INSTITUTE OF CANADIAN EDUCATION

Reach-Ahead Credit Policy 2026 - 2027

The Institute of Canadian Education (ICE) permits eligible Grade 8 students, in exceptional circumstances and with parental consent, to "reach ahead" and earn secondary school credits toward the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) before entering Grade 9.

This policy sets out who may reach ahead, how many credits may be taken, how requests are approved, and how credits are evaluated, granted and recorded.
2. Ministry authority

2. Ministry authority

This policy implements the following Ministry of Education requirements:

- Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements
- Policy/Program Memorandum 167

3.Scope and Eligibility

This policy applies to:

- Grade 8 students enrolled at ICE Islamia School (internal applicants)
- Grade 8 students enrolled at another elementary school, public or private, or home-schooled, who wish to take a reach-ahead course through ICE (external applicants)

Reach ahead credits are granted case by case, under exceptional circumstances only. To be considered, a student must:

1. Be currently enrolled in Grade 8, or have completed Grade 8 and be entering Grade 9 in the following September.
2. Have achieved Level 3 or higher in the subject area related to the requested course on their most recent report card.
3. Show the maturity, work habits and learning skills (Good or Excellent ratings) needed to succeed in a secondary course.
4. Have written consent from a parent/guardian.
5. Have a written recommendation from the elementary principal confirming that reaching ahead is in the student's best interest.

Meeting these criteria does not guarantee approval. The Principal of ICE makes the final decision.

Credit limits and eligible courses

A student may earn a maximum of two (2) reach-ahead credits through ICE. Only one course may be taken at a time unless the Principal approves otherwise.

Eligible courses are Grade 9 courses from the Ontario curriculum offered by ICE, such as:

Course	Code	Type
English	ENL1W	De - Streamed
Math	MTH1W	De - Streamed
Science	SNC1W	De - Streamed
Geography	CGC1W	De - Streamed

The Principal may approve another Grade 9 course on request. Grade 10–12 courses are not available as reach-ahead credits.

Application and approval procedure

1. The parent/guardian submits the ICE Reach-Ahead Request Form to the Guidance Office, with:
   - the student's most recent report card
   - the elementary principal's signed recommendation
   - signed parental / guardian consent
   - proof of identity and date of birth

2. The Guidance Counsellor reviews the request against the eligibility criteria and may meet with the student and parent/guardian.
3. The Principal approves or declines the request in writing.
4. If approved and given a course start date.
5. External applicants' elementary schools are notified of the approval.

Additional conditions

Online learning credits - A reach-ahead course delivered fully online counts toward the two online learning credits required for the OSSD, under PPM 167.

Attendance and participation - Reach-ahead students follow ICE's attendance, participation, and late and missed assignment policies for their delivery format.

Withdrawal - A student may withdraw at any time with written notice from the parent/guardian. Under Ministry policy, a Grade 9 course that is withdrawn from or not passed is not recorded on the OST. **Fee refunds follow ICE's refund policy.**

A reach-ahead credit does not exempt the student from a full Grade 9 timetable. The receiving secondary school (ICE or another school) decides the student's Grade 9 course load and must accept the credit as recorded on the OST.