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MINISTER'S DIRECTIVE

No. MD 2015-05

Granting of Senior High Graduation Diploma and Certificate of Accomplishment in the English language education program

Supersedes Ministerial Directive No. MD 2015-01

Pursuant to clause 7(1)(f) and section 8 of the *School Act*, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. S-2.1, I hereby issue the following Minister's Directive to establish rules for the granting of diplomas and provincial certificates of accomplishment in an English language education program, including an education program for French immersion students.

Interpretation

1. In this Directive,
 - (a) "affiliated school" means an educational institution located outside of Canada that is authorized by the Minister to use curricula developed and approved by the Department;
 - (b) "credit" means a weighted unit based on number of defined hours of instruction in a course that is awarded to a student upon successful completion of the course with a pass mark of 50%;
 - (c) "English credit" means a credit for a course identified as an English course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*;
 - (d) "English language education program" means the education program provided by the English Language School Board or an equivalent education program provided by a licensed private school or an affiliated school, and may include an education program for French immersion students;
 - (e) "French credit" means a credit for a course identified as a core French or French immersion course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*;
 - (f) "licensed private school" means an educational institution within the province for which a license has been issued under section 133 of the *School Act*;
 - (g) "mathematics credit" means a credit for a course identified as a mathematics course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*;
 - (h) "physical education credit" means a credit for a course identified as a physical education course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*;

(i) “science credit” means a credit for a course identified as a science course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*;

(j) “social studies credit” means a credit for a course identified as a social studies course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*.

PART A - Eligibility

2. An individual is eligible to receive a Senior High Graduation Diploma if the individual has successfully completed the course credit requirements for a Senior High Graduation Diploma described in Part B of this Directive and
 - (a) is enrolled in a senior high school operated by the English Language School Board; or
 - (b) is enrolled in a licensed private school or an affiliated school that, in the opinion of the Deputy Minister, offers courses that are substantially equivalent to courses offered by the English Language School Board.
3. An individual is eligible to receive a Certificate of Accomplishment if the individual has completed the course credit requirements for a Certificate of Accomplishment described in Part C of this Directive and
 - (a) is enrolled in a senior high school operated by the English Language School Board; or
 - (b) is enrolled in a licensed private school or an affiliated school that, in the opinion of the Deputy Minister, offers courses that are substantially equivalent to courses offered by the English Language School Board.
4. This Directive does not apply with respect to the eligibility of individuals to receive a General Educational Development (GED) Diploma or to receive certification for completion of senior high level courses as an adult learner who is not enrolled in a school operated by a school board. Certification under those programs is the responsibility of the Minister of Workforce and Advanced Learning.

PART B – Academic Requirements for a Senior High Graduation Diploma

4. Sections 5 and 6 apply to individuals who commence studies in a senior high education program in the school year commencing September 2015, or at a later date.
5. (1) Subject to subsection (4), an individual who is enrolled in an English language education program has completed the course credit requirements to be granted a Senior High Graduation Diploma if the individual has successfully completed twenty (20) course credits comprised of
 - (a) five (5) course credits from courses designated in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials* as Grade 12 courses (600 or 800 level courses); and
 - (b) twelve (12) course credits from the compulsory course credits described in subsection (3).

- (2) A course credit may be used to satisfy the course credit requirements described in both clause (1)(a) and clause (1)(b).
- (3) The compulsory course credit requirements referred to in clause (1)(b) include:
- (a) 3 English credits, one of which must be ENG 621A or ENG 631A;
 - (b) 2 mathematics credits;
 - (c) 2 science credits;
 - (d) 2 social studies credits, one of which must be CAS401A, GEO421A, HIS421G/J, LAW521A, LAW521F, LAW531A, HIS621A, HIS 621B or POL621A;
 - (e) 1 physical education credit, which must be PED401A;
 - (f) 1 career education and personal development credit, one of which must be CEO401A or CAR421F;
 - (g) 1 credit from among the following:
 - (i) a credit from a course identified as a creativity or innovation course in the *Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials*, or
 - (ii) a French credit.
- (4) In addition to the requirements described in subsection (3), an individual who commences studies in an English language education program in the school year commencing September 2016, or at a later date must successfully complete the Prince Edward Island Secondary Literacy Assessment as a requirement to be granted a Senior High Graduation Diploma.
6. (1) An individual may apply in writing to the Deputy Minister for an exemption from the following compulsory course credit requirements referenced in section 5:
- (a) PED401A;
 - (b) CEO401A;
 - (c) CAR421F.
- (2) An individual shall provide the following information with an application for an exemption
- (a) a description of the reason why the individual should not be required to complete the compulsory course credit requirement;
 - (b) a description of the steps taken by the school board, licensed private school or affiliated school to accommodate the curriculum associated with the compulsory course credit requirement to accommodate the individual's specific circumstances; and
 - (c) a written recommendation from the principal of the school, licensed private school or affiliated school, as the case may be, that the individual be exempted from the compulsory course credit requirement.
- (3) On receiving a completed application made in accordance with this section, the Deputy Minister may exempt an individual from a compulsory course credit requirement if, in the Deputy Minister's opinion,

- (a) the individual's personal health, religious or physical circumstances prevent the individual from fully participating in the compulsory course, and the health, religious or physical circumstances of the individual cannot be reasonably accommodated within the curriculum of the compulsory course; or
- (b) the individual has transferred into the education program from another jurisdiction in the individual's third year of study at the senior high level, and enrolment in the compulsory course would unduly delay the completion of the individual's senior high program of studies.

- 7. (1) This section applies to individuals who commence studies in a senior high education program prior to September 2015.
- (2) An individual who is enrolled in an English language education program has completed the requirements to be granted a Senior High Graduation Diploma if the student has successfully completed twenty (20) course credits comprised of
 - (a) five (5) course credits from courses designated in *the Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials* as Grade 12 courses (600 or 800 level courses); and
 - (b) ten (10) course credits from the compulsory course credits described in subsection (3).
- (3) A course credit may be used to satisfy the credit requirements described in both clause (2)(a) and clause (2)(b).
- (4) The compulsory course credit requirements referred to in clause (2)(b) include:
 - (a) 4 English credits or French credits;
 - (b) 2 mathematics credits;
 - (c) 2 science credits; and
 - (d) 2 social studies credits.

PART C – Academic Requirements for a Provincial Certificate of Accomplishment

- 8. (1) Subject to subsection (4), an individual who is enrolled in an English language education program has successfully completed the course credit requirements to be granted a Senior High Graduation Diploma if the individual has successfully completed twenty (20) course credits comprised of
 - (a) five (5) course credits from courses designated in *the Senior High Program of Studies and List of Authorized Materials* as Grade 12 courses (600 or 800 level courses); and
 - (b) nine (9) course credits from the compulsory course credits described in subsection (3).
- (2) A course credit may be used to satisfy the course credit requirements described in both clause (1)(a) and clause (1)(b).

(3) The compulsory course credit requirements referred to in clause (1)(b) include:

- (a) 3 English or French credits;
- (b) 2 mathematics credits;
- (c) 2 science credits;
- (d) 2 social studies credits.

This Minister's Directive is effective September 1, 2015.

Dated at the City of Summerside this 24th day of August, 2015.



Hal Perry

Minister of Education, Early Learning and Culture