



**Consultation on
Proposed Changes to
Senior Years Programs
and
Graduation
Requirements:
Summary Report
2006**



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Spring 2005 Consultation

In the spring of 2005, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth requested feedback from superintendents of education on three proposed changes to Senior Years programs that would better support the educational needs of students. The three proposed changes were:

- The elimination of the Senior Years Technology Education Program diploma.
- The institution of a new provincial Specialty Certificate for students achieving the minimum of 8 credits in a provincially approved technology education cluster.
- The institution of a Certificate of School Completion.

The results of the written responses received by the Department on these three proposed changes suggested that a more in-depth and broader consultation was warranted to provide the Department with comprehensive feedback from school divisions and partner organizations.

Spring 2006 Consultation

For the new series of consultations, it was decided that the Certificate of School Completion question would be addressed by the Department separately. The two other questions—the elimination of the Senior Years Technology Education Program diploma and the institution of a new provincial Specialty Certificate—would be part of the consultation process slated for April 2006. Added to these two questions was a third question resulting from the requirement for two new compulsory Physical Education and Health Education (PE/HE) credits at Grades 11 and 12 (S3 and S4). The Department requested input to determine whether graduation requirements for the provincial Senior Years diploma should remain at the present 28 credits or be increased to 30 credits.

School divisions and partner organizations were invited to attend one of three sessions held in Brandon (April 13), Winnipeg (April 20), and The Pas (April 26). They were encouraged to send representative teams of four members and provide written feedback as a team.

Representatives from the Department have since compiled this feedback and prepared a summary report outlining what was shared by the participants at these sessions. This summary report follows.

Readers will note that the frequency of responses for the question dealing with the number of credits required for graduation is greater than the frequency of responses for the elimination of the Senior Years Technology Education Program diploma and the institution of a new provincial Specialty Certificate. This reflects the fact that the issue dealing with the number of credits is of interest to all school divisions, whereas the other two issues only affect school divisions with a Technology Education Program.

Will the new Grade 12 (S4) PE/HE credits be considered for admission at post-secondary education institutions?	9
Is there evidence or research that this approach will have an impact on health/fitness? Are there baseline data to compare with future results?	8
Many students already graduate with 30 or more credits.	8
Two new compulsory credits go against increasing choice and flexibility.	5
Consulting on addition of PE/HE credits was a crucial step that was missed—consultations still needed to address all issues related to PE/HE.	4
Impact on student employment and/or work education opportunities.	4
Parental support in delivery of PE/HE credits?	4
Difficult choice (28 vs. 30) until it is clear what the curriculum for the two additional PE/HE credits looks like.	4
Proliferation of medical exemptions (PE/HE) and substitution of credits will occur.	3
PE/HE in Grades 11 and 12 (S3/S4) will have much less impact than it would with students at younger ages or family-centred activities.	3
Grades 11 and 12 (S3/S4) PE/HE credits could promote health/fitness.	3
A course credit presently is 110 hours of instructional time. Will there be impacts? Changes to the length of the school day?	2
Would 29 credits be considered?—advantages: flexibility, electives, resource allocation...	2