**From:** Ministry of Education (EDU) <MinistryofEducation@ontario.ca>
**Sent:** February 1, 2022 3:51 PM
**To:** Ministry of Education (EDU) <MinistryofEducation@ontario.ca>
**Subject:** Online Learning Graduation Requirement | Condition d’obtention du diplôme en matière d’apprentissage en ligne

| **Memorandum to:** | Directors of EducationSecretary/Treasurers of School Authorities |
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| **From:** |  Nancy NaylorDeputy Minister |
| **Subject:** | **Online Learning Graduation Requirement** |
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Ontario is committed to helping students develop digital literacy and other important transferable skills they need to succeed in school, work, and life. The ministry has now issued [Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 167](https://www.ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction/policyprogram-memorandum-167) regarding the new online learning graduation requirement, effective February 1, 2022.

The online learning graduation requirement is intended to provide every student with access to high-quality online learning opportunities within a modernized education system. This will help prepare them for success in their academic careers and in an increasingly digital global economy.

As first announced in 2019, starting with the cohort of students who entered Grade 9 in 2020-2021, students must earn two online learning credits to obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The PPM provides further clarity and direction, including on the following:

·         Eligible Credits: All online learning credits earned at a school authorized to offer credits towards an OSSD may count towards the graduation requirement.

·         Credits Earned During 2020-21 School Closures: In recognition of extraordinary measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, up to one secondary school credit completed by Grade 9 students in the 2020-21 school year during the province-wide school closures (from April 2021 to June 2021) may be counted towards the new graduation requirement.

The PPM also establishes that parents and guardians will have the opportunity to determine whether online learning is appropriate and beneficial for their child, with the choice to opt out of the mandatory online learning credits.

The Ontario Student Transcript template will be updated to reflect the online learning graduation requirement and can continue to be ordered from Lowe Martin Company Inc. Samples of secondary final report card templates will also be updated to reflect the online learning graduation requirement. Further details will be communicated in a follow-up memo.

School boards are responsible for having a selection of online courses available and students can register for these online courses through their local school during course selection period. School boards will continue to deliver Ontario-certified teacher-led online courses through the English- and French-language public and Catholic school systems.

Many school boards across the province are currently members of one of the e-learning school board consortia that support greater access to a variety of online learning courses for students. If your school board is not a member of a consortium, you may wish to explore this option and how it might support your school board in meeting the demand for online learning.

**Online Course Previews**

Secondary school students are able to view a [sample of online course content](http://www.ontariocoursepreview.ca/) and preview online courses through example activities. School boards continue to make choices regarding the online courses that are available to their students.

These previews provide students and their families with a convenient and accessible way to explore teacher-led online learning courses, while also helping them make informed decisions for their course selection for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. New online course previews will be added over time, which will give Ontario secondary students more options to reach their academic goals and meet the new online graduation requirements.

The courses being previewed are designed to be taught by teachers employed by school boards and will be made available to boards through the Virtual Learning Environment. I encourage you to share the link to the online course previews with students and families.

As part of a strategy to reduce barriers to online learning, the Ontario government has improved internet access at all publicly funded schools in Ontario. Under the Broadband Modernization Program, schools across Ontario have completed improvements to their broadband networks, so that students can access online learning resources. Of the nearly 5,000 elementary and secondary schools across Ontario, only three schools in rural, northern communities continue to experience access challenges. These improvements will support better access to online courses for students in more remote communities. They build on record investments by the government in remote learning technology, such as iPads and other devices, that support student access to online learning.

The Ministry of Education is committed to helping all students reach their full potential and achieve lifelong success. Online learning is central to these important educational goals. Thank you for your ongoing support and leadership in student learning.

Sincerely,

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| Nancy Naylor |  |
| Deputy Minister |  |
|   c: |   Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers’ Association (OECTA)General Secretary, Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO)General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF)Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)Chair, Education Workers’ Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)Chair, TVOChief Executive Officer, TVODirector of Academic Services, TVO Independent Learning CentrePresident (Acting), TFOVice President Educational Continuum, TFOExecutive Director, Ontario elearning Consortium (OeLC)Executive Committee Chair, Ontario elearning Consortium (OeLC)Executive Director, Ontario Catholic elearning Consortium (OCeLC)Executive Director, Directrice générale, Consortium d’apprentissage virtuel de langue française de l’Ontario (CAVLFO)  |
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