

Appendix A: Ontario Schools Intermediate and Senior Division Equivalent Standing for Mature Students

Equivalent credits towards the OSSD may be granted to mature students who have returned to day school, are enrolled in classes in continuing education, have obtained private-study status, or are enrolled in the independent Learning Centre.

Mature students who have previously accumulated fewer than twenty-six credits may wish to take advantage of any of the provisions for equivalent-credit allowances stated below. Such students shall not be awarded the OSSD until they have earned, subsequent to becoming mature students, at least four Ontario credits from the senior division. Mature students who have previously accumulated twenty-six or more credits towards the OSSD shall complete the required number of credits to bring their total up to a minimum of thirty credits before they qualify for the diploma. In applying the criteria governing equivalent-credit allowances, a principal may consider it desirable to delay assigning some or all of the equivalent credits until students have completed one or more courses normally taken in the Senior Division. The principal shall determine which compulsory courses (if any) must still be completed by the student to earn an OSSD.

Equivalent-Credit Allowances

In addition to diploma credits already accumulated by students – credits for which transcripts can be produced – the following equivalent-credit allowances may be given to raise the total number of accumulated credits for mature students to a maximum of twenty-six credits:

- **Maturity allowance:** a maturity allowance of up to twelve credits may be given on the basis of age and length of time out of school. This provision recognizes that experience in the adult world can produce competence and understanding equivalent for some purposes, and to varying degrees, to that which might have been gained through formal education. Because maturity is not necessarily proportionate to chronological age, the decision regarding how many of the twelve credits will be allotted to any individual mature student is left to the principal, who will judge each case according to its merits.
- **Equivalent-education allowance:** allowances may also be given to mature students for individual courses successfully completed but not normally identified as secondary education, if they are considered acceptable by the principal and if appropriate transcript information is available. Each course containing work that would normally be completed after a minimum of 110 hours of instruction may be considered to equal one equivalent credit. Courses that are considered to be postsecondary, for example, courses that normally qualify for college or university credit, do not qualify for credits towards the OSSD.

- Apprenticeship-training allowance: two equivalent credits may be allotted for the successful completion of each period of an apprenticeship-training program under authority of the former Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualification Act, Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1980, chapter 24 (now the *Ontario of Trades and Apprenticeship Act, 2009*, chapter 22). In a modular training program, two equivalent credits may be allotted for each six units taken over and above the prescribed academic entry requirement of the particular training program authorized under the act cited above.

The equivalent credits assigned under this section shall be recorded as such on the OST.

Stipulations Governing Credit Requirements

When a principal has determined how many credits a mature student has yet to earn towards a diploma, the student should be given guidance regarding the credit courses that are to be included in their program. After judging each case on its merits, the principal may stipulate general requirements for earning the diploma. A ruling of this nature should be given to the student in writing, with a copy placed in the student's record folder. Any ruling should not be unduly burdensome on the student but should be made in their best interests.