

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Challenge

Please carefully review the information on the [PLAR Challenge website](#).

Instructions for Students

1. Use the link in the email you received to access your shared folder to upload your evidence of prior learning required to challenge your high school course(s) for credit.
2. Upload your evidence of meeting/exceeding all course overall expectations outlined in the [curriculum document](#) for your course(s). Ensure you have clearly identified and explained how your evidence meets/exceeds each course overall expectation. This step will represent 70% of your final achievement for the course(s) you are challenging. A student's achievement depends on the depth and breadth of their demonstration of prior learning. Depending on the course, this step should take less than three weeks to complete. Should additional time be required, please contact plar@ocdsb.ca as soon as possible to request a time extension.

Reminders:

- a. All high school courses attempted through the PLAR Challenge process must represent the same standards of achievement as courses delivered by schools. Reflect on whether your demonstration of learning would meet/exceed the same expectations and standards as an assessment completed at a school.
 - b. The onus is on you to be explicit and demonstrate your own prior learning without the assistance of staff. There is no teacher instruction/ongoing feedback during the PLAR Challenge process.
3. Respond to the email you received with these instructions once you are satisfied with your submission in your shared folder. At that point, your folder's permissions will change to view only. The assessing teacher will review your work, and may require students to speak to/present their demonstration of learning (e.g., through a Google Meet). After reviewing all the components of this step, the assessing teacher will notify you of your approximate achievement.

Reminders:

- a. There is no option to revisit/review your demonstration of learning from Step 2 after the assessment has begun. This is similar to turning in a final examination once completed.
4. The final 30% of a student's achievement will be in the form of a summative task or tasks. Based on the demonstration of learning from Step 2, the assessor will determine the appropriate final task(s) and communicate next steps with you and your school contact (usually your guidance teacher). Should the final tasks involve a written or timed task (e.g., a final examination), it will be completed in a supervised space at your school during the instructional day. You will be excused from any scheduled classes to complete your assessment(s). Students are responsible for notifying their school teachers of their absence from class. Students are responsible for all missed work.

5. Upon completion of your final task(s) from Step 4, your overall achievement for the course(s) you challenged will be sent to your school's principal for review and approval. Your final achievement will be communicated to you (and your parent/caregiver if under 18 years old) through email once your principal has completed their review.

Reminders:

- a. There are no Ontario Report Cards for high school credits earned through the PLAR Challenge process. Students will be provided with a tracking record indicating the course code and final mark.
- b. There is no feedback/debrief provided to students regarding their final achievement. For questions, you can contact your school's principal.

Should circumstances change, and you are unable to complete your PLAR Challenge process, please contact plar@ocdsb.ca as soon as possible to withdraw. There is no academic penalty for withdrawing from the PLAR Challenge process. Students who do not complete the PLAR Challenge process, and do not notify the PLAR Department to request to withdraw, will receive an incomplete or failing grade for the course(s) in progress of being challenged.

If you have questions about the PLAR Challenge process, please email plar@ocdsb.ca. Please note that the PLAR Department is unable to provide instructional support, feedback or guidance related to a student's demonstration of learning.