

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)

POLICY

No. E-2

Amended: May 28, 2008
Reviewed: June 26, 2018
Reviewed: October 25, 2023

COURSE CHALLENGE

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

The Board of Education 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 of Education in accepting or rejecting a challenge must prevail.

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REGULATIONS

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COURSE CHALLENGE

A Course challenge may be self-initiated or initiated by the student's parent or class/subject 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 them with a recommendation. Normally the District Principal of Student Support Services, the class/subject 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, assessments, core competencies, assignments, 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, demonstrated achievement, 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, progress indicators and self-assessment on the curricular competencies shall accompany regular letter grades for material covered in the Individual Education Plan.