

<p>Curriculum & Instruction 8734</p> <hr/> <p>Transition to Modified Courses at High School</p>	Administrative Application	
	Last Reviewed /Approved on:	January 7, 2019
	References:	Policy 12 – Role of the Director
	Status:	Operational

Preamble

Regina Catholic School Division (RCSD) students in Grade 8 with moderate cognitive challenges and delays in academic achievement may qualify for modified courses in high school. The decision to place a student in a modified course requires assessment, observation, and collaborative team meetings along with careful consideration of the benefits and implications of such a placement.

Definitions

1. **Modified Courses** – Modified (basic) courses are part of the Regular Education Program. They can be used to fulfil course requirements for obtaining a high school diploma. Post-secondary institutions may not accept these courses as entrance requirements for some programs.

Modified courses may be provincially developed or locally developed. A Modified Course of Study is defined as a course where 50% of the course consists of basic outcomes from the provincial curriculum and the remaining 50% of the course is determined by the school division. The outcomes may include outcomes from previous grades and other areas of study. These courses are intended to develop students' knowledge, understanding, and skills in the subject area at a basic level.

Application

1. **Program Structure**
Students typically take a combination of modified and regular courses in order to meet the credit requirements for graduation. A complete selection of modified courses is available at Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School and Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School. Students attend daily and are responsible for their own transportation.
2. **Student Population**
Although their abilities vary, students requiring modified courses typically have cognitive skills in the Very Low to Well Below Average range (WSIC –V descriptors) and are achieving well below grade level.
3. **Admission Process**
 - a. The elementary Student Support Team reviews student progress and response to supports, adaptations and intervention. They ensure that cognitive testing is current and that there is current information about the student's achievements.

- b. If the student fits the criteria for modified courses, the school team meets with the student's parents/guardians to discuss the option of taking modified courses, describing what these courses are and possible limitations. This communication with parents/guardians should be initiated no later than the first reporting period of Grade 8.
- c. The *Grade 8-9 Transition to High School Modified Courses* form is completed by the Learning Resource teacher. The *Transition to High School Modified Courses Parental Consent* form is completed and signed. Both forms are online.
- d. The original forms are placed in the student's cumulative file.
- e. A copy of these forms is sent to the following two (2) sites by March 15:
 - i. to the Education Leader responsible for Student Services at Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School **or** at Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School
 - ii. to Student Services at the Catholic Education Centre
- f. A student's achievement in modified courses in high school will be monitored. The high school team could recommend non-modified courses, if a student is able to maintain achievement through commitment, adaptations and supports from the school and/or home/ outside environments.
- g. After age 16, students may take modified courses without meeting admission requirements, but such registration will be approved only after counsellor discussions with the parents/guardians and student regarding post-secondary implications.