

SCHOOL DISTRICT 82 (COAST MOUNTAINS)

Students and Programs

1205: Equivalency for Credit: Grade 11 and 12 Courses

Policy

Preface

In the *Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Plan*, released in September 1994, the Ministry of Education announced that secondary school students would be permitted to earn credit by challenging courses or by completing courses and programs judged to be equivalent to provincially or locally developed curriculum. Where the Ministry has not already assessed the equivalency of credentials from other institutions and jurisdictions, the school boards have the authority to determine equivalency.

In May 1995, the Ministry described these policies in Policy Circular 95-02 (Challenge) and 95-03 (Equivalency). These policies outline two methods of assessing a student's prior learning. They assist in meeting the diverse needs and abilities of individual students, especially with respect to the goals outlined in their Student Learning Plans. This encourages students to take greater responsibility for their learning.

Purpose of Equivalency

The purpose of equivalency is to permit students to obtain full credits for a course without having to take the course because they have already acquired the appropriate learning elsewhere. Equivalency recognizes documented learning from other education jurisdictions and from institutions outside the public school system which is equivalent to the learning outcomes of a provincially or locally developed Grade 11 or 12 course. The most common situation involves a student who has moved from another province into British Columbia.

Equivalency allows students to receive credit for a provincially or locally developed grade 11 or 12 course through an assessment process of the relevant knowledge and skills they have gained elsewhere. All students in Coast Mountains SD# 82 who can provide a credential or document to support their

equivalency request are entitled to an equivalency review. The equivalency review is not intended to recognize undocumented prior learning.

Policy

The Board recognizes that some students have clearly acquired the appropriate learning elsewhere and will permit students to obtain full equivalent credits for grade 11 or 12 provincially or locally developed courses without having to take those courses. Credit for such courses can be obtained through the District's Equivalency process.

Regulations

Guidelines/Eligibility

1. All students in Coast Mountains SD# 82 are entitled to apply for an equivalency review of their credentials received from other education jurisdictions and from institutions outside the public school system.
2. Neither the Board nor the school is obliged to provide equivalency review for provincial or locally developed courses not taught at the school where the student is registered.
3. The Board may assess a fee to process a equivalency review.
4. To qualify for an equivalency review students must provide documentation to prove they have successfully completed a course or program of learning.
5. Equivalency credit will only be granted for credentials from other educational jurisdictions and institutions outside the regular school system which match the prescribed learning outcomes for provincial and locally developed courses.
6. All course credits which are received through equivalency must be assigned either a letter grade and percentage or "Transfer Standing" for transcript and reporting purposes.
7. Whenever course credit is granted through an equivalency review, the school will designate this through a predetermined transcript code provided by the Ministry.
8. The Ministry will periodically issue a table of equivalencies which assesses credentials from other institutions outside the regular school system. The Ministry will determine which credentials it reviews. The School Board will adhere to the table of equivalencies (re: Ministry-accepted External Courses).
9. Students arriving from other jurisdictions may challenge for credit where equivalency is not appropriate.
10. Students may receive equivalent credit for a Grade 11 or 12 course without being enrolled in Grade 11 or 12.

11. Students are responsible for providing evidence of successful completion of a course or program from other educational jurisdictions or institutions outside the regular school system. This means presenting official credentials, documents, diplomas or certificates.
12. The final decision regarding eligibility will be at the Principal's discretion.
13. The Principal may designate a counselor or other staff member to coordinate the administration of the Equivalency Review process.

Procedures for Equivalency Review

1. An interested student meets with the Principal or designate and states the reason for requesting the equivalency review. If the possibility of a Equivalency Review exists, the Principal or designate will provide a copy of the "Equivalency Review Form".
2. Once the application form is submitted, the Principal and/or designate will review the form and consider the official credentials, documents, diplomas, or certificates.
3. If the application is accepted, the Principal and/or designate will make a recommendation as to whether equivalency is granted. The Principal will make the final decision.

Assessing and Evaluating Equivalency Review

1. Criteria for evaluating a credential for equivalency could include:
 - a) the prescribed learning outcomes of the provincial or locally developed course have been met in the program taken at the external institution;
 - b) the credibility of the institution;
 - c) the qualifications of instructors;
 - d) the level of difficulty of the course;
 - e) the assessment and evaluation criteria used to award the credential: and
 - f) the approximate credit value of the learning (credit value to which the institute's program or course meets prescribed learning).
2. The final decision shall rest with the Principal.