

GUIDELINES FOR A CULTURAL EXPLORATION STUDENT-INITIATED PROJECT (SIP)

Students can gain valuable educational experience by enhancing their knowledge of their own cultural origins or a cultural group that interests them through interaction with community members such as elders and members of cultural organizations. The skills, knowledge and attitudes obtained from such activities can increase a student's self-esteem and maturity, strengthen cultural identity and/or provide greater intercultural understanding and an appreciation of cultural diversity. This credit is available for the senior years as a credit for graduation purposes and **does not require departmental registration**. The process for obtaining the credit is similar to one used for the Community Service SIP or the Private Music Option where students provide evidence of music standing by presenting written documentation for activity outside of the school system.

Student: Roles and Responsibilities

To obtain a Cultural Exploration SIP credit the student is required to:

- Discuss this credit opportunity with his/her parents/guardians and provide the school with a completed and signed copy of the Parent/Guardian Approval Form.
- Indicate his/her intention to participate in an activity for the purpose of obtaining a Cultural Exploration SIP Credit to the school prior to commencing the activity and the start of the school semester and discuss the anticipated skills and knowledge that will be obtained by the student as a result of the cultural exploration activity in order to obtain a preliminary evaluation from the school respecting whether the school will recognize the proposed activity for a Cultural Exploration SIP credit and the level of credit that will be recognized for that activity.
- Understand that formal enrollment is not required by the student.
- Participate in a cultural exploration activity a minimum of 110 hours for a full credit or 55 hours for a one-half credit and, together with the community group or individual, keep track of his/her hours.
- Understand that a student may earn a maximum of only one (1) credit over the entire senior years program using the Cultural Exploration SIP credit opportunity. This credit can be at the 11G, 21G, 31G, **or** 41G level and can be applied to the 28 credits required for graduation purposes. Whether the activity will be recognized for a Cultural Exploration SIP credit and the level of credit that will be recognized will be based upon the level of the skills and knowledge obtained by the student in the cultural exploration activity and evaluated by the school prior to the commencement of the activity and confirmed by the school upon completion of the Cultural Exploration SIP.
- Provide the school with documentation, e.g., a letter from the cultural group, Elder, or a SIP record form indicating that participation took place, when it took place, the number of hours contributed by the student, and the skills and knowledge obtained by the student in the cultural exploration activity.
- Understand that a student who participates in an activity for a Cultural Exploration SIP credit is participating in an activity that is **outside** the regular school program and is not enrolled in a course approved by Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, and is not participating in a program that is conducted off the school premises under the authority of a school board.
- Understand that in evaluating the cultural exploration activity prior to the commencement of the activity by the student, the school will evaluate only the skills and knowledge to be obtained by the student in the activity and will not evaluate any hazards that may be associated with the cultural exploration activity. Neither the school, the school division/district nor Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth will be liable for any injury to the student or for any damage to or loss of property of the student caused by or in any way related to the student's participation in a cultural exploration activity.
- Understand that a student and his/her parents/guardians bear the responsibility for the student's safety. A student should discuss concerns relating to the activity with his/her parents/guardians and, together, they should exercise discretion, be aware of safety issues and investigate the liability insurance coverage before deciding that the student will participate in the activity.
- Understand that a student may withdraw from the activity at any time for any reason, including for the reason that the cultural exploration activity conditions are not acceptable to the student or his/her parents/guardians.
- Understand that a Cultural Exploration SIP credit is an optional credit.

- Understand that in order for an activity to be recognized for a Cultural Exploration SIP credit, no remuneration or honourarium can be accepted by the student.

School: Roles and Responsibilities: (Administrators and Teachers)

- Discuss this Cultural Exploration SIP Credit opportunity with the Advisory Council for School Leadership/Parent Council representing the school.
- Offer this credit opportunity in a school only if there is a directive to offer it from the school division or from the school's Advisory Council for School Leadership/Parent Council .
- Notify teachers and students about the introduction of this new optional credit opportunity and the requirements for recognition of a Cultural Exploration SIP credit.
- Provide parents with information about the credit so that they can discuss this optional opportunity with their children and decide whether they wish to have their sons/daughters participate.
- Provide Parent/Guardian Approval Forms to students who wish to participate.
- Recognize a Cultural Exploration SIP Credit that has been recognized by another school or school division.
- Record the Cultural Exploration SIP credit using the code 8979 provided by Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth for reporting the Credit. The Cultural Exploration SIP does **not** require registration with Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth as do other SIPs that have a classroom component and are monitored by a teacher.

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth: Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide Guidelines for the Cultural Exploration Student-initiated Project (SIP).
- Encourage schools to inform Advisory Councils for School Leadership and Parent Councils about this opportunity.
- Clarify the difference between the Cultural Exploration SIP Credit and the SIP Credit that has a classroom component, is monitored by a classroom teacher and must be registered with Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth.
- Arrange to have reporting of student credit as and “S” for “standing” (no percentage mark required).
- Provide a mechanism (course code 8979 for schools to use in reporting the credit).
- Share the information about liability. Neither the school, the school division nor Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth will be liable for any injury to the student or for any damage to or loss of property of the student caused by or in any way related to the student's participation in a cultural exploration activity. A student and his/her parents/guardians bear the responsibility for the student's safety. A student should discuss concerns about the nature of the activity with his/her parents/guardians and, together, they should exercise discretion, be aware of safety issues and investigate the liability insurance coverage for the student before deciding that the student will participate in the cultural exploration activity.