

# FORT LA BOSSE SCHOOL DIVISION

TITLE – “Challenge For Credit Option” \*

POLICY - IMBA

Approval Date - 23/06/03

Cross Reference -

Resolution # - 219/03

Implementation - 23/06/03

Legal Reference - Increasing Choice and Flexibility: Changes to Senior Years

Graduation Requirements Status Report ME&Y, June 2002 Last Reviewed - 09/04/12

Fort La Bosse School Division recognizes that students may in exceptional circumstances, have already acquired the knowledge, skills and attitudes of a particular course. “Challenge For Credit Option” provides a process for students to demonstrate that they have achieved learning outcomes as defined in the Manitoba curriculum for a directly related course.

Requirements to earn a credit via challenge will not be more challenging than the requirements to earn the credit through regular instruction.

“Challenge For Credit Option” guidelines do not apply to the Special Language Credit or the Private Music Option as policy in these opportunities already exists.

The “Challenge For Credit Option” is intended to serve particular needs such as:

- Students, who by virtue of special talents or private study, can be accelerated in particular subject areas.
- Students transferring into a Manitoba school from another jurisdiction whose placement in a subject grade would be facilitated by such a provision.
- Students whose educational attendance has been interrupted through sickness or other reasons and who may be able to successfully challenge the learning outcomes of a particular subject area, in which they were previously unable to enrol.
- Students who were previously home schooled
- Students who are considered exceptional achievers in a certain area.
- Students who can demonstrate that they have met course requirements through life experiences such as independent study, world of work, volunteer activities, and hobbies.

## Guidelines

1. “Challenge For Credit Option” may be used from Grades 9-12.
2. A variety of assessment strategies should be used to ensure adequate demonstration of learning outcomes; a combination of assessment strategies and skill demonstration methods. The intent is to allow a student to demonstrate prior learning in an appropriate way.
3. A student in Grade 12 who successfully completes a compulsory course challenge is expected to write the provincial standards test for the course.
4. Generally speaking, only students who have not completed the course through previous enrolment are eligible to challenge for credit. **“Challenge For Credit Option” is not available to students who wish to raise his/her mark.**
5. A student who challenges a course, may subsequently choose to take the course.
6. A student may attempt a particular course challenge only once. Related documentation should be part of the student cumulative file.

7. A student who successfully demonstrates through the “Challenge For Credit Option” that he/she possesses the learning outcomes for the course will be awarded a final course mark and credit.
8. In principle, there is no limit to the number of courses that a student may challenge. However, it is expected that only in exceptional circumstances would a student attempt to challenge multiple courses.
9. A student must be enrolled in the school division to participate in the “Challenge For Credit Option”.
10. Registered students and their families will not be charged a fee for the administering of course challenges.
11. School divisions are not obliged to provide challenge for provincial courses which are not taught in the division.
12. To be eligible to challenge compulsory courses a student must demonstrate an academic record which shows a high level of competence in the subject area being challenged.

### **Schools’ Responsibilities**

1. Establish procedures to communicate to parents/guardians and students the availability, procedures, objectives and assessment strategies for the “Challenge For Credit Option”.
2. Provide the opportunity for the “Challenge For Credit Option”.
3. The principal shall determine the student’s readiness for the “Challenge For Credit Option” through consultation with the student, parent/guardian and the subject teacher(s).
4. Ensure that assessment for the “Challenge For Credit Option” includes strategies that will assess the breadth and scope of the learning outcomes for the course as presented in the curriculum documents.
5. Assign the administration and evaluation of assessment for a course challenge to a certified teacher who has taught the course.
6. Grant students, who successfully complete a challenge, equivalent credit and submit the mark obtained to Manitoba Education.

### **Student’s Responsibilities**

1. Students who request the opportunity to challenge a course must provide reasonable evidence that they have some likelihood of completing the challenge successfully. (independent study, world of work, volunteer activities & hobbies),
2. Students must complete a notice of intent form.
3. Students must comply with the division policy for “Challenge For Credit Option”.

### **Suggested guidelines for granting credit by Semester 1 of a given school year:**

**March 15:** Students must have filed a Notice of Challenge with the principal. The principal will inform the student of the requirements as stated in the Letter of Agreement.

**April 15:** Students must file the Letter of Agreement with the required documentation. The principal will assess the documentation and determine if the challenge can proceed.

**June 1:** The assessment will be completed by June 1 except where the student is required to write a Provincial exam.

**Suggested guidelines for granting credit by Semester 2 of a given school year:**

**September 15:** Students must have filed a Notice of Challenge with the principal. The principal will inform the student of the requirements as stated in the Letter of Agreement.

**October 15:** Students must file the Letter of Agreement with the required documentation. The principal will assess the documentation and determine if the challenge can proceed.

**December 1:** The assessment will be completed by December 1 except where the student is required to write a Provincial exam.

