

APPENDIX X

Independent Study Guidelines

Background

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recognizes that due to scheduling issues, students may occasionally have to take a course outside of scheduled classroom time. Additionally, students may have previously acquired the knowledge, skills and attitudes that an existing course seeks to develop and can demonstrate this knowledge without the benefit of traditional instruction. Independent study provides a process for such students to demonstrate that they have achieved learning outcomes as defined in the curriculum guide for a directly-related course. Normally students who engage in independent study would be considered exceptional achievers in the area of study.

Under no circumstances can a student challenge a course for credit by simply writing a comprehensive exam. A student engaged in independent study must be evaluated on an ongoing basis by an assigned teacher throughout the school year.

Policy

1. Any individual wishing to engage in independent study of a course must be registered with a school offering the high school program.
2. Independent study is applicable only to provincially approved or authorized senior high school courses.
3. Courses for which a student has already received credit are not eligible for independent study. Independent study is not intended as a way to improve a course mark.
4. A formal evaluation plan must be developed which clearly outlines the type of assessment measures, how they will be administered and the level of performance which will be required of the student. It must be consistent with the evaluation plan for a regularly taught course.
5. Courses completed using the independent study option will be given a mark in the same form as other courses evaluated by the school for submission to the Department.
6. In courses with a public examination, the independent study must include the writing of this examination.