

# Challenge for Credit

April 2001

## **Rationale**

Challenge for Credit is an opportunity to recognize prior learning and to acknowledge this through the granting of a credit(s). The opportunity to challenge is consistent with a view of schooling that promotes and validates learning that takes place in a variety of circumstances including outside of the school.

## **Guidelines**

### **Availability**

Available to

- Any student currently enrolled in a New Brunswick high school.
- Students, who outside school, have met all the learning, process, interpersonal, participation objectives or outcomes / requirements of a course.

Available in

- Any prescribed course in the New Brunswick public school system in grades 11 and 12. Prescribed courses are listed in the most current version of the High School Program of Studies.
- Any number of courses but limited to two challenge courses for graduation purposes.

### **Application**

- Student applies in writing (with parents' signature) to the principal prior to or within two weeks of the beginning of a semester/year.
- The application will include clear evidence of appropriate prior learning congruent with the outcomes/ requirements of an identified New Brunswick course and should be supported by at least one pedagogical professional.
- The school principal in conjunction with two other teachers and in consultation with the student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) will advise on the validity of the application.
- If for any reason a school is not able to offer a challenge opportunity, a student may request that the challenge be taken in another school in the same school district. This arrangement will be subject to the same guidelines and conditions that apply to a challenge in the student's home school.

## **Assessment and Reporting**

- A panel of three people knowledgeable in the area of challenge will determine the most appropriate way to proceed. The panel should be made up of three New Brunswick educators although it is possible that one may yield their position to a person from outside of the school who is knowledgeable in the subject area being challenged. The panel will determine a time-line for the challenge and the nature and extent of assessment requirements. Both the time-line and the assessment requirements will be communicated in writing to the student.
- On completion of the assessment process, an evaluation will be made and recorded using the method used in the school, eg letter grade, percentage mark, descriptive performance indicator. Provincial examination results need to be included where appropriate. Students who do not pass the challenge are not allowed a second attempt at the same course.

## **Music**

The challenge arrangements for music changed in September 1997. Private Music Option (Grade 8 Practical and Grade 2 Theory, from the Royal Conservatory of Music or equivalent) is no longer granted. Instead students with strong music backgrounds may use their knowledge and skills to challenge for credit in any prescribed New Brunswick music course. The criteria for the challenge are the same as for any subject and are outlined in the Challenge for Credit Guideline (above). Potential music challengers and private music teachers should be aware that all outcomes and course requirements must be met.

## **French**

Students who were enrolled in a French Immersion Program or had previously been registered in the francophone sector are not eligible to challenge for core French courses or French Immersion Language Arts courses at grades 11 and 12, unless they have been in core French from grades 6 to 10.

French Immersion students and students who were formerly in the Francophone sector may challenge for any grade 11/12 French immersion course.

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