

Policy Title	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)		
Date of Issue	February 19, 2002	Related Procedure	AP 6950-D
Revision Dates	July 6, 2005; February 21, 2012 (rev. Rationale-Strategic Plan); March 19, 2013; September 22, 2020	Related Forms	
Review Date	September 1, 2025	Originator	Board of Trustees
References			
Education Act; Policy/Program Memorandum No. 129 "Prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR): Implementation in Ontario Secondary Schools"; Policy/Program Memorandum No. 132 "Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students: Implementation in Ontario Secondary Schools"			

1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 Bluewater District School Board policies will support and provide direction necessary to achieve the board's Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan priorities.
- 1.2 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is the formal evaluation and credit granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning, in accordance with Policy/Program Memorandums No. 129 and No. 132. Prior learning includes the knowledge and skills that students have acquired in both formal and informal ways outside of secondary school. Students may have their knowledge and skills evaluated against the expectations set out in provincial curriculum policy documents in order to earn credits towards the secondary school diploma.
- 1.3 Bluewater District School Board recognizes that learning is not exclusive to a classroom setting and is dedicated to the implementation of the PLAR process in an effort to assist students in obtaining credit(s) for their prior learning and life experience.
- 1.4 All credits granted through the PLAR process must represent the same standards of achievement as credits granted to students who have taken the courses.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 It is the policy of Bluewater District School Board that the PLAR process will be available to day school and mature students participating in applicable Ontario curriculum policy courses, offered either in Bluewater secondary schools or through Bluewater Adult and Continuing Education. The requirements concerning the application of PLAR for mature students differs from those of regular day school students.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

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.

Day School Student

A day school student is a student, other than a mature student, who is enrolled in a regular day school program. A student enrolled only in continuing education and/or correspondence courses is not considered a regular day school student.

Mature Student

A mature student, for the purpose of PLAR, is defined as a student who is at least 18 years of age (i.e., an adult) on or before December 31 of the school year in which they register in an Ontario secondary school program, and who is returning to school to earn a diploma after being out of secondary school for at least one school year.

Assessment of Mature PLAR Eligibility

An individual PLAR assessment is a review that includes examining a student's Ontario Student Transcript, and application to determine eligibility for the granting of up to 16 grade 9 and 10 credits and up to 10 grade 11 and 12 credits to any one mature student in any one school year.

Equivalency

Equivalency credits can be granted to students who have completed secondary school in an educational system comparable to that in Ontario, have appropriate transcripts, and if the curriculum expectations and standards of achievement are similar to the curriculum expectations and standards granted to students who have taken the course.

Challenge Process

The challenge process is used by a student to obtain credits for prior learning or experience and is assessed through a variety of assessment strategies, including formal tests and assignments.

4.0 SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS

- 4.1 PLAR will be carried out under the direction of the principal of the school (secondary school principal or adult and continuing education program principal), following the procedures outlined in AP 6950-D "Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)".
- 4.2 The PLAR process will involve two components: challenge and equivalency.
- 4.3 The PLAR process will be dependent upon whether the applicant is classified as a day school student (PPM 129) or a mature student (PPM 132).
- 4.4 Applicable PLAR information will be included in the course calendar for each secondary school/adult and continuing education program.
- 4.5 Bluewater District School board staff will be responsible for ensuring that the assessment and evaluation processes and the record keeping requirements of the PLAR are met., in accordance with PPM 129 and PPM 132.
- 4.6 The challenge process is an evaluation process and may not be used as a way for students to improve a mark in a course for which they have already earned a credit, or to obtain a credit for a course they have previously been unsuccessful.
- 4.7 In cases where the mature student and/or the parent/guardian of a minor student disagrees with the decision of the principal concerning the students' challenge for credit, they will be asked to follow the process outlined in AP 1604-D "Communications – Addressing Parent / Community Concerns" section 2.1, steps one to four. If involved, the decision of the Director of Education will be final.