

Parent/Guardian & Student Opt-Out Form of E-Learning Graduation Requirement

Dear Parent/Guardian:

You may be aware that the Ministry of Education, through [PPM 167](#), has mandated that students must earn two (2) e-learning credits to graduate from secondary school, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21* school year.

Online learning refers to e-learning courses that do not require students to be physically present with one another or with their teacher in school. Parents/guardians may choose to opt their child out of the mandatory e-learning courses required for graduation.

This opt-out form is included as part of the annual course selection process for all Catholic secondary school students. This opt-out form may be distributed electronically or in print; however, a print copy of all opt-out forms must be returned to the student's school and will be included in the student's OSR (Ontario Student Record). The form does not have to be returned to the school if your child is choosing to fulfill the two-credit e-learning course graduation requirement.

To help you and your child make the best decision, more information about e-Learning can be found on the back side of this sheet. As always, please reach out to your child's teacher and/or guidance counsellor if you have further questions.

Student's Name: _____

For parents/guardians of students under 18 years of age:

I am the parent/guardian of this student and by checking this box, I confirm that I choose to have my child opt-out of the mandatory e-learning graduation requirement.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

OR

For students who are at least 18 years of age, or are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control:

By checking this box, I confirm that I choose to opt-out of the mandatory e-learning graduation requirement.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

***Up to one** secondary school credit that was completed by students who were in Grade 9 during the province-wide school closures (from April 2021 to June 2021) may be counted towards the graduation requirement, in recognition of the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

About the Online Learning Graduation Requirement

Beginning with the cohort of students who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year, all students must earn a minimum of two online learning credits as part of the [requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma](#) unless they have been opted out or exempted.

For more information visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction/policyprogram-memorandum-167>.

What are e-learning courses or credits?

For the purposes of [Policy/Program Memorandum 167](#), *online learning courses* or *online learning credits*, also known as “e-learning” courses or credits, are Grades 9 to 12 credit courses that are **delivered entirely using the internet and do not require students to be physically present** with one another or with their educator in the school, except where they may be needed for examinations and other final evaluations and/or access to internet connectivity, learning devices or other school-based supports.

E-learning courses or credits:

- rely primarily on online communication between students and educators;
- do not generally require students to be physically present with one another or with their educator in the school, except where required for assessments, occasional meetings, etc.;
- may have students learning with other students from different areas of Ontario;
- provide an opportunity for students to learn how e-learning might support their pathway goals, while developing their digital literacy;
- can prepare students for future e-Learning post-Secondary courses;
- can be more flexible in that they do not require students to be in class at the same time every day;
- require more time-management skills and independent work than a traditional face-to-face class.

How do I know if e-learning is a good fit for my child?

When considering whether e-Learning is a good fit for your child, consider:

- How might these e-Learning courses support your child’s pathway goals, and provide them with the skills needed once they enter apprenticeship, college, university, or the workplace?
- How might your child’s pathway destination (apprenticeship, college, or university) support e-learning courses for admissions?
- How might e-learning help your child with the way they learn (e.g., does your child prefer asynchronous and/or synchronous learning?)
- How well does your child independently manage time? Schedule work assignments? Work independently?

Your responses to the questions above will help you decide if e-learning is a good fit for your child. If you have more questions or aren’t sure, please speak to your child’s teacher or guidance counsellor.

Please note that should you choose to opt your child out of e-Learning, you can always opt back in at a later time.