

Limestone District School Board (LDSB) offers adult learning programs for students 18 years of age or older. Adult learning programs can support adults to earn credits towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, upgrade skills to prepare for college, university, apprenticeship training or employment and improve essential skills to live with more confidence.

1. Literacy & Basic Skills

The Ontario Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program helps adults in Ontario to develop and apply communication, numeracy, interpersonal and digital skills to achieve their goals. LBS is not a credit-based program.

- 1.1. Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) program applies to any student who is at least 18 years of age who has reading, writing and math skills below grade 12 level.
- 1.2. Adult LBS students will not be charged fees for participating in LBS programming.
- 1.3. Students whose first language is not English may benefit from participating in LBS programming to improve their English prior to participating in the Mature PLAR process or attempting credit-based courses.

2. Adult Language Training – English as a Second Language (ESL)

The Adult Language Training English as a Second Language (ESL) program helps immigrants improve or acquire language skills to participate in Canadian society and the labour market. Courses provide learning opportunities in four identified language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Core language training is based on the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) framework. Adult ESL is not a credit-based program.

- 2.1. Adult ESL program applies to any immigrant who is at least 18 years of age and is a resident of Ontario: and is: a naturalized Canadian citizen, permanent resident, Convention refugee or a refugee claimant: or approved as a permanent resident, or their dependent, but who has not yet been processed to receive permanent resident status (e.g. individuals approved under the Ontario Immigrant Provincial



Nominee program or the Canadian Experience Class); or admitted under a federal caregiver program with a pathway to permanent residency.

- 2.2. Adult ESL students will not be charged fees for participating in ESL programming.
- 2.3. Students whose English proficiency is below Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 6 would benefit from participating in ESL programming to improve their English prior to participating in the Mature PLAR process or attempting credit-based courses.

3. Mature PLAR (Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition) Process

PLAR for Mature Students provides a process by which the prior experiences of adult learners, both formal and informal, can be recognized for secondary credit, minimizing duplication of learning, saving the student time and opportunity costs, and providing students with an enhanced pathway to graduation with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

- 3.1. PLAR procedures for mature students will be carried out under the direction of the school principal who has the authority to grant credits.
- 3.2. Mature students will not be charged fees for undergoing the PLAR process.
- 3.3. The Mature PLAR process involves an equivalency process for Grade 9 and 10 credits, and an equivalency and challenge process for Grade 11 and 12 credits.
- 3.4. The Mature PLAR process applies to any student at least 18 years of age on or after January 1 of the current school year and who is enrolled in a program for the purpose of obtaining an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
- 3.5. The Mature PLAR process may result in an individual being granted up to 26 credits towards the diploma. Any remaining required credits may be earned by completing the required courses.
- 3.6. Mature Students who have previously accumulated 26 or more credits towards the



diploma must successfully complete the required number of courses to bring their total number of credits up to 30 and are not eligible for the Mature PLAR process.

- 3.7. Mature students must meet the requisite Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB 6) in English to successfully participate in the PLAR process and any necessary credit courses.
- 3.8. A school board is not required to provide opportunities for mature students to challenge for credit those courses that are not actually taught in schools operated by the board.
- 3.9. PLAR procedures for eligible students will be carried out following the policies governing the equivalency process and policies governing the challenge process, as outlined in Policy/Procedure Memorandum 132.

4. Student Registration

- 4.1. The Mature PLAR process is offered at all LDSB Secondary Schools, and at all LDSB Alternative Education locations.
- 4.2. LBS Programming and Adult ESL Programming are offered through Alternative and Continuing Education.
- 4.3. Mature students are required to enrol at an Alternative Education Centre, and not a regular secondary school, if: (a) the student has been in high school for 4 or 5 years; or (b) the student will be 20 years old or older within the upcoming school year; or (c) the student has not been enrolled in school for 4 consecutive years.
- 4.4. All mature students will be offered access to the PLAR process provided they meet the requirements outlined.
- 4.5. Students who have been diagnosed with an Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) and who are accessing school-to-community programming, may remain in high school for up to 7 years, or until June of the year they turn 21 years



of age.

- 4.6. Mature students engaged in approved specialized programs (e.g. Personal Support Worker) are excluded from 4.3 above.

References:

Education Amendment Act (Learning to Age 18), c. 28 – Bill 52

Education Act S. 21(1), Compulsory Attendance

Education Act S. 8(3), Regulation 298, Section; S. 30(5)

Ministry of Education PPM 132

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development