

APPENDIX 1

SENIOR YEARS CREDIT SYSTEM

The **Senior Years (Grades 9-12) credit system** provides flexibility to enable students to pursue Senior Years courses best suited to their individual requirements and aspirations.

COURSE AND PROGRAMMING DESIGNATIONS

Subject-area curricula from Grade 9 to Grade 12 have been designed for a variety of purposes. Course and programming designations identify and describe them. The most commonly used course designations are:

General (G), Foundation (F) and Specialized (S). Parents and students may recognize some of these designations from course titles seen on school report cards or transcripts.

For Grade 9 to Grade 12, a particular Foundation, General and/or Specialized subject-area curriculum can be modified in a student's **Individual Education Plan (IEP)**, following departmental requirements. Descriptions of these course designations and programming designations are provided below. Parents and students can get more information on Senior Years course and programming designations from their counsellors, teachers or resource teachers.

MODIFIED COURSE DESIGNATION (M)

Students who have special needs may benefit from participating in the learning opportunities offered in Grades 9-12 courses. If students have significant cognitive disabilities that do not allow them to meet the Manitoba curricular outcomes, even with supports, the school team determines that these students' courses will be modified and they will receive a **Modified (M)** course designation. It is important that students and parents be included in this decision. The (M) course designation is to be applied on an individual course basis to those courses developed or approved by Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth. Modification means that the number or content of the Manitoba curriculum outcomes are changed to meet a student's cognitive learning needs. Modifications need to be outlined in an IEP and identified on the student's report card. Students receive marks according to their achievement of the modified curricular outcomes.



For additional information, refer to *Towards Inclusion: A Handbook for Modified Course Designation, Senior 1-4* at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/modified/index.html.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (E)

English as an additional language (EAL) is the study of English by students whose first language is not English. Currently, an **Individual Education Plan (IEP)** is required for these students, whose educational programming is designed to help them become fluent in English.

A change in this policy will take effect with the release of the **Manitoba K-12 EAL framework**. With the implementation of the curriculum framework

in the 2008-2009 school year, new **EAL Educational Plan (EAP)** and **EAL (E)-Designated Course Planning templates** will be utilized and provided.



For additional information, refer to www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/diversity/eal/index.html.

INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAMMING DESIGNATION (I)

Some students' cognitive disabilities are so severe that they require learning outcomes that are individualized and different than the Manitoba curricular outcomes. These students need appropriate educational programming that is based on highly individualized and functional student-specific outcomes within age-appropriate school and community environments. A team that includes the parent makes the decision to provide individualized programming based on the student's cognitive ability. The student's specific outcomes or goals should be outlined in an IEP. Students receiving an Individualized programming designation in Senior Years do not use Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth curricula. Individualized programming often includes vocational and transition planning for life after school. The **Individualized (I)** programming designation is not course-specific but identifies a full year of individualized programming. Students do not receive marks; their progress is documented through the IEP process.



For additional information, refer to *Towards Inclusion: A Handbook for Individualized (I) Programming Designation, Senior Years* at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/specedu/individu/index.html.

CERTIFICATE OF SCHOOL COMPLETION FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAMMING

In March 2007, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth introduced a certificate of completion for an Individualized Senior Years program, effective in the 2006-07 school year. This certificate recognizes the achievement of students with significant cognitive disabilities who benefit from a highly individualized and functionally appropriate learning experience.

This certificate has been developed to recognize the programming of students who did not follow the provincial curriculum and who would not acquire the credits required to graduate with a provincial diploma. Students who receive a certificate of completion for an Individualized Senior Years program have their educational programming identified through individualized outcomes that are recorded in their IEP and have an **Individualized (I)** programming designation reported on their transcript.



Information guidelines for awarding the certificate are available at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/policy/grad_require.html.

Please note: Students can participate in Modified courses or Individualized programming, but not both.