

## Language Equivalency versus Challenge

The Ministry has updated information about the Challenge and Equivalency process that will require some close attention by Districts and Schools. The full policy information is available at:

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/earning\\_credit\\_through.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/earning_credit_through.htm)

### Challenge

1. The Ministry has confirmed that Challenge is a free process for all public school students. Therefore school districts will be billed \$125 directly by Delta School District for each Challenge registration. Schools will not need to worry about this issue. Upon successful completion of a Challenge, the Ministry will reimburse Districts for 1 credit (approximately \$178)
2. Delta School District is collecting \$50 with each application directly from students. This amount is refundable on the day of the exam upon completion of the exam.
3. Schools should forward each application directly to Delta School District or to your District contact, as you have in the past, with the attached cheque for \$50.
4. Independent School students will pay \$125 for the Challenge exam, as they have in the past. (there is no additional \$50)

### Equivalency

1. In the same policy change (June 2005) the Ministry stated that there must be an Equivalency review, prior to the Challenge application.
2. The purpose of the Equivalency review is to determine if that process is more appropriate than Challenge and is directed at students that have studied in an international jurisdiction at the Grade 8 level or beyond.
3. The Equivalency review is to be conducted at the school level by a counselor or other designated teacher.
4. A student is eligible for Equivalency if they have studied the language in their home country up to the Grade 8 or 9 level; **and** you are able to determine from the documentation that there is an 80% match in learning outcomes between the two courses.
5. I am enclosing a sample of a form that could be used as part of this equivalency review. Districts are encouraged to develop a similar process. All reviews must be kept and made available upon request as part of a Ministry audit.
6. Students on the 1995 graduation program who receive a Grade 12 equivalency mark must write the Provincial Exam. A student on the 2004 Graduation program has the option of writing the Provincial Exam.