

## Chapter Five: Modified Prescribed Courses

### Modified Prescribed Course

A modified prescribed course maintains the intent of the provincially prescribed curriculum. However, specific course outcomes are changed, deleted, added or extended. A modified prescribed course may be necessary to meet the strengths and needs of an individual student with a cognitive disorder or gifted and talented exceptionality. There may be **rare** instances where a modified prescribed course is appropriate for students with a severe learning disability, brain injury or an emotional, mental health, and/or behavioural disorder.

For students performing below grade level expectations, the decision to modify provincially prescribed curriculum outcomes requires considerable deliberation on the part of the program planning team. A modified prescribed course may impact the student's eligibility for post secondary programs. Before modifying a prescribed course, the program planning team must determine whether the proposed programming is in line with assessment data and whether all other means of supporting the student have been explored, exhausted and documented. Curriculum guides must be consulted regarding instructional strategies, resources, and evaluation procedures which may allow the student to successfully achieve course outcomes with accommodations. The program planning team should consider whether the student is capable of achieving at least 50% in the provincially prescribed course without modification. If a passing mark is possible, the course should not be modified.

For students who are gifted and talented, it may be appropriate to document mastered outcomes and change or add other outcomes in order to increase challenge and/or depth of coverage.

Up to 50% of the prescribed course outcomes may be changed/deleted/added/extended. This will not impact graduation requirements. It is important to ensure that student strengths and needs are also addressed through differentiated instruction and accommodations within the classroom.

### Developing a Modified Prescribed Course

Since modified prescribed courses maintain the intent and integrity of the prescribed curriculum, they are taught within the general classroom, at the same time, and by the same teacher(s) as the prescribed curriculum. The classroom/subject teacher takes the lead in the modification, delivery, and evaluation. He or she may meet with the instructional resource teacher to examine course outcomes in light of the student's exceptionality and performance. The teachers consider each course outcome and determine if it will be retained, changed, deleted, extended or other outcomes added. Modifications are recorded on a course outcomes template and become part of the IEP.

Course modification requires long term planning. The modified prescribed course should be developed soon after the program planning team decides it is appropriate. The number of specific curriculum outcomes deleted or significantly changed must not exceed 50% and no strand or General Curriculum Outcome may be omitted. When in doubt about whether the intent and the integrity of the provincially prescribed course has been maintained following modification of the outcomes, consult with the district level program specialist responsible for that particular curriculum area.

In the case where a course has been modified downward, the program planning team may subsequently suggest that the student challenge the outcomes which were previously modified. Should the student achieve a passing level of performance in the non-modified provincially prescribed course, this would be reflected on the student's report or transcript. A grade or credit will not be awarded for both a modified prescribed course and the provincially prescribed course. (Refer to the *High School Certification Handbook*)

When a course has been modified by expanding or extending the depth of treatment of outcomes but the student is not successful in achieving the modified outcomes, he or she may receive a grade or credit for the original course as long as the original prescribed outcomes are met.

**Note:** For high school courses, District office personnel and High School Certification, Department of Education, must be notified when there is a change in course designation as a result of a revision in the student's program plan.

### **Registering a Modified Prescribed Course for Credit**

For senior high school students to be awarded credit for a modified prescribed course, the following must apply:

- The modified prescribed course is reviewed by the principal.
- The modified prescribed course is approved by the District's Assistant Director of Programs.
- The principal registers the student in the modified prescribed course with High School Certification, Department of Education by December 15.

High School Certification applies the digit 6 as the third digit of the course designation for courses which have been modified downward, and the digit 8 to courses where outcomes have been added or extended in depth of treatment.

Receiving high school credit for one or more modified prescribed course does not prohibit a student from achieving Graduation with General Status. However,

post-secondary institutions in this province determine the applicability of specific modified prescribed courses to specific post-secondary programs. Although a student may achieve Graduation with General Status with one or more modified prescribed courses, this may not satisfy entrance requirements to some post-secondary programs/institutions.

**Note:** Before modifying a course, the program planning team must give serious consideration to the student's post secondary goals.