



**AD HOC POLICY COMMITTEE
Report 24-083**

06 June 2024

**APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO POLICY P.112.CUR PRIOR LEARNING
ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION FOR MATURE STUDENTS**

**Key Contact: Reg Lavergne, Superintendent of Program and Learning
Innovation, Secondary Schools, ext. 8573**

PURPOSE:

- 1. To seek approval for the proposed revisions to Policy P.112.CUR Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students.

STRATEGIC LINKS:

- 2. The changes proposed to Policy P.112.CUR Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students reinforce the District’s commitment to create a community of belonging, promote excellence, and inform actions to eliminate disparities and disproportionalities of access, opportunities, and outcomes in learning. The District values the diverse lives of all students and seeks to include those experiences in school learning opportunities as part of assessment, evaluation, and reporting. This endeavour aligns with the Learning, Social Responsibility, and Well-being pillars of the 2023-2027 OCDSB Strategic Plan.

CONTEXT:

- 3. The District’s Policy P.112.CUR, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students, was developed in 2004 upon the issuance of PPM 132 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students in 2003. PPM 132 was revised in 2021 and again in 2023 with changes effective on 1 September, 2023. The revisions proposed to Policy P.112.CUR align with the recent requirements of the Ministry and reflect the current practice of the District.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

Key Changes (Appendix A)

Section	Revision
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Throughout the policy	Implementing the new policy template approved by the Board.
Rationale	Making a reference to the legislative authority of the District with regards to the mature PLAR.
Section 3.1	New language appreciating the lived experiences of our diverse students and making connections with their learning.
Section 3.2	New language on the Board’s commitment to a “fair and inclusive” process for assessing PLAR.
Section 4.1 and 4.6	Removing the reference documents from the body of the policy.
Section 4.4, 4.11, 4.12, and 4.13	Aligning the policy with the PPM requirements.
Section 4.7	Replacing the old requirement of students to submit “reasonable evidence” to support their application with the new direction that is focused on collaboration from all parties to demonstrate learning.
Section 4.8	Removing this language as the District supports all Ontario credits and does not require external District support.
Section 4.9	Simplifying the language and clarifying that reporting to the Ministry occurs in the following year. An October report is suggestive that the PLAR credits may only be granted in September/October of the current year.
Section 4.10	Clarifying that the responsibility of mPLAR is centralized.
Sections 4.15 and 4.16	Clarifying the use of District vs. Board.
Definitions	Removing content that does not belong to a definition, E.g. “Credits” Adding Board and District definitions. Updating the “Mature Student” definition to align with the PPM. Previously, students needed to be 18 years of age or older and be deregistered from secondary school for a period of ten months before being eligible for mPLAR. Now, students need to be turning 18 on or before August 31st of the current school year to be eligible, and students do not need to deregister and leave the OCDSB prior to completion of their OSSD.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

4. This policy is supported through existing resources in the budget of Program and Learning Innovation.

COMMUNICATION/CONSULTATION ISSUES:

5. The proposed draft was posted to the EngageOCDSB platform and awareness was raised on this consultation through parent/guardian, student, and school council communications. In the open consultation period 29 March and 29 April 2024, only two entries from EngageOCDSB were received.

The Ad-Hoc Policy Committee noted that with the removal of the General Educational Development (GED) examination, the policy may need to be readdressed. The Committee expressed the potential opportunity that this policy revision provides for focusing on lived experiences over traditional examinations.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the revisions to Policy P.112.CUR Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students, attached as Appendix A to Report 24-083, be approved.

Reg Lavergne
Superintendent of Program and
Learning Innovation, Secondary Schools

Pino Buffone
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

APPENDICES

Appendix A Revised Policy Policy P.112.CUR Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students.

Appendix B Standing Policy Policy P.112.CUR Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students