

# The Credit System

Students entering Grade 9 will proceed through school at a pace which is governed by their success in each subject. A credit is granted in recognition of the successful completion of a course that has been scheduled for a minimum of 110 hours. Students accumulate credits each year towards the 30 they will require to obtain a diploma.

## Requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma

In order to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) a student must:

- earn 30 credits (18 compulsory and 12 optional credits)
- complete 40 hours of community involvement activities
- meet the provincial secondary school literacy diploma requirement through successful completion of either the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test or the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

### Compulsory Credits

Students must earn the following 18 compulsory credits in order to obtain the OSSD:

- 4 credits in English (1 credit per grade)\*
- 1 credit in French as a second language
- 3 credits in mathematics (at least 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 credits in science
- 1 credit in Canadian history
- 1 credit in Canadian geography
- 1 credit in the arts
- 1 credit in health and physical education
- .5 credits in civics
- .5 credits in career studies

Plus:

Group 1: 1 additional credit in English, or French as a second language, or a Native language, or a classical or an international language, or social sciences and the humanities or Canadian and world studies or guidance and career education, or cooperative education.\*\*

Group 2: 1 additional credit in health and physical education, or the arts, or business studies or cooperative education.

Group 3: 1 additional credit in science (Grade 11 or 12) or technological education (Grades 9-12) or cooperative education.\*\*

*\*A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course.*

*\*\*A maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education Note that maximum of two of the three additional compulsory credit requirements for groups 1, 2, and 3 may be met through cooperative education*

### Optional Credits

In addition to the 18 compulsory credits, students must earn 12 optional credits selected from the courses listed as available in the school course calendar. This may include up to 4 credits achieved through approved Dual Credit courses.

### Policy on Substitutions for Compulsory Courses

Substitutions may be made for a limited number of compulsory credit courses using courses from the remaining courses offered by the school that meet the requirements for compulsory credits. To meet individual students' needs, Principals may replace up to three compulsory courses (or the equivalent in half courses).