



ONLINE LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT OPT-OUT FORM

Students are required to earn two online learning credits to graduate from secondary school, beginning with every student who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-21 school year. The graduation requirement is intended to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with working and learning in a fully online environment, as well as developing digital literacy and other important transferable skills that will help prepare them for success after graduation and in all aspects of their lives. For more information, please access the [Policy/Program Memorandum 167](#).

Please submit this form **ONLY** if you are choosing to opt out of the online learning requirement.

Online learning refers to eLearning courses that do not require students to be physically present with one another or with their teacher in school. To help you and your child make the best decision, more information about online learning please refer to page 2 of this document. Please reach out to your child's teacher, Guidance Counsellor or Administrator if you have additional questions.

There is one exception: **Up to one** secondary school credit that was completed by students who were in Grade 9 during the province-wide school closures (from April 2021 to June 2021) may be counted towards this graduation requirement, in recognition of the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to be exempt from the online learning graduation requirement this form must be printed and returned to the student's school. Parents/guardians may choose to opt out their child from the mandatory online courses required for graduation. Students 18 years of age or older or students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control can also opt out of the graduation requirement. Students and parents/guardians can opt back into the online learning graduation requirement should their decision change. **Please note:** Upon receipt, this form will be included in the student's Ontario Student Record (OSR).

I agree with the following statement:

☐ Having reviewed the online learning graduation requirement and the availability of supports for online learning through my child's/my school, I would like to opt my child/myself out of this requirement.

Student's First Name

Student's Last Name

Student Number

Parent/Guardian First Name (if applicable)

Parent/Guardian Last Name (if applicable)

Parent/Guardian or Student Full Name (as signature)

Date

Notice of Collection:

The information on this form is collected under the authority of the Education Act R.S.O., 1990, c. E.2, s.8.1, and will be used by the Waterloo Region District School Board for the general administration of its schools. All personal information collected on this form will be maintained in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O., 1990 c. M.56, s.29. Questions or concerns about this collection should be directed to your school Principal.

About The Online Learning Graduation Requirement

Beginning with the cohort of students who entered Grade 9 in the 2020-2021 school year, all students must earn a minimum of two online learning credits as part of the [requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma](#) unless they have been opted out or are exempted.

For more information visit: [Education in Ontario: policy and program direction: Policy/Program Memorandum 167 |Ontario.ca](#)

What are online courses or credits?

Online learning courses or online learning credits, also known as “eLearning” courses or credits, are Grades 9-12 credit courses that are **delivered entirely using the internet and do not require students to be physically present** with one another or with their educator in the school, except where they may be needed for examinations and other final evaluations and/or access to internet connectivity, learning devices or other school-based supports.

Online Courses or Credits:

- rely primarily on online communication between students and educators;
- do not generally require students to be physically present with one another or with their educator in the school, except where required for assessments, etc.;
- may have students learning with other students from different areas of Ontario;
- provide opportunity for students to learn how online learning might support their pathway goals, while developing their digital literacy;
- can prepare students for future online post-Secondary courses;
- can be more flexible in that they do not require students to be in class at the same time every day;
- require more time-management skills and independent work than a traditional face-to-face class.

How do I know if online learning is a good fit for my child?

When determining if online learning is a good fit for your child, consider:

- How might these online courses support your child’s pathway goals, and provide them with the skills needed once they enter apprenticeship, college, university or the workplace?
- How might your child’s pathway destination (apprenticeship, college or university) support online courses for admissions?
- How might online learning help your child with the way they learn (e.g., does your child prefer asynchronous and/or synchronous learning?)
- How well does your child independently manage time? Schedule work assignments? Work independently?

Your responses to these questions will help you decide if online learning is a good fit for your child. If you have more questions or are unsure how to proceed, please speak to your child’s teacher or Guidance Counsellor.