

MINISTER'S DIRECTIVE
No. MD 2024-02

**Granting of Senior High Graduation Diploma and Transition Certificate
in the English Language Education Program**

Pursuant to clause 3(1)(g) and subsection 4(1) of the *Education Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. E-.02, I hereby issue the following Minister's Directive to establish rules for the granting of diplomas and provincial transition certificates in an English language education program, including an education program for French immersion students.

This Minister's Directive replaces Minister's Directive No. MD 2020-04.

Interpretation

1. In this Directive,
 - (a) "affiliated school" means an educational institution located outside of Canada that is authorized by the Minister to use curricula developed and approved by the Department;
 - (b) "credit" means:
 - i. a weighted unit based on the number of defined hours of instruction in a course that is awarded to a student upon successful completion of the course with a pass mark of at least 50%;
 - ii. an enrolled credit;
 - iii. a local course credit; or
 - iv. a passing credit.
 - (c) "English credit" means a credit for a course identified as an English course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*;
 - (d) "English language education program" means the education program approved by the Minister under clause 3(2)(b) of the *Education Act* for use in the English school system;
 - (e) "enrolled" means that a student attended a course for which the teacher assessed an assignment or assignments;
 - (f) "enrolled credit" means a credit that is awarded to a student for a course in which they were enrolled in the spring semester of the 2019-2020 school year;
 - (g) "local course credit" means a course approved by the Department that accommodates the special interests and abilities of students, innovative practices, and addresses local community interest;
 - (h) "mathematics credit" means a credit for a course identified as a mathematics course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*;
 - (i) "passing credit" means a credit awarded to a student in ENG471, ENG571 or ENG671A;

(j) "physical education credit" means a credit for a course identified as a physical education course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*;

(k) "science credit" means a credit for a course identified as a science course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*;

(l) "*Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*" means the most recent version of the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*, published by the Department of Education and Early Years, as amended from time to time;

(m) "social studies credit" means a credit for a course identified as a social studies course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*.

PART A- Eligibility

2. An individual is eligible to receive a Senior High Graduation Diploma if the individual has successfully completed the course credit requirements for a Senior High Graduation Diploma described in Part B of this Directive and
 - (a) is enrolled in a senior high school operated by the Public Schools Branch; or
 - (b) is enrolled in an affiliated school that, in the opinion of the Deputy Minister, offers courses that are substantially equivalent to courses offered by the Public Schools Branch.
3. This Directive does not apply to the eligibility of individuals to receive a Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) High School Equivalency Certificate, General Educational Development (GED) High School Equivalency Certificate or a High School Graduation Certificate for Mature Students for the completion of senior high level courses as an adult learner who is not enrolled in a school operated by an education authority. Certification for the above programs is the responsibility of the Minister of Workforce, Advanced Learning and Population.

PART B -Academic Requirements for a Senior High Graduation Diploma – 20 Credit Pathway

4. (1) An individual who is enrolled in an English language education program has completed the course credit requirements to be granted a Senior High Graduation Diploma if the individual has successfully completed twenty (20) course credits comprised of
 - (a) at least five (5) course credits from courses designated in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials* as Grade 12 courses (600 or 800 level courses); and
 - (b) at least eleven (11) course credits from the compulsory course credits described in subsection (3).
- (2) A course credit may be used to satisfy the course credit requirements described in both clause (1)(a) and clause (1)(b).
- (3) The compulsory course credit requirements referred to in clause (1)(b) include:
 - (a) Three (3) English credits, one (1) of which must be ENG 600 level;
 - (b) two (2) mathematics credits, one of which must be MAT 500 or 800 level;
 - (c) two (2) science credits;

- (d) two (2) social studies credits, one of which must include Canadian content as listed in the *Senior High School Program of Studies* or a social studies credit approved by the Director of the English Education, Programs and Services division of the Department as a compulsory course credit;
 - (e) one (1) physical education credit, which must be PED401A;
 - (f) one (1) career education and personal development credit, which must be CEO401A or CAR421F;
5. (1) An individual may apply in writing to the Director of the English Education, Programs and Services division of the Department for an exemption from the following compulsory course credit requirements referenced in section 4.
- (a) Physical education (PED401A);
 - (b) Career education and personal development (CEO401A or CAR421F).
- (2) An individual shall provide the following information with an application for an exemption
- (a) a description of the reason why the individual should not be required to complete the compulsory course credit requirement;
 - (b) a description of the steps taken by the education authority or affiliated school to accommodate the individual's specific circumstances within the curriculum associated with the compulsory course credit requirement; and
 - (c) a written recommendation from the principal of the school or affiliated school, as the case may be, that the individual be exempted from the compulsory course credit requirement.
- (3) On receiving a completed application made in accordance with this section, the Director of English Education, Programs and Services division of the Department may exempt an individual from a compulsory course credit requirement if, in the Director's opinion,
- (a) the individual's personal health, religious or physical circumstances prevent the individual from fully participating in the compulsory course, and the health, religious or physical circumstances of the individual cannot be reasonably accommodated within the curriculum of the compulsory course; or
 - (b) the individual has transferred into the education program from another jurisdiction in the individual's third year of study at the senior high level, and enrolment in the compulsory course would unduly delay the completion of the individual's senior high program of studies.

PART C - Academic Requirements for a Senior High Graduation Diploma – Essential Skills Achievement Pathway

6. (1) In the Essential Skills Achievement Pathway–Post-Secondary Education (ESAP-PSE), an individual who is enrolled in an English language education program has successfully completed the course requirements to be granted a Senior High Graduation Diploma if the individual has successfully:
- (a) attained mastery level in the Foundational Learning Block;

- (b) attained mastery level in one of the designated Post-Secondary Education Achievement Pathway Blocks; and
 - (c) demonstrated a minimum level-two complexity Capstone Project.
- (2) In the Essential Skills Achievement Pathway–Workplace Entry (ESAP-WE) program, an individual who is enrolled in an English language education program has successfully completed the course requirements to be granted a Senior High Graduation Diploma if the individual has successfully:
- (a) attained mastery level in the Foundational Learning Block;
 - (b) achieved mastery level in Workplace Readiness Block; and
 - (c) met the requirements of an experiential Work Placement (minimum 400 hours).

PART D -Academic Requirements for a Senior High Graduation Diploma – International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

7. An individual who successfully completes eight (8) credits from the Prince Edward Island Senior High Program of Studies and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program will meet Provincial Graduation requirements and receive a Prince Edward Island Senior High Graduation Diploma.

PART E -Academic Requirements for a High School Transition Certificate

8. An individual who fulfills the requirements of transition planning at the high school level, as outlined in an individual Transition Action Plan in accordance with guidelines of the Prince Edward Island Department of Education and Early Years has successfully completed the course requirements to be granted a High School Transition Certificate.
9. This directive replaces Minister's Directive No. MD 2020-04, which is revoked.

This Minister's Directive is effective February 26, 2024.

Dated at the City of Charlottetown, this 26 day of February 2024.



Natalie Jameson
Minister of Education and Early Years