

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

Information for Students and
Caregivers

curiosity

creativity

possibility



Land Acknowledgement

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty.

The intent of this agreement is for all nations sharing this territory to do so responsibly, respectfully and sustainably in perpetuity.

We respect the longstanding relationships with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is:

A formal assessment and credit granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning.

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Prior Learning includes:

- The knowledge and skills that students have already acquired

Knowledge and skills were acquired:

- In both informal and formal ways
- Outside secondary school

HWDSB

Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) is not:

- An opportunity to learn course content, guided by a teacher
- An independent study

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Steps	Description
Getting Started	Connect with a guidance counsellor and access PLAR information on the HWDSB website
Application Package	Gather evidence of learning and application package preparation
PLAR Assessment	Complete assessment and evaluation
Recording and Reporting	Communicate final percentage grade to student, caregiver, 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 caregiver 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 courses found in the Ontario curriculum and offered in the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

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

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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.

Not all courses can be challenged through the PLAR Process. Please see your guidance counsellor for more details.

Required Documents to be submitted with Application	Where to locate
Application Form	See HWDSB Website
Ontario Student Transcript (most recent)	School
Individual Education Plan (IEP)*	School
Knowledge and Skills Portfolio**	Student Created
Letter of Recommendation #1	Teacher Created
Letter of Recommendation #2	Community Member Created
Student Paragraph	Student Created

NOTES: **If applicable*

*** Specific items to be included are outlined in slide 15*

Application Form

HWDSB APPLICATION TO CHALLENGE FOR CREDIT FOR A COURSE

Please complete this application form and submit it to your guidance counsellor.

Surname: _____

Given names: _____

MIN/OEN: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____

School Educator Contact: _____

I wish to challenge for credit for the following course:

Course Title	Course Type	Course Grade/Level	Course Code

I am aware that:

- A passing or failing mark resulting from a challenge for credit for a Grade 11 or 12 course will be entered on my Ontario Student Transcript and that a passing or failing mark or a withdrawal resulting from a challenge for credit for any Grade 10, 11, or 12 course will be entered on my PLAR tracking record and maintained in my Ontario Student Record.
- the PLAR challenge process may ask me to provide evidence of my learning including conversations, observations, and products.

Student Reflection

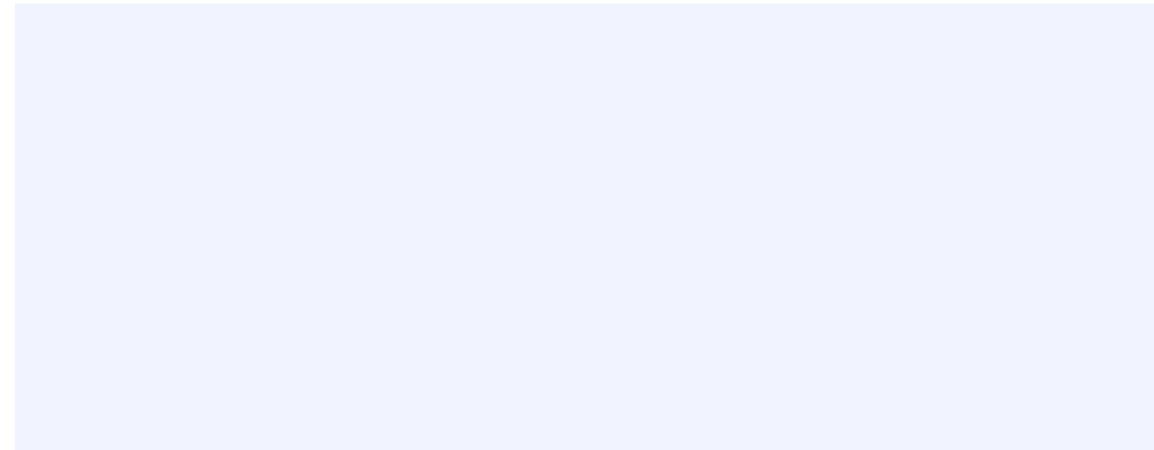
Student Reflection

In a medium of your choice, describe how you are ready to challenge this course.

Learning Goal: I express how I am prepared to demonstrate that I have the knowledge and skills outlined in the overall expectations of this course.

Success Criteria: Your response should answer to the following questions.

- What have I done that has allowed me to develop the knowledge and skills?
- How will this course credit help me to fulfill my educational goals?
- What are my special interests and skills related to this course?



Portfolio of relevant work to demonstrate evidence of learning

Demonstration of learning will be unique for each student. Samples may include:

- Presentation
- Video
- Audio
- Interview
- Journal
- Certification
- Writing Sample
- Artifact
- Blog
- Vlog
- Campaign
- Entrepreneurship Project

Challenge Assessment Outline Administrative Focus

- Submit completed application package to your guidance counsellor
- Principal reviews the application package and forwards it to the Challenge Committee
- The Challenge Committee screens the application package
- The Challenge Committee assigns a subject specialist teacher to review the application package

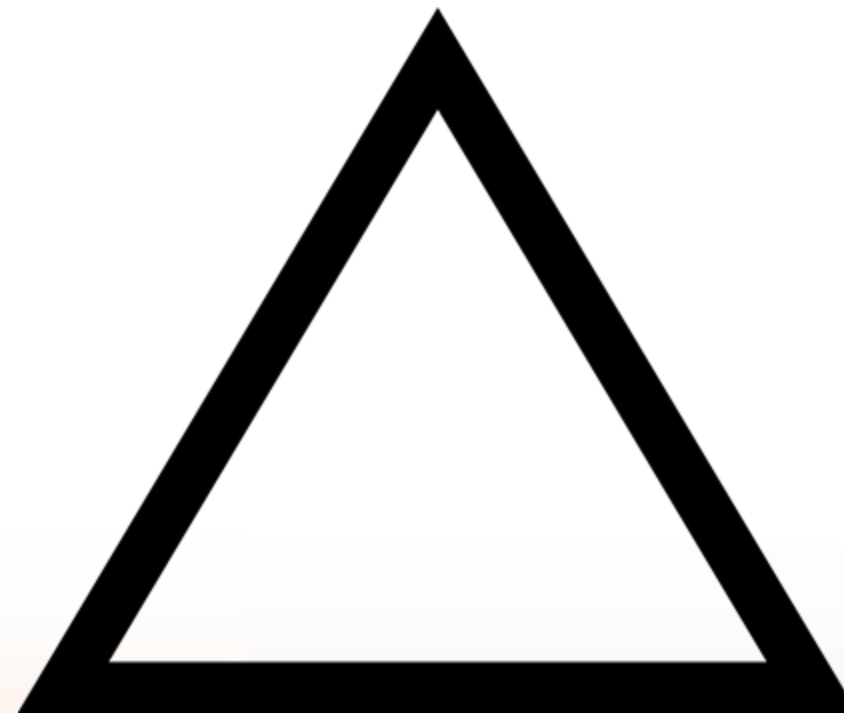
Challenge Assessment Outline Student Focus

The student may be invited to meet with the subject specialist teacher. This will be an opportunity for the student to demonstrate comprehensive learning of overall curriculum expectations.

Challenge Assessment Outline Student Focus

Evidence of student learning will be collected from three sources:

Source	Examples
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performance• Presentation
Conversations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview• Reflections
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Portfolio• Written Test



How are my results shared with my school?

Your PLAR Final Report will be sent to your home school.

Your Guidance Counsellor will:

- Inform you of your PLAR results
- File the Final Report in your OSR
- Ensure your PLAR results are included on your Ontario Student Transcript

The following will be recorded on the student's Ontario Student Transcript:

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

HWDSB

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) is:
A formal assessment and credit granting process whereby students may obtain credits for prior learning.

What is prior learning?

Prior learning includes the knowledge and skills that students have acquired, in both formal and informal ways, outside secondary school.

OVERVIEW

Who is eligible to submit a PLAR challenge?

- Current HWDSB students who are registered in a secondary school.
- Students who are 18 years of age or older can submit a PLAR challenge.
- Students who are less than 18 years of age can submit a PLAR challenge, with parent/guardian permission.

What courses can be challenged through the PLAR process?

- Courses that are at the grade 10, 11, 12 level.
- Courses that are found in the Ontario Curriculum.
- Courses that are currently offered by the HWDSB.

How many courses are students able to challenge through the PLAR process?

- Up to four courses* can be challenged.
- Maximum of two credits in one subject area can be challenged.

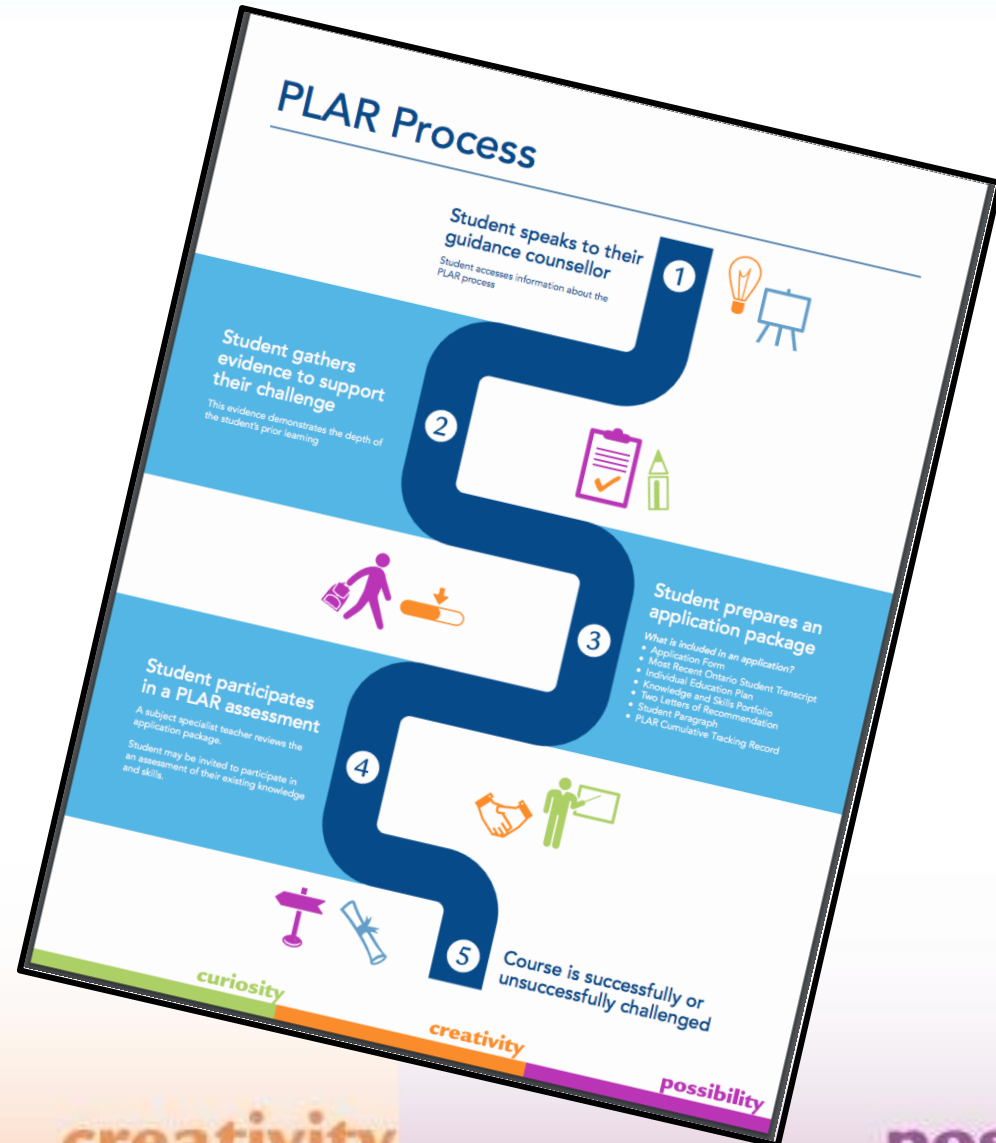
*Not all courses can be challenged through the PLAR process.

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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
- 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