

## Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Challenge for a Credit

Information for Students and  
Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

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### PLAR is...

A formal assessment 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;

The student's knowledge and skills for the challenged course are assessed to determine if the student has met the Ontario curriculum expectations.

### PLAR is not...

An opportunity to **learn** course content, guided by a teacher;

An independent study.

curiosity

creativity

possibility

Steps	Description
Overview	Review the Challenge Process outlined in this presentation.
Application	Gather evidence of learning. <b><u>Due:</u> April 1st</b>
Challenge Assessment	Completion of assessment and evaluation <b><u>When:</u> May-June</b>
Recording and Reporting	Final percentage grade communicated to student, parent/guardian and home

### ***Who is eligible to submit a PLAR challenge?***

- Current Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board students who are registered in a secondary school.

### ***Is parent/guardian permission required?***

- Yes, if the student is under 18 years of age.

***What courses are students able to challenge for credit?***

Grade 10, 11 or 12 course found in the Ontario curriculum (*see link below*) and offered in the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/index.html>

*How many courses are students able to challenge for credit?*

Through the PLAR process, students may earn **no more than four** credits, including a **maximum of two** credits in any one subject area.



***Students cannot be granted credits through the challenge process for any of the following:***

- a course where a credit has already been granted;
- a course previously attempted but not earned;
- a course where curriculum expectations significantly overlap with those from a course where a credit was previously granted; i.e., PPL and PAF
- a course in any subject if a credit has already been granted in a higher grade in that same subject area;

***Students cannot be granted credits through the challenge process for any of the following:***

- a course in English as a Second Language (ESL) or English Literacy Development (ELD), if the student has previously been granted one or more credits in English;
- a locally developed course;
- a cooperative education course;
- a course in French as a Second Language if the student has one or more credits instructed in French.

Required Documents to be submitted with Application	Where to locate
Application Form	Website
Ontario Student Transcript (most recent)	School
Individual Education Plan (IEP)*	School
Knowledge and Skills Portfolio**	Website
Letter of Recommendation #1	Website
Letter of Recommendation #2	Website
Student Paragraph	Website
PLAR Challenge for Credit: Cumulative Tracking Record	Website

**NOTES:** *\*If applicable*

*\*\* Specific items to be included are outlined in slide*

Please refer to the Student Information Sheet

- Detailed completion of this process helps the **challenge committee** understand the depth of the applicant's prior learning and allows them to make an informed decision regarding the challenge and the likelihood that accepting it creates a success scenario for the applicant.

### Student Paragraph

The paragraph is not evaluated as a component of the course being challenged, but it is the applicant's opportunity to:

- indicate how their prior learning, will help support fulfilling their educational goals;
- connect their special interests and skills related to the course being challenged.

### Letter of Recommendation #1 – Subject Teacher/Guidance Counsellor

Completed by:

Subject Teacher or Guidance Counsellor

Student is required to:

Review the following:

- ✓ [PLAR information](#);
- ✓ Course expectations;
- ✓ achievement chart with the teacher.

### Letter of Recommendation #2 – Community Member

Completed by:

Community Member *i.e., coach, music instructor, girl guide leader*

Student is required to:

Review the following:

- ✓ [PLAR information](#);
- ✓ Course expectations;
- ✓ achievement chart with the community member.

### Portfolio – Evidence of Learning

- Include 3 to 5 samples

#### Examples include:

- Demonstrations
- Video
- Audio
- Description of an experience with a community organization
- Interview
- Journal
- Certifications
- Interview
- Journal
- Blog
- Vlog
- Campaign
- Entrepreneurship Project



### Challenge Assessment Timelines

- Application Due Date – to school Principal  
*April 1<sup>st</sup> of academic year*
- Assessment and Evaluation Notification  
*May 1<sup>st</sup> of academic year*
- Assessment and Evaluation  
*May-June of academic year – evening(s)*

### Challenge Assessment Timelines

#### *How long will the Challenge take?*

- Once an application has been screened, students will be contacted by the assessor to review expectations and timelines for the completion of the challenge
- Although many variables can affect the length of time it takes to complete a given challenge (availability of student/assessor/space, depth of evidence provided, etc), a student should expect to spend anywhere between 3-5 hours

### *How will I be assessed?*

- Your assessor will create an assessment package that asks you to demonstrate, in various ways, your knowledge & skills in all 4 of the achievement categories:
  - Knowledge & Understanding
  - Thinking
  - Communication
  - Application

Evidence of student achievement for evaluation will be collected from three sources shown below.

Observations	Performance Presentation
Conversations	Interview Journals
Products	Art project Portfolio Written Test

70 %	30 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• formal tests</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• other assessment strategies</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• balance between written &amp; practical evaluations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• demonstrations, lab work, quizzes, observations of student work</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• may include all 3 types of assessment</li></ul>	

*How are my results shared with my school?*

Your ***PLAR- Challenge for a Credit - Assessment and Evaluation-Final Report*** will be sent to your home school.

1. Your Guidance Counsellor will:
  - file the ***Final Report*** in your OSR and
  - update your credit history.

**The following will be recorded on the student's Ontario Student Transcript (OST):**

- A percentage grade for any successfully challenged Grade 10 course;
- A percentage grade for both successfully and unsuccessfully challenged Grade 11 and 12 courses.

If you require more information or assistance please contact:

Secondary Program Consultant for Student Success

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