

**Date of Issue:** March 8, 2010

**Effective:** Until revoked or modified

**Subject:** REVISIONS TO CREDIT REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS AND LEARNING TO 18

**Application:** Directors of Education  
Secretary-Treasurers and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities  
Program Superintendents  
Principals of Elementary Schools  
Principals of Secondary Schools  
Principals of Provincial and Demonstration Schools  
Principals of Inspected Private Schools  
Principal of the Independent Learning Centre

**References:** *Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements, 1999*, sections 3 and 7 and Appendix 5.  
*The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: French As a Second Language, 1999* and *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: French As a Second Language, 2000*.  
*The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Health and Physical Education, 1999* and *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: Health and Physical Education, 2000*.  
This memorandum replaces Policy/Program Memorandum No. 146, November 19, 2007.

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide direction to school boards<sup>1</sup> and schools regarding further changes to credit requirements.

In the version of this memorandum published November 19, 2007, changes were announced to *Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements, 1999* (OSS) and to the curriculum policy documents for health and physical education for Grades 9 to 12. Those changes are all still valid.

This revision of the memorandum makes further changes to the “Compulsory Credit Requirements” section that apply only to English-language schools (see pages 2–3).

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1. The terms *school board* and *board* are used in this document to refer to district school boards and to those school authorities that offer secondary school courses.

The revisions to secondary school program and curriculum requirements increase the flexibility and options for students, so that they can create personalized pathways based on their interests and needs within graduation requirements that continue to maintain high expectations and standards for all students.

All requirements outlined in this memorandum will apply in the 2009–10 school year and in subsequent years.

## REVISIONS TO OSS REQUIREMENTS<sup>2</sup>

### Compulsory Credit Requirements

In 2007, section 3.1.1 (“Compulsory Credits (total of 18)”) and Appendix 5 (“Compulsory Credits”) were revised to include other courses that may be used to meet the “additional compulsory credit requirements” for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. These revisions are described separately below for English-language and French-language schools.

The new changes described below under “English-Language Schools” add French as a second language to group 2 and group 3 requirements, and affect maximum requirements for French as a second language.

#### *English-Language Schools*

*Group 1.* In 2007, the term “a third language” was removed from group 1. Instead, the additional compulsory credit requirement for group 1 may *also* be met with one credit earned through successful completion of one of the following courses:

- any course in French as a second language in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: French As a Second Language – Core, Extended, and Immersion French, 1999* or in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: French As a Second Language – Core, Extended, and Immersion French, 2000*
- any course in a Native language in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Native Languages, 1999* or in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: Native Languages, 2000*
- any course in a classical or an international language in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Classical and International Languages, 1999* or in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: Classical Studies and International Languages, 2000*

*Group 2.* The additional compulsory credit requirement for group 2 may *also* be met with one credit earned through successful completion of one of the following courses:

- any course in French as a second language in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: French As a Second Language – Core, Extended, and Immersion French, 1999* or in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: French As a Second Language – Core, Extended, and Immersion French, 2000*

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2. For ease of reference, an outline of the diploma requirements that reflects the revisions given in this memorandum can be found in the chart called “What do you need to graduate?”. The chart accompanies this memorandum and is also available on the ministry’s website, at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>.

*Group 3.* The additional compulsory credit requirement for group 3 may *also* be met with one credit earned through successful completion of one of the following courses:

- any course in French as a second language in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: French As a Second Language – Core, Extended, and Immersion French, 1999* or in *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: French As a Second Language – Core, Extended, and Immersion French, 2000*

In English-language schools, a maximum of *two* of the three additional compulsory credit requirements for groups 1, 2, and 3 may be met with credits in French as a second language, one of which may be earned for group 1 and the second for *either* group 2 *or* group 3. Through this revision, the maximum number of credits in French as a second language that a student in an English-language school may count towards the 18 compulsory credits has been raised from two to three.

### ***French-Language Schools***

*Group 1.* In 2007, “a third language” was removed from group 1 and was replaced by “a classical or an international language”, which was moved to group 3. In addition to the remaining choices in group 1, the additional compulsory credit requirement for group 1 may be met with one credit earned through successful completion of one of the following courses:

- any course in a Native language in *Le curriculum de l’Ontario, 9<sup>e</sup> et 10<sup>e</sup> année – Langues autochtones, 1999* or in *Le curriculum de l’Ontario, 11<sup>e</sup> et 12<sup>e</sup> année – Langues autochtones, 2000*

*Group 2.* The additional compulsory credit requirement for group 2 may *also* be met with one credit earned through successful completion of one of the following courses:

- any course in English in *Le curriculum de l’Ontario, 9<sup>e</sup> et 10<sup>e</sup> année – English, 2007* or in *Le curriculum de l’Ontario, 11<sup>e</sup> et 12<sup>e</sup> année – English, 2007*

*Group 3.* The additional compulsory credit requirement for group 3 may *also* be met with one credit earned through successful completion of one of the following courses:

- any course in English in *Le curriculum de l’Ontario, 9<sup>e</sup> et 10<sup>e</sup> année – English, 2007* or in *Le curriculum de l’Ontario, 11<sup>e</sup> et 12<sup>e</sup> année – English, 2007*
- any course in a classical or an international language in *Le curriculum de l’Ontario, 9<sup>e</sup> et 10<sup>e</sup> année – Langues classiques et langues internationales, 1999* or in *Le curriculum de l’Ontario, 11<sup>e</sup> et 12<sup>e</sup> année – Études classiques et langues internationales, 2000*

In French-language schools, a maximum of *two* of the three additional compulsory credit requirements for groups 1, 2, and 3 may be met with credits in English, one of which may be earned for group 1 and the second for *either* group 2 *or* group 3. Through this revision, the maximum number of credits in English that a student in a French-language school may count towards the 18 compulsory credits has been raised from two to three.

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## Credits Earned in Language-Support Programs

The revisions to section 7 are described separately below for English-language and French-language schools.

### *English-Language Schools*

In 2007, section 7.3.1.1 (“Support Programs in the Language of Instruction”) was revised. Students may continue to count a maximum of three credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) towards the four compulsory credits in English, but must earn the fourth compulsory credit in English at the *Grade 12* level instead of having the choice of earning it at either the Grade 11 or the Grade 12 level. (Students graduating in the 2007–08 school year were exempt from this requirement.) The courses that meet the compulsory credit requirement in Grade 12 are ENG4U, ENG4C, and ENG4E.

This revision aligned the policy for English-language schools with the compulsory credit requirements listed in section 3.1.1 of OSS, the policy for French-language schools, and the new policy for English language learners (see *English Language Learners – ESL and ELD Programs and Services: Policies and Procedures for Ontario Elementary and Secondary Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2007*).

### *French-Language Schools*

As stated in section 7.3.2.1 (“English et anglais pour débutants”), a student may count one credit in anglais pour débutants as the compulsory credit in English. The revised requirement allows a student to count a maximum of two further credits in anglais pour débutants as additional compulsory credits in English in group 1 and *either* in group 2 *or* in group 3.

## REVISIONS TO CREDIT REQUIREMENTS IN HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The revisions to policy outlined below, which were made in 2007, continue to be valid.

Students have the flexibility to take more than one Healthy Active Living Education course for credit in each of Grades 10, 11, and 12. In addition, schools may offer more than one Grade 9 Healthy Active Living Education course, and a student may take one or more of those courses for credit. The groupings for Grade 9 are the same as those listed for Grade 10 in the curriculum policy document for Grades 9 and 10. The course codes for the Grade 9 courses are as follows:

- Personal and Fitness Activities – PAF10
- Large-Group Activities – PAL10
- Individual and Small-Group Activities – PAI10
- Aquatics – PAQ10
- Rhythm and Movement – PAR10
- Outdoor Activities – PAD10