

INDEPENDENT DIRECTED STUDIES POLICY

Policy Type: Educational
Applies To: Grade 10-12 students, Staff,
Approved By: Lead Principal
Policy Reviewed: every 2 years
Adopted: 2014
Revisions: 2025

PURPOSE

The Independent Directed Studies (IDS) Policy enables Maple Ridge Christian School (MRCS) students to design and pursue personalized areas of learning that align with their interests, passions, and post-secondary goals while meeting BC Ministry of Education graduation requirements.

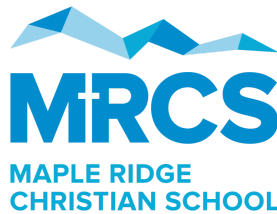
IDS courses are not an entitlement but an opportunity that empowers self-directed learning and promotes responsibility, creativity, and engagement consistent with MRCS's mission of *Empowering Faith, Learning, and Community*.

DEFINITIONS

- **Independent Directed Study (IDS):** A Ministry-recognized course developed through collaboration between a student and a teacher, allowing the student to pursue learning outcomes derived from an approved Grade 10–12 Ministry or Board/Authority Authorized (BAA) course.
 - **IDS Plan:** A documented agreement outlining the learning goals, curriculum connections, assessment methods, and credit value for the student's project, approved by the supervising teacher and principal.
 - **Supervising Teacher:** A certified teacher responsible for guiding, supporting, and assessing the student's IDS project in accordance with Ministry standards.
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PROCEDURES

1. **Eligibility and Credit Structure**



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- IDS credits may be awarded for independent work based on one or more learning outcomes from Ministry-developed or BAA courses at Grades 10, 11, or 12.
 - Each IDS course may be worth **1–4 credits**, depending on the scope and depth of learning.
 - There is **no limit** to the total number of IDS credits a student may earn.
 - IDS courses may only satisfy **elective requirements** toward graduation but Grade 12 IDS credits may count toward the **minimum 16 Grade 12 credits** required for graduation.
- 2. Application Process**
- The student must initiate the proposal in consultation with a supervising teacher.
 - The proposal must include:
 - Course title and credit value (1–4 credits)
 - Connection to existing Ministry or BAA course learning outcomes
 - Learning objectives and activities
 - Methods of assessment and evidence of learning
 - Timelines and resources
 - The **Vice Principal of Learning & Programs** must review and approve the plan before work begins.
- 3. Supervision and Evaluation**
- The supervising teacher will monitor progress, provide feedback, and assess the student's achievement.
 - MRCS will assign a **percentage and letter grade** for each IDS course completed.
 - Assessment must demonstrate that the student has met the identified learning outcomes.
- 4. Reporting and Records**
- IDS courses are reported to the Ministry under their designated course code.



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- Documentation of the approved IDS plan, evaluations, and evidence of learning must be retained in the student's file.
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RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Student:** Initiates the IDS proposal, completes agreed-upon work, and demonstrates achievement of learning outcomes.
 - **Supervising Teacher:** Provides guidance, ensures alignment with curriculum standards, and evaluates student learning.
 - **Vice Principal of Learning & Programs / Academic Advisor:** Reviews and approves IDS plans, ensures compliance with Ministry guidelines, and oversees credit reporting.
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REFERENCES

- BC Ministry of Education and Child Care: [Independent Directed Studies Guidelines](#)
- BC Graduation Program Policy Guide
- MRCS Educational Policy Framework
- Course Challenge and External Credentials Policies