

# Parent/Guardian & Student Opt-Out Form of E-Learning Graduation Requirement



Dear Parents/Guardians,

With changes to the graduation requirements in Ontario, students who enter Grade 9 in the 2020-2021 school year or later are now required to earn two online learning credits to graduate from secondary school. 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.

## **E-Learning 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 their educator;*
- *may have students learning with other students from different areas of Ontario;*
- *can prepare students for future eLearning 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.*

Meeting the online learning graduation requirement should not pose a barrier to graduation for students. As with all learning, students taking online courses will have access to the supports they need through their school, (eg., guidance, nutrition programs, extra-curricular activities and services for English-language learners). If a student does have an Individual Education Plan, the plan will be shared (with parental consent) with the teacher offering the online course. Further information can be found in PPM 167 on the Ministry of Education website. As always, please reach out to your child's teacher and/or guidance counsellor if you have further questions.

## **Option to Opt Out of the Mandatory Online Courses Required for Graduation.**

Parents/guardians can opt their child out of the mandatory online courses required for graduation. Students aged 18 years of age or older or students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control can also opt out of the graduation requirement.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 can opt back into the online learning graduation requirement should their decision change. Opting out will **not** prohibit your child from taking eLearning courses.

This opt-out form is included as part of the annual course selection process for all Catholic secondary school students. The form does not have to be returned to the school if your child is choosing to fulfill the two credit eLearning course graduation requirement.



## Online Learning OPT-OUT Form

This form is to be completed by parents/guardians or students if they wish to **opt their child out** of the graduation requirement to successfully complete two online courses. Upon completion, this form will be included in the Ontario Student Record of the student.

Student's Name (Print):

I understand the following statements regarding the submission of this form:

- Successful completion of two online learning credits will **not** be required to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.
- There will be no academic penalties for opting out of this graduation requirement.
- All other applicable graduation criteria will still be required.

**For parents of students under 18 years of age:**

- I am the parent/guardian of this student and by checking this box, I confirm that I choose to have my child opt-out of the eLearning graduation requirement.

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

**For Students who are at least 18 years of age, or who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control:**

- By checking this box, I confirm that I choose to opt-out of the mandatory eLearning requirement for graduation.

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_