

POLICY

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
(Okanagan Similkameen)

COURSE CHALLENGE

Reference: E-2
Revised: May 28, 2008

COURSE CHALLENGE

The Board encourages student course challenges where warranted. It believes opportunities to pursue advanced or alternative programs of study should be available for motivated, task-oriented students which is consistent with the philosophy of continuous progress and life-long learning.

It believes in a fair and consistent challenge process. It also believes that where such a process has been followed, the judgement of the representatives of the Board in accepting or rejecting a challenge must prevail.

REGULATION

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A Course challenge may be self-initiated or initiated by the student's parent, class/subject teacher or the gifted resource teacher in consultation with the school principal. A School District COURSE CHALLENGE APPLICATION form must accompany a request.

The school principal shall establish a school-based team for each application to provide him/her with a recommendation. Normally the District Principal of Special Services, the class/subject teacher, the gifted resource teacher, and the school principal shall be members of such a Committee. Where an elementary student challenges a secondary school course, the secondary school principal shall appoint one or more secondary school teachers to the school-based team following notification by the initiating elementary school principal.

The team, in evaluating a course challenge, shall consider the student's previous, current, and potential strengths using work samples, cumulative tests, essays, the judgement of curriculum specialists, social/emotional maturity and motivation. In addition, the student's knowledge (demonstration of a strong conceptual/theoretical base in the challenged subject area), skills (actual achievement measures such as tests, essays, assignments etc.), and attitudes (motivation and commitment reflected in the work to date) will be considered before a recommendation is made.

Where a course challenge has been recommended for approval by the team and subsequently approved by the principal, an Individual Education Plan shall be prepared by the school-based team, except at the secondary level should courses already be in place. Individual Education Plans shall be signed by all parties involved in the challenge process. Where an elementary student challenges a secondary course both principals shall jointly agree in approving or rejecting a recommendation.

Structured written comments shall accompany regular letter grades for material covered in the Individual Education Plan.