**Achieving Your Diploma**

**The Ontario Secondary School Diploma** is issued by the Ontario Ministry of Education and states that the student has achieved the minimum requirements for graduation. (30 credits)

**The Credit System**: The Ministry of Education defines a credit as follows: "A credit is granted in recognition of the successful completion of a course for which a minimum of 110 hours has been scheduled" (approximately 76 minutes a day/per semester) .

**REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING SECONDARY SCHOOL ON OR AFTER SEPT., 1999**

In order to earn an **Ontario Secondary School Diploma**, a student commencing a secondary school program on or after September 1, 1999, must earn a **minimum of 30 credits** distributed as follows:



**Compulsory Credits (Total of 18)**

* 4 credits in English (at least 2 from Senior Division)
* 3 credits in Mathematics
* 2 credits in Science
* 1 credit in French
* 1 credit in Canadian Geography
* 1 credit in Canadian History
* 1 credit in Physical and Health Education
* 1 credit in the Arts
* 1 credit in Civics and Career Education

+\_ an additional credit in English, or French as a second language, or a Native language, or a classical or an international language, or social sciences and the humanities, or Canadian and world studies, or guidance and career education, or cooperative education\*\*

+ an additional credit in health and physical education, or the arts, or business studies, or cooperative education\*\*

+ an additional credit in science, or technological education, or cooperative education\*

**Elective Credits (Total of 12)** 12 optional credits\*\*\*

**Additional Requirements** 40 hours of community involvement activities

provincial literacy requirement

\*A maximum of 3 credits in English as a second language (ESL) or English literacy development (ELD) may be counted towards the 4 compulsory credits in English, but the fourth must be a credit earned for a Grade 12 compulsory English course. \*\*A maximum of 2 credits in cooperative education can count as compulsory credits. \*\*\*May include up to four credits achieved through approved Dual Credit courses.

**EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT HE/SHE HAS THE PROPER COURSES TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DIPLOMA**

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## The Ontario Secondary School Certificate

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

**Compulsory credits (total of 7)**

* 2 credits in English
* 1 credit in Canadian Geography or Canadian History
* 1 credit in Mathematics
* 1 credit in Science
* 1 credit in Health and Physical Education
* 1 credit in the Arts or Technological Education

**Optional credits (total of 7)** 7 credits selected by the student from available courses

## The Certificate of Accomplishment

Students who leave school before fulfilling the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma or the Ontario Secondary School Certificate may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment. This recognizes achievement for students who plan to take certain vocational programs or other kinds of further training, or who plan to find employment after leaving school.