

Policy Name	Challenge and Equivalency Policy
Policy Number	
Date Created	January 2025
Date Revised	
Date of Implementation	January 2025

Purpose

This policy provides the framework for recognizing and assessing prior learning for students enrolled in high schools in British Columbia (BC). It specifically addresses the use of equivalency and challenge credits to ensure that students' educational experiences are appropriately acknowledged, allowing for their smooth integration into the BC education system while preserving the integrity of graduation requirements.

Definitions

Equivalency Credits: Credits awarded to students for prior learning that aligns with BC Ministry of Education learning outcomes and standards. These credits are based on documented proof of formal education outside of BC.

Challenge Credits: Credits awarded to students who demonstrate, through assessment, that they have met the learning outcomes of a specific BC course without having formally completed it.

International Students: Students enrolled in BC schools who have received a significant portion of their education outside Canada.

CHALLENGE PROCESS

The Challenge process allows students to earn credit for a Grade 10, 11, or 12 course if they have already acquired the necessary learning elsewhere. All students have the right to request an opportunity to challenge a course for credit. However, students must provide strong, compelling evidence of their ability to succeed in the challenge, and demonstrate

that challenging the course is in their best interests. Successful completion of a Challenge results in the student receiving credit for the course, as well as a school-assigned mark.

It is strongly recommended that students challenge a Grade 11 course while in Grade 10, and not before. Students should typically be in Grade 11 when applying to challenge a Grade 12 course, so they can take the course in Grade 12 if the Challenge is unsuccessful.

Challenge provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes of a course in the Graduation Program and to earn credit without taking the course. However, Challenge should only be used in exceptional circumstances.

The Challenge process is designed to be rigorous, ensuring that the integrity of the curriculum and quality of education are maintained. It is intended for students with exceptional abilities or those who have had unique learning opportunities due to special circumstances.

Challenge is not intended for students seeking to improve their course marks, nor is it a replacement for the valuable experience of classroom learning. The goal of the Challenge process is to recognize student learning so they do not have to repeat content. It also allows students to broaden their high school program by selecting additional courses or pursuing personal interests in areas such as the Fine Arts or Athletics.

Students should demonstrate readiness to challenge a course by showing:

- Exceptional ability related to the course, without needing documentation to support equivalency;
- Knowledge, understanding, and skills that are equivalent to the prescribed learning outcomes for the course;
- Evidence that challenging the course is in the student's best interest.

Challenge Credits

International students may challenge courses to earn credits if they can demonstrate mastery of the course content without formal enrollment. This process is designed to acknowledge informal or non-traditional learning experiences.

To be eligible for challenge credits:

- a) Students must be currently enrolled in a BC high school.

b) Students must submit a formal application, providing evidence of prior learning or experience relevant to the course being challenged.

Students may not challenge courses for which they have already received equivalency credits.

A meeting with a school counselor or subject teacher will determine the student's readiness for the challenge process. Eligible students will complete required assignments which may include written exams, practical demonstrations and/or portfolio submissions.

A teachers will evaluate the assessments based on the BC curriculum standards and determine if credit should be granted. If challenge credits are determined to have met the criteria, students and their guardians will be notified, and appropriate credits will be awarded and recorded on the student's transcript.

EQUIVALENCY

Equivalency refers to documented prior learning and applies to Grade 10, 11, or 12 Ministry-developed or board/authority-authorized courses completed outside the BC school system. Students who have completed equivalent coursework elsewhere may apply to have that coursework recognized for credit by OneSchool Global. To qualify, the coursework must match at least 80% of the B.C. curriculum. There is no limit to the number of credits students may earn through Equivalency.

Equivalency Credits

OneSchool Global will award equivalency credits to international students for prior learning that is demonstrably equivalent to BC Ministry of Education courses, i.e. the prior courses must align with BC provincial standards in content, depth, and learning outcomes. 10.

Students must submit official transcripts, certificates, or other credible documentation from accredited international educational institutions as proof of prior learning. Official translated transcripts from their previous school(s) must be validated by an authorized agency.

Admissions team will verify and evaluate the submitted documents for alignment with BC learning standards.

If prior learning is determined to have met the equivalency criteria, students and their guardians will be notified, and appropriate credits will be awarded and recorded in the student's file.

EXTERNAL CREDITS

External Credits refer to Ministry-approved documented prior learning. An official list of approved External Credits is provided to schools annually. Some external credentials are classified as required courses, while others are considered electives. External credits cannot be granted for courses required for graduation. There is no limit to the number of credits a student may earn through external credentials, though there may be restrictions if the external courses or programs are deemed equivalent to others.

Policy Statements

1. OneSchool Global adheres to Ministry of Education policies regarding credit recognition and ensures that all awarded credits align with approved learning standards and graduation requirements.
2. All students, regardless of background or enrollment status, will have equal access to the opportunities and processes to demonstrate their knowledge and skills, and to have their prior educational achievements assessed fairly and consistently.
3. OneSchool Global. will provide clear guidelines and support to students and parents/guardians to assist them in navigating the equivalency and challenge credit processes effectively.
4. OneSchool Global. will establish a fair, transparent, and timely process for resolving conflicts related to credit recognition and graduation requirements.

Procedures

1. Upon enrollment, international students will meet with school counselors to discuss their educational background and review options for equivalency and challenge credits. This meeting will establish a pathway to meet graduation requirements.
2. OneSchool Global. will periodically review equivalency and challenge credit processes to ensure alignment with BC Ministry of Education policies.

3. Educators will receive ongoing training on evaluating international transcripts and administering challenge assessments.
4. Students and guardians will be encouraged to provide feedback on the process, which will be used to guide future improvements.

For more information about students earning credits through Challenge, Equivalency and External Credentials please refer to the information in the [Ministry of Education website](#).