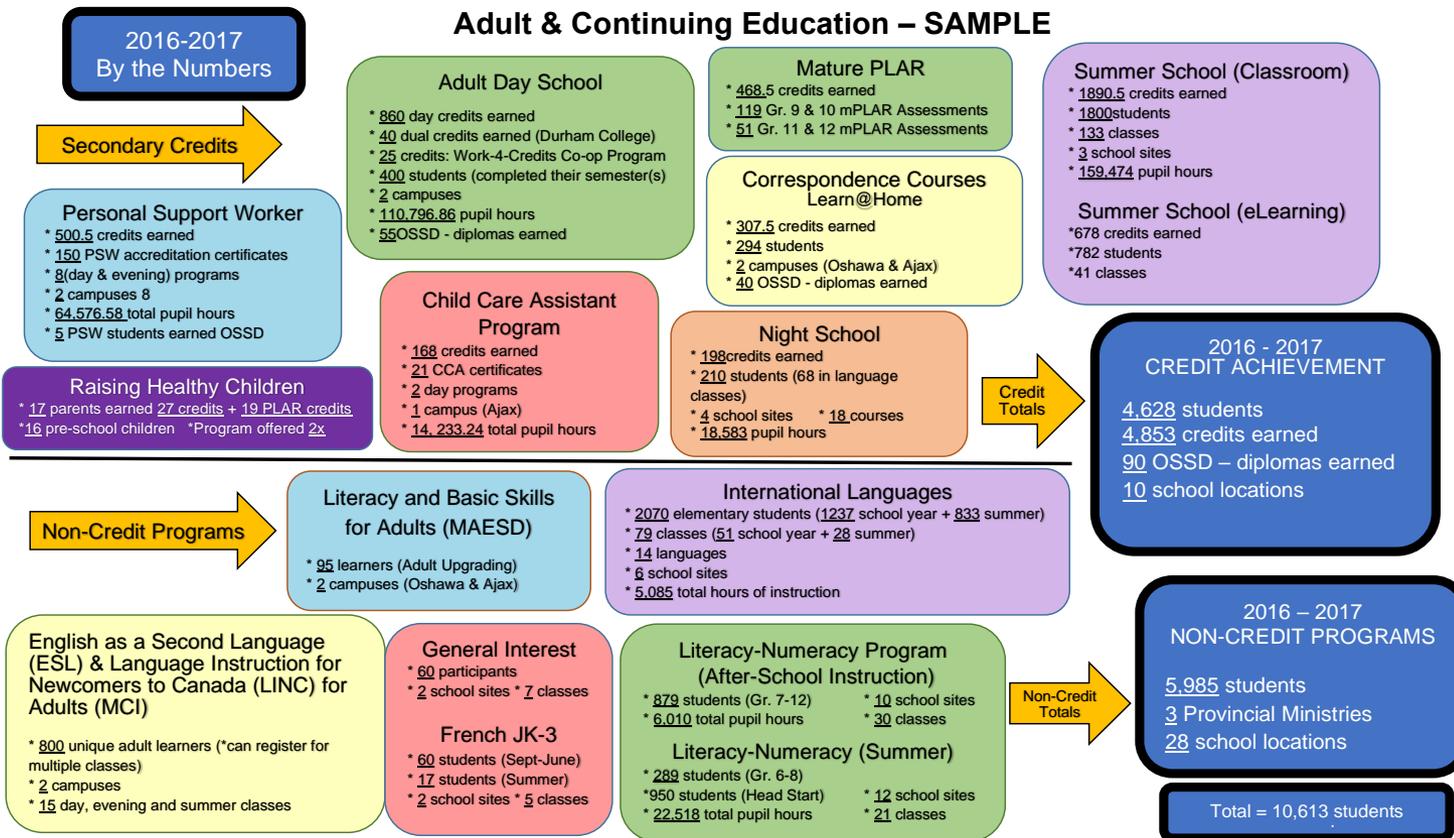
<p>Durham Campus – Dana Porter dana.porter@cdceb.ca or (905) 432-8470 (ext. 57166)</p>	<p>Ajax Campus – Stephen Jennings stephen.jennings@cdceb.ca or (905) 683-7713 (ext. 57107)</p>
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Using Data to Tell Your Story

• Enrollment Data: “By the Numbers” for Each Program



Using Data to Tell Your Story

- MPLAR Assessment and Credit Accumulation Data
- Student Retention (ADE)
- Grad Rates (Correlation with MPLAR)
- Student Engagement (Student Voice Surveys)

Student Experience



"I had eight or so credits and thought I would have to be in school for any additional two years, when in reality I can be done in way less. I probably would have dropped out again had I not known this."