

# INDEPENDENT DIRECTED STUDIES

## Background

The District recognizes that students learn and are successful in a variety of ways. Independent Directed Studies (IDS) are important learning opportunities for students who wish to pursue learning standards beyond those normally met in the classroom and to acquire credits for students who did not meet the learning standards of an entire course.

IDS is defined as an area of study in an educational program undertaken by a student under the general supervision of a teacher. IDS provide students who have an interest or passion in a particular subject with the unique opportunity to pursue this subject in greater depth and receive Grade 10, 11 or 12 course credits. The learning standards must be rigorous and developed through a consultative process involving the student and teacher with standards designed to maintain a high level of quality in the work undertaken.

IDS credits shall be awarded to students who have successfully completed independent work based on a subset of learning standards of courses leading to Graduation at the Grade 10, 11 or 12 level. These courses can be either Ministry Developed courses or Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses.

## Procedures

### 1. Assessment and Reporting

- 1.1. Documentation must be kept in the student file that includes the Student Plan approved by the Principal, the hours of successful study completed by the student, and the credits awarded.
- 1.2. IDS must be reported on regular school assessment reports (i.e. report cards) with the IDS code identifying the related Ministry Developed courses or Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) courses.
- 1.3. For reporting and transcript purposes, principals must assign all credits received from an IDS that align with Ministry and/or District guidelines.
- 1.4. Principals are required to complete Independent Directed Studies Report ([Form 222-1](#)).

### 2. Program Planning and Delivery

- 2.1. A student may study one or more learning outcomes in depth, or study a variety of learning outcomes from a single course.
- 2.2. Students must apply for IDS using an IDS Student Plan approved by the District.
- 2.3. The IDS Student Plan must be developed by a teacher and a student and approved by the Principal.

### 3. Course Credits

- 3.1. In accordance with Ministry of Education policies, principals may award credits to students who have successfully completed independent work based on a subset of learning outcomes of Grade 10, 11 or 12 Ministry Developed courses or Board/Authority Authorized courses.
- 3.2. The number of credits a student earns for IDS will be set out in an IDS Student Plan developed by the student and a teacher and approved by the Principal.

Reference: Sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 8.4, 8.5, 20, 22, 23, 65, 74.1, 75, 75.1, 85 School Act  
Educational Program Guide Order (M333/99)  
Graduation Program Order (M302/04)  
BC Ministry of Education IDS Policy:  
[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/earning\\_credit\\_through.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/earning_credit_through.htm)  
[Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program](#) pages 59-60 for IDS  
Collective Agreements

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