

Other Important Stuff: Diploma Requirements

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) Requirements

- 30 credits (18 compulsory and 12 optional)
- 40 hours of Community Involvement
- Literacy Requirement

The 18 compulsory credits are:

- 4 English, one per grade level
- 1 French as a second language
- 3 Mathematics, at least one in Grade 11 or 12
- 2 Science
- 1 Canadian geography
- 1 Canadian history
- 1 Arts (dance, drama, media, music, visual arts)
- 1 Health and physical education
- 0.5 Civics
- 0.5 Career studies

Plus one credit from each
of the following groups:

Group 1: additional credit in English
or French as a second language,
or a Native language, or Classical
or an International language
or Social Sciences and the Humanities
or Canadian and World Studies
or Guidance and Career education
or Cooperative education

Group 2: Business Studies credit
or Health and physical education
or the Arts
or Cooperative education

Group 3: a Grade 11 or 12 Science credit
or Technological Education
or Computer Studies
or Cooperative education

Plus 12 optional credits.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

In the spring of their Grade 10 school year, students will write the provincial Literacy Test, which is created and marked by the Ministry of Education and Training.

- Students who pass the test fulfill the Literacy requirement.
- School boards are required to provide remedial assistance for students who do not complete the test successfully.
- If students have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) accommodations and/or modifications consistent with students daily work, is available for the test although content may not be altered.

Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

The Ontario Secondary School Certificate will be granted upon request to students who leave school before earning the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, provided that they have earned a minimum of 14 credits, as follows:

- 2 English
- 1 Canadian geography or Canadian history
- 1 mathematics
- 1 science
- 1 health and physical education
- 1 arts or technological studies
- 7 optional credits selected from any available courses in the school.

The provisions for substitution for compulsory credits applies to the OSSC.

The Certificate of Accomplishment

Students who leave school before fulfilling the requirements for the OSSD or OSSC may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment. This Certificate is a useful means of recognizing a student's participation in the secondary school program, especially for those students who plan to take certain types of vocational programs or further training for employment after leaving school. A student may return to school or take additional credit courses after having received the Certificate. The student's transcript (OST) will be updated, but a new Certificate will not be awarded when the student leaves again. A student who receives the Certificate and chooses to return to study at the secondary level may earn the OSSC and/or OSSD after fulfilling the appropriate credit requirements for each.

NOTE

Students who have been eligible to write the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) and who have been unsuccessful at least once are eligible to take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OLC40). Students who successfully complete this course will have met the provincial literacy requirement for graduation, and will earn one credit. The credit may be used to meet either the Grade 12 English compulsory credit requirement or the Group 1 additional compulsory credit requirement. (see chart on page 34)

Community Involvement

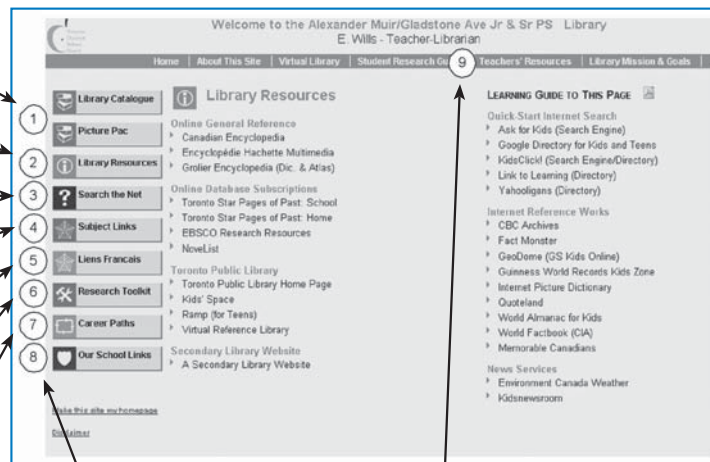
- Students are encouraged to develop a sense of civic responsibility and strong community values during their secondary school years. To this end, all students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of mandatory Community Involvement prior to graduation.
- An indication of completion will be entered on the student's Ontario Student Transcript when the 40 hours have been submitted and approved.
- Secondary school staff, will discuss appropriate types of community involvement activities and projects with students and may offer suggestions, but the selection and management of the involvement is to be directed by the student.
- The Toronto District School Board publishes a list of "approved" and "non-approved" activities; students choosing an activity not on the approved list must apply for permission in writing to the school Principal.
- Activities may take place inside or outside the school. If inside, activities may not be part of a credit program.
- The student may not displace a worker who would normally have been paid to perform the same function or receive pay.

School Libraries Website

Every TDSB school has a friendly School Library Website created and maintained by Library and Learning Resources teacher-librarians. Go to www.tdsb.on.ca > Students > Library.

Sections of the Website

1. your school library catalogue (text and/or pictures)
2. home page: online resources, quick-start searching
3. the best directories and search engines
4. quality links for subjects and courses
5. quality French links, directories, and search engines
6. key links and resources for research
7. career information for every destination



8. special links created by your school teacher-librarian
9. professional links and resources for teachers

The website is a portal that helps you:

- **navigate** to sites quickly within a user-friendly design
- **find** quality online resources and Internet sites from dependable and safe sources
- **explore** sites that are rich in content for Ontario schools
- **learn** ways that Internet information is organized
- **use** web-based information independently and responsibly at home and school (24/7).