



Policy Manual – Students

S.P.09 - Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

The mission of Catholic Education in Hamilton-Wentworth, in union with our Bishop, is to enable all learners to realize the fullness of humanity of which Our Lord Jesus Christ is the model.

Policy Statement

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board supports students in receiving secondary school credits based on knowledge and skills that students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside of a secondary school.

The process for students to achieve such credits is through Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR). This is the formal evaluation and credit-granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning. Prior learning includes the knowledge and skills that students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school.

Students may have their knowledge and skills evaluated against the expectations outlined in provincial curriculum policy documents in order to earn credits towards the secondary school diploma. The PLAR process involves two components: “challenge” and “equivalency”.

The “challenge” process is the process whereby students’ prior learning is assessed for the purpose of granting credit for a Grade 10, 11 or 12 course developed from the curriculum. The “equivalency” process is the process of assessing credentials from other jurisdictions.

All credits granted through the PLAR process—that is, through either the challenge process or the equivalency process—shall present the same standards of achievement as credits granted to students who have taken courses.

Purpose

The PLAR process allows regular day school secondary students, and mature students, an opportunity to earn secondary credits based on experiences and learning they have done outside of the school. This process can assist all students in achieving an Ontario Secondary School Diploma

Responsibility

Secondary school principals

Regulations

Education Act Sec. 32 (1) and Sec. 170 (1) 6.

Program/Policy Memorandum 129: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR): Implementation in Ontario Secondary Schools (July 6, 2001).

Program/Policy Memorandum 132: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) For Mature Students: Implementation in Ontario Secondary Schools (May 7, 2003).

Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2016
The Ontario Student Transcript Manual (2013)

Related Board Committee
Student Achievement and Well-Being

Policy Review Date:

BM Original Policy Approved 24 June 2003

Revisions: 24 June 2008, 05 March 2013, 06 October 2020

To be reviewed every three years