

# Challenge for Credit Option

## Guidelines, Roles, and Responsibilities

School divisions develop and implement local policies and procedures based on the following guidelines related to the Challenge for Credit Option.

### Intent of the Challenge for Credit Option

Recognizing that, in exceptional circumstances, students may have previously acquired the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of a particular course, the Challenge for Credit Option provides a process for students to demonstrate this proficiency, as defined in the Manitoba curriculum. Earning a credit through this process should not be more demanding than the requirements to earn the credit through regular instruction. Challenge for Credit requires students to demonstrate that they meet the curriculum learning outcomes in an appropriate way.

The Challenge for Credit Option does not apply to the [Special Language Credit Option](#) or the [Private Music Option](#).

The Challenge for Credit Option serves students

- who, by virtue of special talents or private study, can be accelerated in particular subject areas
- transferring into a Manitoba school from another jurisdiction whose placement in a subject/grade would be facilitated by such a provision
- whose educational attendance has been interrupted through illness or other reasons, and who may be able to successfully challenge the learning outcomes of a particular course in which they were previously unable to enrol
- who were homeschooled
- who are exceptional achievers in a certain area
- who demonstrate that they have met course requirements through life experiences such as independent study, employment, volunteer activities, and hobbies

### Guidelines for the Challenge for Credit Option in Grades 9 to 12

1. Students must be enrolled in a school division/district or a funded independent school in Manitoba to be eligible to participate in the Challenge for Credit Option.
2. To ensure demonstration of learning outcomes and a reliable evaluation of achievement, teachers use various assessment strategies (e.g., tests, evaluation of written assignments, portfolio of work, interviews, demonstrations/performances, laboratory work, research paper[s]/essay[s], quizzes, practical examinations, skill demonstrations, and simulations) to allow a student to demonstrate prior learning in an appropriate way.

3. A student in Grade 12 who successfully completes a compulsory course challenge is still required to write [Grade 12 provincial tests](#), if applicable to the course.
4. A student who has successfully completed a course and received a mark cannot use the Challenge for Credit Option to raise their mark.
5. A student who challenges the course, either successfully or unsuccessfully, may subsequently choose to take the course.
6. A student may attempt a particular course challenge only once. If the student is unsuccessful but wants credit in the course or wishes to raise their mark, they are required to take the course. Related documentation is to be included in the student's cumulative file.
7. A student who successfully demonstrates the learning outcomes for a course through the Challenge for Credit Option is to be awarded a final course mark and credit.
8. There is no limit to the number of courses that a student may challenge.
9. A school should not charge registered students or their families a fee for administering course challenges. (The Special Language Credit Option uses community examiners who charge a fee for conducting the examination.)
10. School divisions/districts are not obliged to provide the Challenge for Credit Option for provincial courses that are not taught in the division/district.

### **School Division Responsibilities**

1. Develop and maintain a policy that governs the administration of the Challenge for Credit Option.

### **School Responsibilities**

1. Establish procedures for communication with parent(s)/caregiver(s) and students about the Challenge for Credit Option.
2. Provide opportunity for students to participate in the Challenge for Credit Option, when appropriate.
3. Determine the student's readiness for the Challenge for Credit Option in consultation with the student, parent(s)/caregiver(s), and subject-area teacher(s). The consultation must include evidence that the student has a reasonable possibility to meet the learning outcomes for the course.
4. Ensure that assessment for the Challenge for Credit Option includes strategies that will assess, in a timely and practical manner, the breadth and scope of the learning outcomes for the course as presented in the curriculum documents.

5. Assign the administration and evaluation of assessment for a course challenge to a certified teacher who has taught the course.
6. Develop a Notice of Intent to Challenge for Credit form. School divisions/districts may establish specific dates for accepting and reviewing challenge applications and/or may determine that challenges must be completed at specific times so courses can be planned for the upcoming year.
7. Grant an equivalent credit and course mark to students who successfully complete a challenge.

## **Student Responsibilities**

1. Students who request a Challenge for Credit opportunity must provide reasonable evidence (e.g., independent study, employment experience, volunteer activities, and hobbies) that they are likely to be successful in the challenge.
2. Students have to complete a Notice of Intent to Challenge for Credit form as developed by the school/school division/school district.
3. Students must comply with the school/school division/school district policy for the Challenge for Credit Option.