

SPECIAL PROJECT CREDITS - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is the difference between a special project credit and a locally developed course?

Special projects are student-initiated and designed to encourage the pursuit of learning in an area of personal interest or passion. The content of the special project(s) need not be related to a specific school subject. If a special project is related to a specific school subject, the content of the project shall be distinct from and in addition to regular course requirements. Project proposals are approved by the Education Organization.

Locally developed courses of study are developed by the Education Organization and are approved by the Ministry of Education. Courses must contain original outcomes and indicators defined by the Education Organization and be at a level of rigour consistent with provincially developed courses of study. Locally developed courses will be approved only as unspecified electives and become the property of the Ministry of Education upon approval.

2. Can a special project credit be related to a provincial course (i.e., automotive class or rebuild an engine on my own or with help)?

If a special project is related to a specific school subject, the content of the project shall be distinct from and in addition to regular course requirements. Project proposals are approved by the Education Organization.

3. Is a program itself (e.g., hockey, dance, drama, etc.) grounds for a special project credit or a vehicle for establishing grounds for a credit?

Special projects are student-designed learning experiences, not teacher- or mentor-designed classes or programs. Students who want to collaborate on a special project with a community dance studio, or theatre company, for example, could be supported by the supervising teacher and dance/theatre mentor in identifying individualized goals and project descriptions tailored by and for each student. The mentor from the dance studio or theatre company could help co-design the learning experiences to ensure each student is able to carry out their individual project rather than providing a pre-set "program" that is the same learning experience for every student who is participating in a community dance or theatre class.

4. Could extra-curricular programming be recognized for credit as a locally developed course option rather than a special project credit?

Locally Developed Courses of Study are developed by the Education Organization and are approved by the Ministry of Education. Courses must contain original outcomes and indicators defined by the Education Organization and be at a level of rigour consistent with provincially developed courses of study. Locally developed courses will be approved only as unspecified electives and become the property of the Ministry of Education upon approval.

5. **What does the application look like?**
Refer to Appendix D: Special Project Proposal Template
6. **What are the deadlines?**
The Appendix D: Special Project Template must be completed and approved by the principal and superintendent (or designate) prior to the student beginning the project. Any other timelines are determined locally.
7. **Does the Memorandum of Understanding with the Worker's Compensation Board apply to students while working on a Special Project Credit?**
No, the memorandum of Understanding with the Workers Compensation Board does not apply to special project credits.
8. **Who assumes the responsibility and liability of the student in the unlikely event of an accident or death?**
The Northwest School Division's liability insurance policy covers students participating in an approved special project credit class or program.
9. **Can Special Project Credits 10, 20 and 30 all be attained using the same project?**
Yes, however each project must clearly identify new learning and be distinct from previous special project submissions.
10. **What do we mean by 100 credit hours of work?**
One credit is equivalent to 100 credit hours; a 100 credit hour course should be allocated between 95 and 100 hours of instructional time. The expected start and completion dates and an outline of how the required amount of time must be clearly outlined in the proposal to receive the credit. The work must include all aspects of the learning such as theory, practice, etc.
11. **Is there a timeline framework to complete a special project credit? Does it have to be completed within the school calendar year, or can it flow over the course of two academic years, or be completed in part during summer/holiday months?**
There is no time limit, however students must be enrolled in the Education Organization. The timeline should be identified in the Special Project Proposal Template. Any adjustments to the timeline must be recorded on the proposal for future reference and auditing.
12. **Does the supervising teacher have to complete and keep a log regarding the monitoring process/communications?**
The monitoring and communication plan should be identified in the proposal and teachers should maintain appropriate documentation and mark records to support credit attainment.
13. **How is a special project final mark record of Standing Granted (SG) submitted to the Ministry of Education Student Data System?**

Credit recognition for programs successfully completed by a non-academic entity will receive a final mark record of SG on the official Transcript of Secondary Level Achievement.

Schools can submit Secondary Level Non-Academic Courses New Mark Addition accompanied by a copy of the student's completed Special Project Credit Proposal via HEAT.