



Date: **June 21, 2022**  
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Subject: **eLearning Graduation Requirement**

## **PURPOSE**

The Ministry of Education has mandated that all students in Ontario complete two eLearning credits as part of their graduation requirement with an optional opt out process.

This requirement is designed to support students to enrol in online learning courses as part of their secondary school program, in order to support the development of digital literacy and other important transferable skills that will help prepare them for success after graduation and in all aspects of their lives. It is guided by a vision of an Ontario where every student has equitable access to high-quality online learning within a modernised education system that prepares them to succeed in a digital and ever-changing world.

Ontario students have been using online learning to earn high school credits towards their diploma since 2004. Expanding access to high-quality, Ontario teacher-led online learning will enable students to:

- access a wider variety of courses no matter where they live or go to school, allowing them to shape their education based on their individual needs and goals
- learn in engaging new ways, such as through hands-on, interactive features, simulations and collaboration with peers across the province
- increase their digital fluency and gain transferable skills to support lifelong learning and employment opportunities

We live in an increasingly digital world and students require the skills necessary to operate in both the physical and digital space. By expanding and modernising online learning, students will have greater flexibility, more choice, and will graduate with skills needed in all aspects of their lives, including to enter the workforce. Employers are looking for people who understand the importance of technology and can use it in ways that will help their businesses thrive in a competitive, globally connected economy. Online learning is one important way that students can develop these skills and become lifelong learners.

## **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 (by the principal). Adult learners entering the Ontario secondary school system in 2023-24 or later will also be required to meet this graduation requirement unless they opt themselves out of the requirement.

Students working towards other certificates (for example, the certificate of accomplishment or an Ontario Secondary School certificate) are not required to complete the online learning graduation requirement.

## **ELIGIBLE CREDITS**

“eLearning” 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
- access to internet connectivity, learning devices, or other school-based supports

All online learning credits earned at a school authorised to offer credits towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma may count towards the graduation requirement.

Students from the same online class may follow different timetables and be from different schools or school boards.

## **INELIGIBLE CREDITS**

Credits that shall not count towards the online learning graduation requirement include those earned through:

- in-person learning, in which students are physically present with other students in the same course and their educator in the school environment
- blended learning, in which digital learning resources are used in an in-person learning setting, or in which students are taught part of the time in person in the school environment and part of the time online
- flipped classrooms, a type of blended learning in which students are introduced to content online and practice working through it in person with their educator in the school environment
- remote learning, characterised by minimum synchronous learning requirements (Exception: remote learning credit earned in 2020-21)

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *eLearning Graduation Requirement for information.***