



# Online Learning

## Frequently Asked Questions

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## Online (e-Learning) Overview

### What is online learning aka e-learning?

- The Ministry of Education defines online learning as online learning credit courses in grades 9-12 that are delivered entirely using the internet and do not require students to be physically present with one another or with their educator in the school.
- e-Learning courses are:
  - asynchronous; this means that the student's course work is teacher-led, however, there are no formal "real-time" lessons delivered by the teacher .
  - offered through a secure learning management system known as vLE or D2L or Brightspace, allowing students and educators to communicate and share learning and coursework online.
  - organized so students may access the course content at any time during the day.
  - designed to include teacher assessment and evaluation information and timelines as part of the course content.
  - instructed by a certified Ontario educator who provides ongoing feedback, assessment, evaluation, and reporting, including implementing any accommodations and/or modifications identified in the student's Individual Education Plan.
- Online learning courses are not:
  - remote learning where teachers are providing a "real-time" lesson online while students are following along. This is synchronous learning not asynchronous.
  - limited to students at any one school. All students in the Sudbury Catholic School Board have access to all e-learning courses. Therefore, students at one high school may be taking courses with students at other high schools in our board and/or with another school board in the province.

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## What counts as an online learning course?

- Any asynchronous credit that is an acceptable credit for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. This includes asynchronous Summer School courses, asynchronous Reach Ahead courses and asynchronous Dual Credit courses.

## Will my child be in the same online learning class as other students in their school?

- Not necessarily - students in an online learning course may follow different timetables and be from different schools or school boards.

## Does my child complete the online learning courses as part of their regular day at school or are they additional courses to be completed at home?

- Online learning courses will be scheduled in one of the 4 periods in the school day.

## What courses will be available for my child to take?

- The SCDSB will offer a variety of courses for next year. Not all courses are guaranteed to run each year as it depends on many registration factors such as course registration numbers.

## My child is in grade 8, can they reach ahead and do a grade 9 online learning course?

- Students in grade 8 can take a grade 9 online learning course in the summer between grade 8 and grade 9.

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## How do tests, projects and other types of assessment and evaluation work in online learning?

- Many tasks and activities in online learning will be similar to those students do in in-person courses.
- Teachers will provide a variety of tasks to assess student learning and understanding of course concepts and skills. These can be projects, discussion board posts, video or audio responses and written tasks.
- SCDSB courses that would have an exam in an in-person format, could also have an exam in online learning.

## How does attendance work in online learning?

- Students are expected to login to their e-learning course as it appears in their timetable; 5 days a week for 75 minutes each day.
- Online learning teachers will report on attendance on a weekly basis and will notify students and their support persons (e.g. family, guidance counselor, VP) if attendance issues arise.
- Students who fail to login to their course between Monday-Sunday (7 day period) will be marked absent for 5 school days in accordance with Ministry of Education attendance policies.
- At SCDSB, students who fail to log in for 10 or more consecutive school days will receive a notification to log in immediately. This message also reminds them that they will be removed from the course if they accumulate 15 or more consecutive absences. Notifications are sent to the student and their designated support persons.
  - **Please note** that other school boards also reserve the right to remove a student after 15 consecutive absences, but the timing and method of notification vary from board to board.

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## What are the timelines for course changes with online learning courses?

- Any dates for course changes of an online learning course will be the same dates as an in-person course.
- Full disclosure dates will also apply to an online learning course just as an in-person course.

## Graduation requirements

### Why is mandatory online learning a requirement?

- To support students in the development of digital literacy and other important transferable skills that will help prepare them for success after graduation and in all aspects of their lives.

### In which grade can a student take an online learning course?

- Grade 11 and 12 are the ideal grades because of the large variety of online learning course options available.
- Most of the SCDSB online learning course offerings are at the grade 11 and 12 level and some require prerequisite courses at the grade 9 or 10 level.
- If students want to complete e-learning courses ahead of grade 11 & 12, there are options available in summer school.
- Specific questions can be directed to guidance departments.

### Will this requirement appear on the transcript?

- Online learning courses will appear on the student transcript with all other credits earned. There will be an “X” code in the course code or an “OL” beside each course that was taken through e-learning.
- There will be a note at the bottom of the transcript indicating if the requirement was met or if the student opted out.

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## How many e-learning courses does my child have to take?

- Students are required to complete 2 e-learning courses between grades 9 and 12.

## Are the e-learning courses in addition to the credits that students currently need to graduate, or do they replace existing credits?

- Credits earned in online learning are included as part of the 30 credits required to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students will take 28 credits in-person and 2 credits through e-learning, for a total of 30 credits.

## Support and Online learning

### My child has an IEP. How will they be supported?

- Your child has a legal right to the accommodations or modifications listed in their IEPs. The IEP will be shared, when appropriate, with the educator instructing the online course.
- The e-learning platform (Brightspace by D2L) is designed with accessibility in mind, and works with a wide range of assistive technologies.

### Will there be a teacher available to support my child if they have questions about their course?

- Students will receive a Welcome email at the start of the term with instructions for accessing their course, helpful links, and their online learning teacher's email address.
- Students should reach out to their online learning teacher with any questions they have about their online learning course.
- Students are encouraged to connect with peers or other helpful adults (e.g. guidance counselor, student success teacher, teacher librarian, resource teacher, etc.) at their home school for additional support with their online learning course, as needed.

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## Registration Emails and PRISM

### What is PRISM?

- PRISM is the Student Information System used by the Ontario eLearning Consortium (OeLC) and many school boards across Ontario to manage online course registration, waitlists, and communication.

### How do students register for an online course?

- Registration is completed by the Guidance Counsellor at the student's home school using PRISM. If the course is offered by the home board and has space, the student is automatically accepted; otherwise, they are waitlisted until approved by the offering board.

### What happens at each step of the registration process (registered, waitlisted, accepted, and welcome)?

- An email notification is sent at every step to keep all parties informed:
  - Registration – Confirmation email sent to the student, parents/guardians, guidance counsellor, and school contacts.
  - Waitlist Placement – Notification sent to the student, parents/guardians, guidance counsellor, and school contacts.
  - Acceptance into the Course – Email sent to the student, parents/guardians, guidance counsellor, and relevant school staff.
  - Welcome Email – Sent only to the student, and includes:
    - Teacher's email address
    - Course start date (which may vary by board across Ontario)
    - Login details and instructions for accessing the course

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## Technical

### What platform will my child be using to learn?

- Online learning will be offered through Brightspace by D2L (vLE), a secure learning management system recommended by the Ministry of Education. It allows students and educators across Ontario to communicate and share learning and coursework online.

### What if my child does not have a laptop/chromebook?

- Students can complete their online learning course at the school with a borrowed device. These devices may be housed in the Learning Commons.

### What if I don't have internet/good internet at home?

- Students can complete their online learning course at their home school during the period they are scheduled for online learning.

## Opting Out of eLearning

### What if I can't complete two e-learning courses?

- We are hopeful that throughout their high school experience, students will have a chance to participate in the benefits of online learning. Students in their graduating year who are not able to complete TWO online learning credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma will be opted out of this graduation requirement.

### What If I want to opt out of e-learning for my child?

- If your child is in grade 12 and has not yet been able to schedule online learning courses in their schedule, this graduation requirement will be removed. This will be completed through a form submission process that will be outlined by your child's school in the spring of their graduating year.

## Will opting out affect university or college acceptance?

- No, this will have no impact on university or college acceptance. Please note that many universities and colleges use the same online platform that secondary schools use for their online courses and they often do not offer an opt out option.

## Access to Online Course Disclaimer

*Please note that access to your online course may take up to **48 hours** after registration is processed. While most students gain access within **24 hours**, delays can occur due to system updates or cross-board coordination for out-of-board registrations.*

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## Travel Out of Canada and Geofencing Disclaimer

*If you are travelling outside of Canada, students will not be able to access the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This is due to our **school board geofencing**, a security measure that restricts access to the VLE based on geographic location to protect student data and prevent privacy breaches.*