



Inukshuk Academy

Education Built on Inukshuk Values of Strength, Guidance, and Community Commitment to Academic Excellence and Student Success

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

The Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) [4] is the standard diploma awarded to students who successfully complete the secondary school program as outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Education. It is recognized nationally and internationally as a qualification for admission to post-secondary education, apprenticeship training, and employment.

Inukshuk Academy ensures that all graduation pathways adhere to the Ministry of Education's Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12 (OS K–12) policy guidelines. At Inukshuk Academy, students may work toward the OSSD through full-time or part-time study, either on-site or through the LMS. All courses leading to the OSSD follow the Ontario curriculum and are taught by qualified and certified teachers. To obtain the OSSD, students must complete the following:

1. **30 Credits Total**
 - **17 compulsory credits** for students starting Grade 9 in 2024–2025 or later.
 - **18 compulsory credits** for students starting Grade 9 in 2023–2024 or earlier.
 - **13 or 12 optional credits**
2. **Literacy Requirement**
 - Students normally write the OSSLT in Grade 10.
 - Successful completion of the *OSSLT*
 - If a student is unsuccessful or has special circumstances, they may fulfill this requirement by completing *Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OLC40)*
3. **Community Involvement Requirement**
 - **A minimum of 40 hours** of community involvement activities, completed outside scheduled instructional time
4. **Online Learning Graduation Requirement**
 - Students who entered Grade 9 in 2020–2021 or later must complete 2 online learning credits, unless formally exempted

A credit is defined as a 110-hour course in which expectations are set by the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum guidelines. Students should select credits based on their academic interests, post-secondary plans and career pathways. Guidance support is provided to help students make informed choices.

If a student is fully enrolled at Inukshuk Academy, they will complete the literacy requirement and community involvement activities through the Academy. Students who are registered primarily at another Ontario public or private school (with their OSR held at that school) will complete these requirements through their home school.



Students may also meet the literacy requirement by completing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC) with Inukshuk Academy. The school that holds the OSR is responsible for updating the student's OST.

1. Graduation Requirements

In accordance with policies established by the Ontario Ministry of Education, Inukshuk Academy applies Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) credit requirements based on the student's cohort year (the year the student first entered Grade 9).

Students who entered Grade 9 in or before the 2022–2023 school year must complete: 18 compulsory credits and 12 optional credits.

Students who entered Grade 9 in the 2023–2024 school year or later must complete: 17 compulsory credits 13 optional credits. *“A student transfers between schools or programs, the applicable graduation requirements will be determined based on the student's original Grade 9 entry year, unless otherwise directed by the Ministry”.*

All students working toward the OSSD must complete a minimum of 40 hours of unpaid community involvement activities.

- This requirement is in addition to the 30 credits and the literacy requirement.
- Students may begin accumulating hours in the summer before entering Grade 9.

When students complete their 40 hours, the achievement will be recorded on:

- Their Ontario Student Transcript (OST),
- Their final report card, and
- Their Ontario Student Record (OSR).

Table 4.1, given the compulsory credit breakdown credits (17/18 total). The Principal ensures correct application of group credit policies and eligibility.

Subject Area	18 Compulsory Credits (Old Cohort)	17 Compulsory Credits (New Cohort)
English	4	4
Mathematics	3	3
Science	2	2
Canadian History	1	1
Canadian Geography	1	1
The Arts	1	1
Health & Physical Education	1	1
French as a Second Language	1	1
Career Studies	0.5	0.5
Civics and Citizenship	0.5	0.5
Group 1 (Additional)	1	1
Group 2 (Additional)	1	1
Group 3 (Additional)	1	1
Additional Compulsory Credit	1 (varies by pathway)	—
Total Compulsory Credits	18	17



The OSSD is granted by the Minister of Education upon the recommendation of the Principal, who verifies that all graduation requirements have been fully met.

2. Provincial Literacy Requirement

All students working toward an OSSD must meet the literacy graduation requirement.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

1. The OSSLT is the standard method for meeting this requirement.
2. It is administered annually by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), usually in the spring of the Grade 10 year.
3. Students who do not pass on the first attempt may retake the test in subsequent years.
4. Inukshuk Academy will arrange the OSSLT administration for students whose OSR is held at the Academy. The test must be written under appropriate supervision in accordance with EQAO guidelines.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OSSLC)

1. Students who have had two opportunities to write the OSSLT and have been unsuccessful at least once may fulfill the literacy requirement by successfully completing the OSSLC.
2. The OSSLC is offered at Inukshuk Academy.

Accommodations, Provisions, Deferrals, and Exemptions

1. Accommodations: Available for students with an IEP or special education needs.
2. Special Provisions: Adjustments for English language learners, at the principal's discretion.
3. Deferrals: May be requested if a student has not yet acquired the English proficiency needed to complete the OSSLT successfully.

Exemptions: Only available for students with an IEP who are not working toward the OSSD. Requires both parental consent and principal approval.

3. Optional Credit Requirements

In addition to the compulsory credits required for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), students must also earn **12 optional credits**. Optional credits allow students to explore personal interests, develop strengths, and pursue academic pathways that support their post-secondary and career goals. These credits may be earned from any Ontario Ministry of Education–approved courses, including academic, applied, and open, university preparation, college preparation, workplace preparation, and online blended courses offered at Inukshuk Academy.



1. Purpose of Optional Credits

Optional credits provide students with the flexibility to:

- Explore subjects of personal interest (e.g., Arts, Business, Technology, Languages, Social Sciences, etc.)
- Deepen knowledge in areas that align with future post-secondary pathways such as university, college, apprenticeships, or employment
- Strengthen learning in areas where additional study will support academic success
- Build a personalized and meaningful high school program that reflects individual strengths and aspirations

2. Course Selection and Support

Students, along with their parents/guardians (if under age 18), receive guidance from the Principal and academic advisors to ensure that optional course selections:

- Meet OSSD graduation requirements
- Support the student's identified pathway or career interests
- Are scheduled in a manageable and balanced way

Students are encouraged to review course descriptions and prerequisites in the Inukshuk Academy Course Calendar when selecting optional credits.

4. Course Substitutions (Up to Three Compulsory Credits)

In accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Education policy, the Principal may authorize the substitution of up to three (3) compulsory credits in the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirements with other courses that better support a student's individual learning needs, program pathway, or post-secondary goals. Course substitutions are considered only when:

- The learning expectations of the substituted course are aligned with the student's academic program plan;
- The substitution supports the student's success and does not detract from the overall integrity of the OSSD; and
- The decision is made in consultation with the student, parent/guardian (if the student is under 18), and academic advisors where appropriate.

All course substitutions:

- Must comply with Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements (OS K–12);
- Must be recorded in the student's OSR
- Will appear on the OST with an indication that a substitution was made.

Substitutions cannot be used to replace:



- The Literacy Requirement (OSSLT or OSSLC), or
- The Community Involvement Requirement (40 hours).

5. Community Involvement Requirement

As part of the requirements for the OSSD, every student enrolled at Inukshuk Academy must complete a minimum of 40 hours of unpaid community involvement. This requirement encourages students to engage with their communities, develop social awareness, and build responsibility and citizenship. Community involvement provides valuable opportunities for students to contribute their time and talents in meaningful ways, fostering compassion, leadership, and a sense of belonging. Community involvement may be completed at any time starting the summer before entering Grade 9 and may take place in a wide variety of settings, including charitable organizations, cultural and faith-based groups, environmental initiatives, and community service programs. All activities must meet Ministry and school eligibility requirements and must be unpaid.

References

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- [3] Ministry of Education, "Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)," [Online]. Available: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/prior-learning-assessment-and-recognition-guide-colleges-applied-arts-and-technology>.
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- [6] Ministry of Education, "Additional course and program delivery options," [Online]. Available: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/ontario-schools-kindergarten-grade-12-policy-and-program-requirements-2024/additional-course-and-program-delivery-options>.
- [7] Ministry of Education, "Secondary school (grades 9 to 12) Report Card," [Online]. Available: https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/forms/report/card/HS_Semester_First.pdf.
- [8] I. Academy, "PLAR Form," May 2026. [Online]. Available: <https://inukshukacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Prior-Learning-Assessment-and-Recognition-PLAR.pdf>.
- [9] O. M. o. Education, "Growing Success," 2010. [Online]. Available: <https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/growsuccess.pdf>.