



Section: Educational Services

- **Programs and Curriculum**

Policy: PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION (PLAR)

**Policy Code: ES-3.12
Page 1**

The Board is committed to providing a breadth of learning opportunities for all students. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) allows students to earn credits outside of the classroom, broadens the choices of courses and provides for flexibility within the student's secondary school program.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition is a process of identifying, assessing and recognizing what a person knows and can do for the purpose of awarding academic credit. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition can be an important component in a successful education plan. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition takes two forms; Challenge Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) and Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students.

This policy and the related administrative regulation support Ministry of Education policy as outlined in Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2016 (OS); Policy/Program Memorandum No. 129, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR): Implementation in Ontario Secondary Schools; and Policy/Program Memorandum No. 132, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students: Implementation in Ontario Secondary Schools.

1. Challenge Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

The Board believes that participation in a regular classroom program provides benefits to the student beyond the achievement of expectations, but recognizes the need to honour individual student interests and abilities.

For the purpose of this policy, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition encompasses an assessment of the knowledge and skills that students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary schools. Students may have knowledge and skills evaluated against the expectations outlined in provincial curriculum policy documents in order to earn credits toward the secondary school diploma.

Challenge means the process whereby students' prior learning is assessed for the purpose of granting credit for a specific Grade 10, 11, or 12 course developed from a provincial curriculum policy document published in 1999, or later. Challenge PLAR is not available for Grade 9 courses.

Specific procedures for the completion of Challenge PLAR are outlined in the accompanying Administrative Regulation No. ES-3.12.1, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) – Challenge PLAR.

2. Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Section: Educational Services

- Programs and Curriculum

Policy: PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND
RECOGNITION (PLAR) – continued

Policy Code: ES-3.12

Page 2

The Board believes that the use of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition to recognize prior learning with equivalent credits for older students (18 years of age or older on or after January 1st of the current school year) dignifies and honours past experiences. This process allows adult students to make a more successful transition to chosen post secondary destinations.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students means the process by which mature student's prior learning is assessed for the purpose of granting **equivalent** credit for a Grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 course developed from a provincial curriculum policy document published in 1999, or later. In addition to the regular challenge process, mature students, 18 years of age or older on or after January 1st of the current school, may, depending on the number of previously earned credits and the student's prior learning experiences, challenge for a package of equivalent intermediate credits (up to 16) or equivalent senior credits (to a maximum of 10 credits). These credit limits include a combination of challenge and equivalent credits. Mature students must complete a minimum of four senior secondary credits as part of their diploma requirements which include a Grade 11 English credit (or an equivalent), a Grade 12 English credit, a senior (Grade 11 and 12) math credit, and a senior (Grade 11 or 12) science, computer science, or technology credit. Students must also meet the provincial literacy requirement. The principal will determine the appropriate number of community involvement hours necessary to satisfy the graduation requirement for these students.

Specific procedures for PLAR for Mature Students are outlined in the accompanying Administrative Regulation No. ES-3.12.2, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) – Mature Students.

Administrative regulations which support this policy include:

[ES-3.12.1, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\) – Challenge PLAR](#)
[ES-3.12.1A, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\) – Challenge PLAR – Appendix A – Overview of Process](#)
[ES-3.12.2, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\) – Mature Students](#)
[ES-3.12.2A, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\) – Mature Students – Appendix A – Diploma Requirements](#)

Established: May 22, 2003 Revised/Reviewed: February 26, 2009
May 28, 2015
February 25, 2020
June 20, 2022