



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD

January 23, 2025

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MANDATE – PROMOTION POLICY AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL

Dear Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board Families,

I am writing to inform you about significant changes to the academic promotion rules for students in the second cycle (Secondary 3-5) of secondary school. These guidelines, introduced by the Ministry of Education, will come into effect starting in the 2024-2025 school year.

Key Changes for Secondary 3-5

End of the Reach Back Credit “*Déboulage*” Practice

- In the past, students who successfully completed a higher-level program could receive reach back credits for a corresponding lower-level program, a process known as *déboulage*.
- Beginning in the **2024-2025** school year, this practice will no longer apply to students in Secondary 3 and 4 who fail a subject.
- **Example:** In previous years, a student who failed Physical Education in Secondary 3 could still move on to the Secondary 4 Physical Education class and receive credits for both levels if they successfully completed the Secondary 4 class. Under the new guidelines, the student would move to Secondary 4 but would be required to retake the Secondary 3 Physical Education class.

Exception for the 2024-2025 School Year – Secondary 5 Cohort

- Students who are currently registered in Secondary 5 during the 2024-2025 school year have been grandfathered under the previous reach back credit Ministerial practice. These changes do not apply to them. They are still eligible to receive reach back credits. As such, if a student failed a Secondary 4 subject in the 2023-2024 school year, but successfully completes the corresponding Secondary 5 subject in 2024-2025, they will receive credit for the failed subject as well.
- This exception applies to the following subjects only:
 - ☑ English Language Arts
 - ☑ French Second Language
 - ☑ Arts Education (Drama, Music, Visual Arts, or Dance)
 - ☑ Culture and Citizenship in Québec
 - ☑ Physical Education



Pedagogical Services Department • Services pédagogiques
239, montée Lesage
Rosemère (Québec) J7A 4Y9



450 621-5600



www.swlauriersb.qc.ca

- **Example:** If a student failed Secondary 4 English Language Arts in the 2023-2024 school year but successfully completes Secondary 5 English Language Arts in 2024-2025, they will be granted credits for both Secondary 4 and Secondary 5 English Language Arts.

What Does This Mean for My Child?

Secondary 1 & 2

- Promotion by subject is not applicable to students in Secondary 1 and 2 as per the *Basic School Regulation* (BSR). Students are promoted as per criteria set out in the local promotion policy.
- The School Board is currently revising its local promotion policy, and it will be going out for consultation in the Spring of this year. Families will receive further information regarding any potential changes to promotion in Cycle 1 of secondary school at a later date.

Secondary 3

- For students currently in Secondary 3, it is essential to meet the Ministry of Education's requirements, especially for the *Basic School Regulation* (BSR) courses. These are compulsory courses that students must pass to progress successfully.
- The required BSR courses in Secondary 3 include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ English Language Arts ☑ French as a Second Language ☑ Mathematics ☑ Science and Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ History and Citizenship Education ☑ Physical Education and Health ☑ Arts Education (Drama, Music, Visual Arts, or Dance)
---	--
- If a student fails any of these courses in Secondary 3, they will not receive credit and will be required to retake the failed course, even if they progress to Secondary 4. Students must meet these academic standards to ensure they are prepared for the next level of their education.

Secondary 4

- For students in Secondary 4, it is critical to pass all *Basic School Regulation* (BSR) courses, as they form a key component of the high school diploma requirements. These courses must be passed to progress to Secondary 5 and graduate.
- The required BSR courses in Secondary 4 include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ English Language Arts ☑ French as a Second Language ☑ Mathematics (Cultural, Social, and Technical option <u>or</u> Scientific and Technical option) ☑ Science and Technology <u>or</u> Applied Science and Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ History of Québec and Canada (HQC) ☑ Culture and Citizenship in Québec (CCQ) ☑ Physical Education and Health ☑ Arts Education (Drama, Music, Visual Arts, or Dance)
---	--

- Students must successfully complete these courses in Secondary 4. Failure in any of these courses means the student will be required to retake them, even if they move to Secondary 5. This can delay graduation and place an additional workload on the student.

Graduation Requirements

- To obtain a high school diploma in Québec, students must meet the following graduation requirements:
 1. Successfully complete a total of **54 credits** in Secondary 4 and 5, of which at least **20 credits must come from Secondary 5 courses**.
 2. Pass all compulsory subjects, including:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. English Language Arts (Sec. 5) ii. French as a Second Language (Sec. 5) iii. Mathematics (Sec. 4) iv. History of Québec and Canada (Sec. 4) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> v. Science and Technology <u>or</u> Applied Science and Technology (Sec. 4) vi. Arts Education (Secondary 4) vii. Physical Education and Health <u>or</u> Culture and Citizenship in Québec (Sec. 5)
---	--
- Failure to meet these requirements may result in delays in obtaining their high school diploma and progressing to post-secondary education or the workforce.

Ongoing Support for Students at Risk of Failing

Support for Students Facing Difficulties:

- Students who are currently failing a subject are encouraged to pursue the remedial options and academic help being offered at their local schools.
- Families are encouraged to reach out to their respective schools to receive information about the supports being offered to students facing academic challenges.

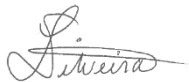
Other Options for Students Who Fail a Course

1. Attending summer school.
 2. Repeating the course during the next school year.
 3. Completing reassessments
 4. Writing “mandatory” supplemental exams
- Students should focus on making sure they are successful during the school year to avoid having to resort to summer school. Please note that summer school is offered only for specific classes.

- We are encouraging all students to take ownership of their success from now until the end of the year. As a reminder, all ministry exams in Secondary 4 and 5 are worth 50% of the year. The third term is worth 60% of the year. Hard work and perseverance can help ensure successful academic outcomes.
- We strongly encourage parents to stay informed about their child's academic progress and communicate with teachers or school administration for support if needed. Together, we can help ensure your child's success in meeting these important milestones.
- If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact any of the following:
 - ☒ Your child's teacher
 - ☒ The school administration
 - ☒ The Guidance Counsellor

Thank you for your understanding and partnership as we work together to support your child's education.

Sincerely,



Lynda da Silveira
Director, Pedagogical Services