

School District 50: Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte

Policy Subject: CHALLENGE FOR CREDIT

Date Passed: October 1999

Date Amended: NA

Policy: CHALLENGE FOR CREDIT

Policy No. 4800

Date Approved: November, 1999

Date Amended:

PREAMBLE

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of challenge is to permit students to obtain full credits for a course **WITHOUT HAVING TO TAKE THE COURSE** because they have already acquired the appropriate learning elsewhere. All students are entitled to challenge; however, it is anticipated that only a small number of students will be able to give strong and compelling evidence that they will succeed in the challenge, and that it is in their best interests. Challenge is not envisioned as a way for students to improve their course marks, nor as a replacement for the valuable experience a student gains by learning in a classroom setting.

B. PRINCIPLES

The principles providing a basis for challenge include the following:

1. Students learn in a variety of ways and at different rates.
2. The diverse needs and abilities of students should be acknowledged.
3. Relevant learning acquired by students outside school should be acknowledged and documented.
4. Students should be able to demonstrate readiness before they are allowed to

challenge for credit.

5. Students should demonstrate that they have met the prescribed curriculum for the course being CHALLENGED to receive course credit.
6. The challenge process should maintain the high standards of a quality education.

C. PROCEDURES

1. The entire course must be CHALLENGED; a partial credit will not be granted through the challenge process.
2. Students will be granted only one opportunity to challenge a specific course.
3. Students must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the school-based administrator and the teacher of the course, that they have met the prescribed learning outcomes to a mastery level of a course for the challenge to be successful.
4. Students will receive a letter grade and percentage mark for a successful challenge. These marks will be recorded on report cards and transcripts.
5. In order to challenge a course with a provincial examination, students must first successfully challenge the school portion of the mark. If successful, students will then be provided the opportunity to write the provincial examination at the first available examination date. The final letter grade and percentage mark will be based on the blended school and examination mark.
6. The Board is not obligated to provide challenges for provincial or locally-developed courses not taught in the District.
7. Individual teachers may require time in lieu to conduct the evaluation of challenge students.
8. A non-refundable fee of \$20.00 will be required by the school from the student for each course challenged.

D. GUIDELINES

1. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR CHALLENGE

- a. In order to be eligible to participate in the challenge or equivalency process a student should be enrolled in the school district, registered with the school district for home schooling, or enrolled in a distance education school where the challenge is requested.

- b. Students who have been enrolled previously in the course are not eligible to challenge it for credit.
- c. Students arriving from other jurisdictions may challenge for credit where equivalency is not appropriate.
- d. The final decision regarding eligibility will be at the discretion of an Administrative Officer.
- e. A teacher may recommend a student for challenge.

2. STUDENT READINESS FOR CHALLENGE

- a. Students will demonstrate to the satisfaction of the school-based administrator in consultation with the subject specialist their readiness to challenge the specific course.
- b. Through an application form (attached) the student will provide a written explanation of how the challenge will meet the educational goals as set out in their Student Learning Plan.
- c. Before approval to challenge a course is granted, students will complete the Checklist for Course Challenge (attached).
- d. The approval for challenge must be made in consultation with an Administrative Officer, advisor, student's parents/guardians (if applicable) and the student.

3. ASSESSING AND EVALUATING THE CHALLENGE

- a. To challenge for credit successfully, students must meet the same standards as those expected of students who take the course through regular classes.
- b. Students will be awarded credit for a successful challenge, and receive a letter grade and percentage mark for the course according to the Ministry Reporting Policy and Guidelines, and the Student Progress Report Order.

4. CHALLENGING COURSES WITH PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS

- a. Students may challenge courses with a provincial examination according to the following procedures:
 - i. students should first challenge the school portion of the course mark;
 - ii. if the students are successful, then they can be given an opportunity to write the

- provincial examination at the first regularly available examination date;
- iii. the school must submit the school mark derived from the challenge process before the provincial examination is written as indicated in the Ministry's Handbook of Procedures;
 - iv. students may only write the provincial examination at the scheduled time set by the Ministry;
 - v. students will be awarded credit for the course, and receive a letter grade and percentage mark for the course according to the Ministry Reporting Policy and Guidelines, and the Student Progress Report Order.

5. APPEAL PROCEDURE

- a. If a student wishes to appeal the decisions by the teacher or an administrator, the student has the right to use the process outlined in Policy 7700.

See attached PDFs for Challenge for Credit Process Approval and Checklist for Course Challenge.