



## eLearning 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. Adult learners entering the Ontario secondary school system in 2023-24 or later will be required to meet this graduation requirement and may opt themselves out of the requirement.

The graduation requirement is intended:

- to support students in developing familiarity and comfort with working and learning in a fully online environment;
- to support the acquisition of digital literacy and important transferable skills that will help prepare them for success after graduation

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 home school (e.g., Guidance Counsellors, nutrition programs, extra-curricular activities and services for Multi-Language Learners). If a student has an Individual Education Plan, the plan will be shared with the educator instructing the online course delivered by DSBN or another publicly funded school board in the eLearning Consortium.

Parents/guardians may choose to opt their child out of 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 Students 18 years of age or older, or students who are 16 or 17 years of age and have withdrawn from parental control, can also opt out of the graduation requirement. School boards must also allow students and parents/guardians to opt back into the online learning graduation requirement should their decision change.

**I agree with the following statements:**

- 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.
- The benefits of online learning have been shared with me by the school, including how the development of digital literacy and other important transferable skills are intended to help prepare students for success after graduation and in all aspects of their lives.

**I understand the following statements:**

- Upon receipt of this form by my child's school/ my school, my child/I will not be required to earn two online learning credits to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- My child/I will face no academic penalties for opting out of this graduation requirement
- My child/I will continue to complete all other applicable graduation requirements
- This will be recorded on my child's/my transcript as "Online Learning Graduation Requirement – Non-Applicable".

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Student's First Name (Printed)

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Student's Last Name (Printed)

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Parent/Guardian First Name (if applicable)

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Parent/Guardian Last Name (if applicable)

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Signature of Parent/Guardian or Student Aged 18 or Older, or  
Student who is 16 or 17 and has Withdrawn from Parental Control

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Date

You will receive an acknowledgement from the school by email upon receipt of the form.

If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please contact the Program Leader for Guidance at your student's home school.

**Personal information on this form is collected, used and disclosed in accordance with the *Education Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.E.2, as amended and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. R.S.O 1990, c.M. 56, as amended and will be used for the purpose of recording the parental request to opt out and any similar or related purpose(s). Questions about this collection, use and disclosure should be directed to the Freedom of Information Coordinator, District School Board of Niagara, 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P4 905-641-1550.**