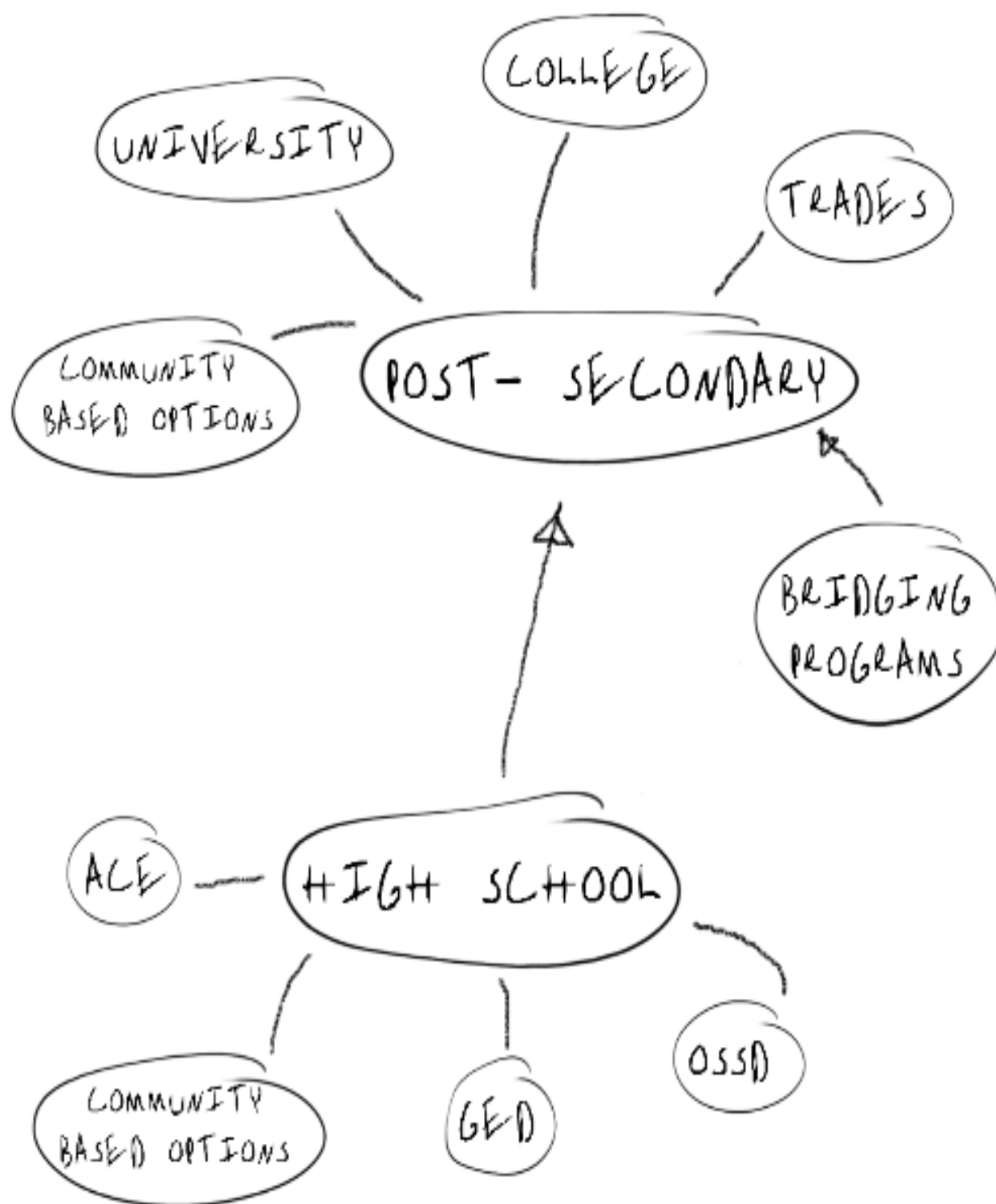


# TYES Frontline Workers' Toolkit Series



## Educational Attainment for MVP Youth (*Most Vulnerable Youth*)





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Youth Education Stories</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Interested in Completing High School?</b>	<b>9</b>
Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)	10
High School Equivalency: GED	23
High School Equivalency: ACE	29
Additional Support With Academic Material	33
<b>Interested in Post Secondary Education?</b>	<b>39</b>
College & University Studies	40
Transition & Bridging Programs	43
Apprenticeships	46
<b>Financial Assistance &amp; Support</b>	<b>49</b>
Types of Financial Aid	49
Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP)	50
How to Apply for OSAP	51
OSAP for Under-Represented Learners	52
Scholarships	53
Scholarship Databases	55
Additional Websites	58



## INTRODUCTION

**Education is a fundamental human right as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Many young people graduate from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school, and then go on to pursue post-secondary studies without pause. This guide is for all the students who may not have had their picture in a yearbook, or had their graduation picture hung in the walls of their high school. This guide celebrates all the tenacious students who pursue their right to education.**

This toolkit was created by **Amadeusz** in partnership with the City of Toronto through the **Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES)**.

The **Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES)** aims to build resiliency and access to supportive systems for youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence and crime (MVP youth). TYES includes 28 recommendations and 110 actions the City of Toronto will take to provide better services and outcomes for vulnerable youth. TYES was adopted unanimously by City Council in February, 2014.

For more information, visit [Toronto.ca](https://toronto.ca)

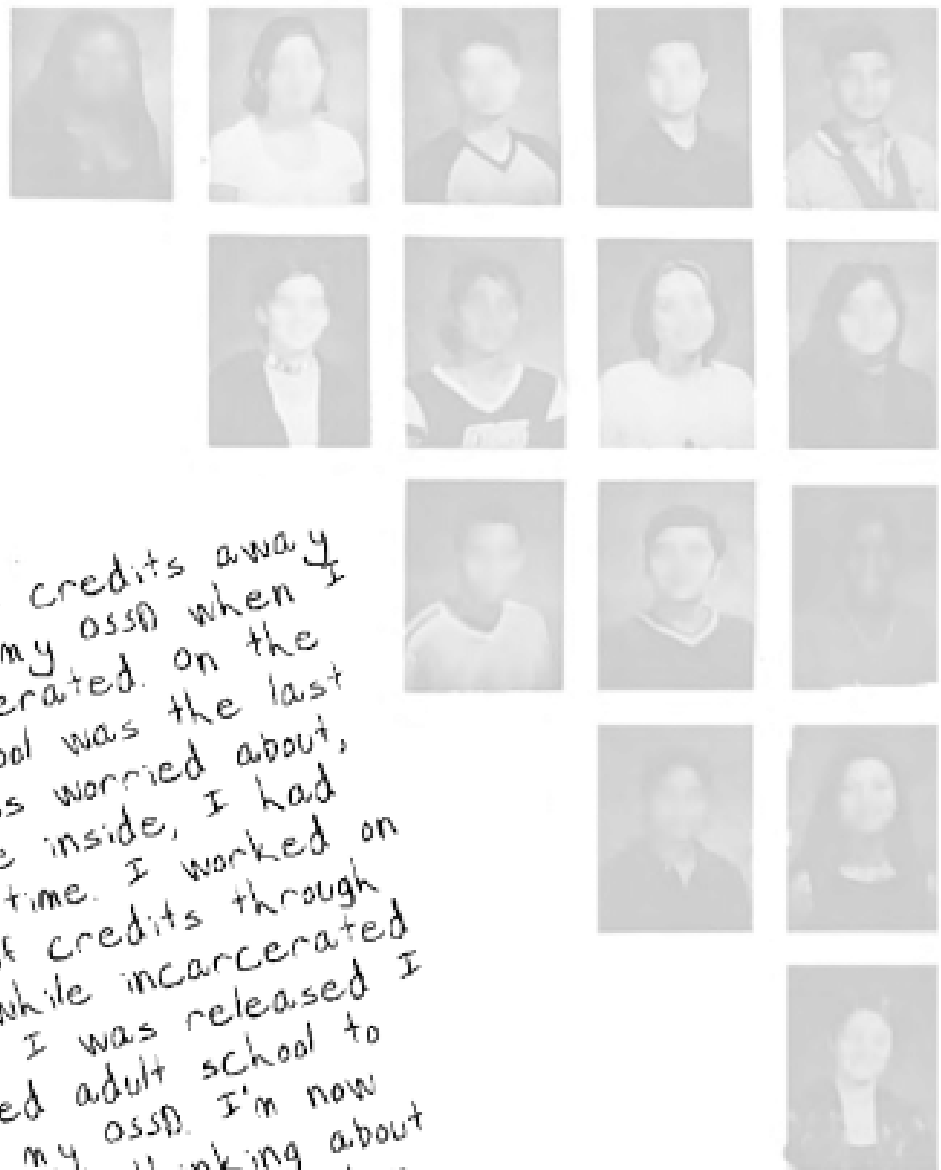
TYES is on Instagram at: TorontoTYES

**Amadeusz** is a charitable organization based in Toronto which has been operating since 2009. Amadeusz aims to foster the opportunity among young people who are impacted by incarceration, violence and crime to create positive change in their lives and communities.

Amadeusz facilitates education programs for youth aged 18-35 who are incarcerated and reside at the Toronto South Detention Centre, the Toronto East Detention Centre, and Vanier Centre for Women.

For more information or to suggest additional resources for this guide, please contact: [info@amadeusz.ca](mailto:info@amadeusz.ca) or find them at [Amadeusz.ca](https://amadeusz.ca)

Amadeusz is on Instagram at: @AmadeuszTO



I was just 12 credits away from finishing my OSSD when I was incarcerated. On the outside, school was the last thing I was worried about, but on the inside, I had nothing but time. I worked on a couple of credits through the ILC while incarcerated and when I was released I attended adult school to finish my OSSD. I'm now working and thinking about post-secondary education.

-AJ

**For more information on completing credits towards your OSSD, see page 10.**

**For more information on pursuing educational opportunities while incarcerated, see page 31.**

My parents always stressed the importance of getting an education. It's why they brought us to Canada is what they would always say. I graduated from high school and enrolled in university as was expected of me. Two years into my undergraduate degree, I was arrested.

In a less than ideal situation, I was fortunate to have met someone on the inside who told me about an education program for people on remand. The staff at Amadeusz helped me continue working on credits towards my degree. I'm glad I was able to keep moving forward during this time.

-sean

For more information on pursuing educational opportunities while incarcerated, see page 31.



As a young person, I found myself focused on trying to support my family and didn't really value high school. It just didn't seem to connect to what I was experiencing at home and in my community. I attended class just enough to keep passing. With two credits left to graduate I got in some trouble and found myself locked up.

I spent a year on the inside. It was a hard time and I did work towards completing some of my high school credits, but I just wasn't focused.

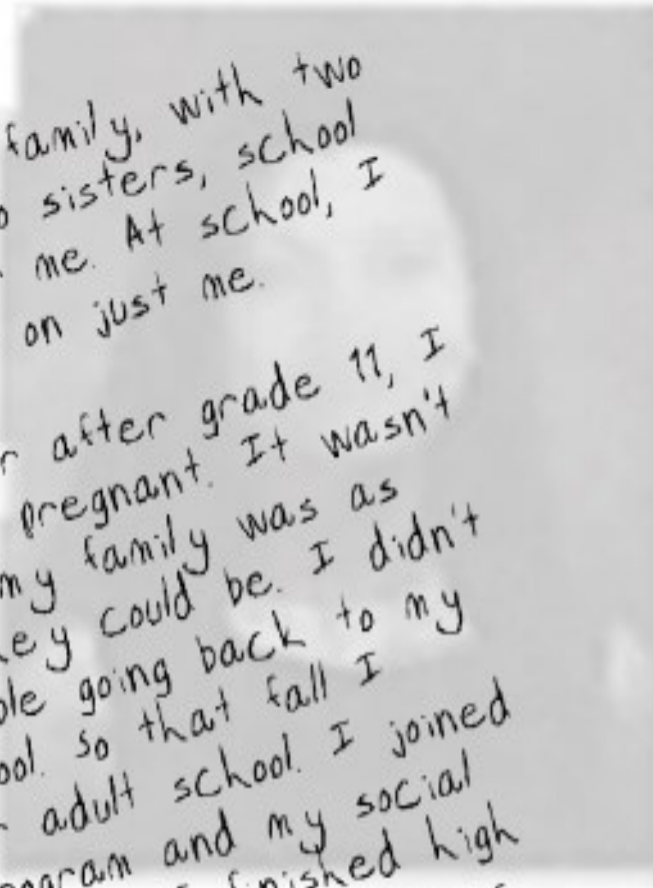
When I was released I knew I needed to get a job to support myself and my family. I decided to apply to college as a mature student. Going back to complete high school just didn't seem worth the time. I knew I was smart enough for college and I just wanted to get on with my life. I graduated and got my college diploma and I now work full-time as a sales representative.

After working for a bit, I started regretting not completing my high school diploma. So, I enrolled in adult school and got my last two credits. I have no regrets about the path I've taken and I'm proud of the steps I've taken to get where I am today.

-Dante

**For more information on completing credits towards your OSSD as an adult, see page 10.**

**For more information on applying to college/university as a mature student, see page 40.**



Coming from a big family, with two brothers and two sisters, school was a refuge for me. At school, I could focus on just me.

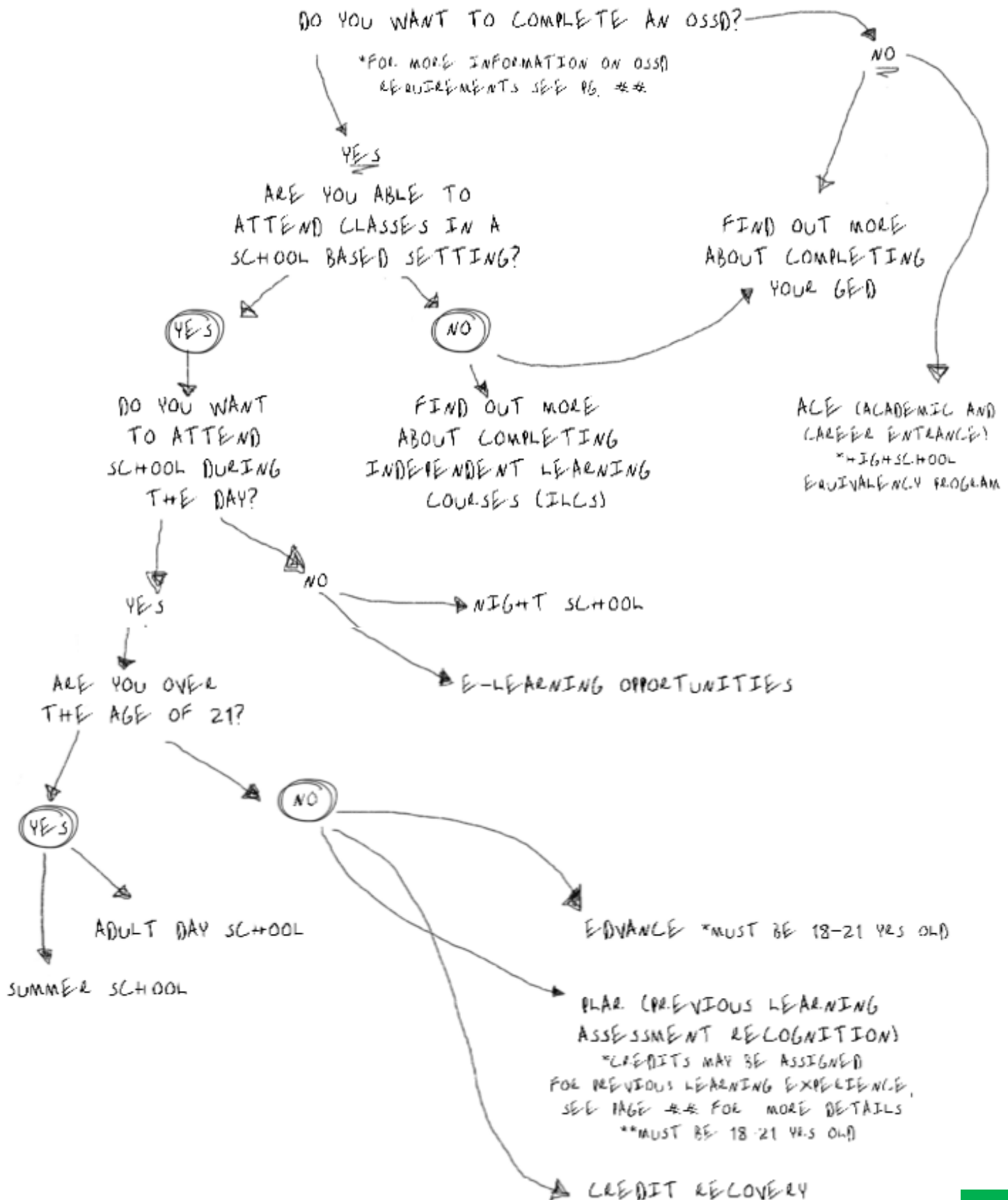
During the summer after grade 11, I found out I was pregnant. It wasn't planned, but my family was as supportive as they could be. I didn't feel comfortable going back to my high school, so that fall I registered for adult school. I joined the LEAP program and my social worker made sure I finished high school and took parenting classes.

My son is 10 years old now and I'm a college grad. I'm a child and youth worker for a community organization and I love what I do.  
-Jessica

For more information on financial assistance and support, see page 50.



# INTERESTED IN COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL?



# ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA (OSSD)

- ⇒ Granted once a student has earned 30 credits
- ⇒ Students must complete 40 hours of voluntary service
- ⇒ Students must pass the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

The **Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)** is granted once a student has earned 30 secondary credits, which includes 18 compulsory credits. Students must also provide evidence of 40 hours of volunteer service and pass the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test or take the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course (OLC4O1).

A breakdown of the OSSD requirements is available for your review [here](#). However, there are alternate ways to earn the OSSD, which can be found on p.11.

40 volunteer hours are required to graduate. These volunteer hours can include any work that you are not paid to complete. Sometimes, through speaking to a guidance counselor, hours that you have earned but do not have paperwork for can be counted towards your required hours.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test requires that the student earn a minimum

score of 300/400 to pass. The standardized test is written by all students when they are in grade ten. It focuses on reading and writing, and specifically tests that require the reading of different types of texts including graphic text, informational text, narratives, articles, and essays. Students must also show competency in essay writing, short answer questions, grammar, multiple choice questions, writing a news report, and writing summaries. The OSSLT is written in the spring every year. If a **student has missed the testing or does not pass**, s/he may write the test again the following year (and again, if they so choose). An alternative method of meeting this requirement includes taking the Ontario Literacy Course (OLC) which focuses on the same skills but requires a 50% to pass.

Secondary courses are streamed, in that courses allow students to complete high school credits at varying levels, in preparation for different post-secondary options.

# OSSD CREDIT STREAMS

## STREAM

## PREPARATION FOR

### Locally Developed (L) / Essential (E)

\* Courses focus on basic skills required for everyday encounters



### Applied (A) / College (C)

\* Courses focus on preparing students for the requirements of College



### Open (O)

\* Open to all students, minimal prerequisites

### Academic (A) / University (U)

\* Courses focus on theory which prepares students for University



### Mixed (M)

\* Mixed level courses are accepted by universities and colleges—  
they are a combination of college level and university level courses

### Advanced Placement (AP)

\* These courses offer post-secondary (university) level material to high-school students

### Gifted

\* Students with a 'gifted' designation on their individual education plan can take these course

### International Baccalaureate

\* Internationally recognized and certified program which prepares  
students for university by exposing students to university-level material.



College



University



Workplace

# OSSD SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

Some secondary schools offer unique programs which allow students to prepare specifically for or take part in apprenticeships, college or university credits while also earning high-school credits. Speak to a Guidance Counselor to find out more.

## Program

## Preparation For

### Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

\* Students obtain OSSD while focusing on an economic sector, to support them in transitioning to post-secondary. SHSM offers programming for a variety of pathways, such as business and aviation/aerospace.



### Dual Credit

\* Students can earn up to four optional OSSD credits and four college credits. Students must be at least 16 years old and have met the literacy requirement.



### STEPS to University

\* Senior students will work towards achieving a University of Toronto sociology credit and have access to University of Toronto resources while working on secondary school credits.



### Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

\* Students receive industry specific education and training through high school cooperative education. To register, students must be at least 16 years old, with 16 completed credits. This is available to adult students as well.



### Advanced Credit Experience at York University (ACE)

\* Senior students, who could be the first in their families to attend post-secondary school, can earn a first year York University half-credit course and receive a co-op placement on campus, while working on secondary school credits simultaneously. Successful students will receive a YUFA bursary for York University the following school year.



# OSSD: ALTERNATIVE METHODS

## Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

- ⇒ **PLAR recognizes prior and alternative forms of learning in order to grant students with up to 26 credits towards completing their OSSD.** Through an application form for grade nine and ten courses and another application form for grade eleven and twelve courses, the school board can recognize prior learning in order to grant credits towards an OSSD. For example, having a gym membership can lead to a physical education credit, or having worked in a particular field can be counted as a credit. In order to gain credits through PLAR, students must be registered with a public school board. Speak to a guidance counselor for more information.

## Credit Recovery

- ⇒ **Credit recovery is a program that allows any student who has started a course, but has not passed, to retake parts of the course in order to fulfill the requirements without taking the entire course again.** There is no minimum mark that you must have earned previously in order to participate in credit recovery. Schools have the right to refuse to do credit recovery after two years - however, this does not mean that every school will utilize this rule. Many schools offer this option. Speak to a guidance counselor for more information.

## Section 23 High Schools

- ⇒ **The TDSB Section 23 Programs serve students who are in care, treatment or custody.** The program supports youth who require their educational needs to be met outside of the regular school system. Individual education and treatment plans are created for students to address their strengths and needs. Contact your local high school for more information.

## Adult High Schools

- ⇒ **Adult high schools offer students over the age of 18 an opportunity to work towards their OSSD in an environment with similar aged students during the day.** Adult high schools offer the EdVance program, where students between the ages of 18-20 work towards their OSSD at a faster pace. Students can earn credits within a couple of months through a quad semester rather than a 4-5 month semester.

*\*\*The TCDSB also offers alternative programming for students.*

Visit [www.tcdsb.org](http://www.tcdsb.org) for more information.



# OSSD: ALTERNATIVE METHODS

## **E-Learning**

- ⇒ Learning can take place online, based on your own schedule. While most of the course is completed online, there is an in-person orientation and final exam which is mandatory for e-learning courses.

## **Continuing Education**

- ⇒ Continuing Education through public school boards allows students to complete high school credits on a part-time basis. All courses offered through day school can also be offered through continuing education. Often, adults are part of continuing education in night school and summer school. Night school and summer school courses are offered at public schools in the evening and during the day in the summer.

## **Learning Earning and Parenting (LEAP)**

- ⇒ This program supports parents aged 16-25 who are on Ontario Works to complete their high school education and attend parenting classes. Additional financial supports are provided to participants in this program.

## **Independent Learning Courses (ILCs)**

- ⇒ ILCs allow students to complete credits through correspondence in print-based formats, online, or in person. Each course costs \$40. Often if the ILC is offered through a community organization, the fee for the course is covered by the community organization.

# OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

## **Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) Head Office**

80 Sheppard Ave E, North York

Phone: 416-222-8282

Email: Webmaster@tcdsb.org

- The TCDSB has a number of secondary level alternative schools. Locations are listed below
- Age varies by location

## **Monsignor Fraser College—Main Campus**

146 Isabella St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-5533

Email: Msgfrasercollege@tcdsb.org

- Grade 9 -12

## **Monsignor Fraser College—The Annex**

700 Markham St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-5557

## **Monsignor Fraser College—Midland Campus**

2900 Midland Avenue, Scarborough

Phone: 416-393-5532

## **Monsignor Fraser College—Midland North Campus**

2900 Midland Ave, Scarborough

Phone: 416-397-6496

- Grade 10 - 12

## **Monsignor Fraser College—Midtown**

36 Eglinton Ave W Ste 500, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-5124

# OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

## **Monsignor Fraser College—St. Martin Campus**

55 Salisbury Ave, Toronto

Phone: 416-397-6536

- For students who have been suspended

## **Monsignor Fraser College—Orientation Centre**

700 Markham St, Toronto

Phone: 416-397-6505

- Designed for new Canadian students and students from outside of Ontario

## **Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Head Office**

5050 Yonge St, Toronto

Phone: 416-397-3000

Email: [GeneralInquires@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:GeneralInquires@tdsb.on.ca)

[Tdsb.on.ca](http://Tdsb.on.ca)

- The TDSB has approximately 22 secondary level alternative schools that provide students with environments that include self-directed projects, experiential learning and credit recovery opportunities while earning Ontario Secondary School Credits . Age varies by location.

## **Alpha II Alternative School**

725 Bathurst St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-1420

Email: [ALPHA11AlternativeSchool@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:ALPHA11AlternativeSchool@tdsb.on.ca)

- Grade 7 - 12

## **Alternative Scarborough Education 1**

45 Windover Dr, Scarborough

Phone: 416-396-6914

Email: [ASE1@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:ASE1@tdsb.on.ca)

- Grade 11 - 12

# OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

## **Avondale Alternative Secondary School**

24 Silverview Dr, North York

Phone: 416-395-4542

- Grade 9 - 12

## **City School**

635 Queens Quay W, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-1470

Email: CitySchool@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 9 - 12

## **Contact Alternative School**

132 Saint Patrick St 3rd Fl, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-1455

Email: Contact@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 10 - 12

## **Delphi Secondary Alternative School**

109A Chartland Blvd S, Scarborough

Phone: 416-396-6919

- Grade 9 - 12

## **East York Alternative Secondary School**

670 Cosburn Ave, East York

Phone: 416-396-2925

Email: Eya@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 10 - 12

# OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

## **Etobicoke Secondary Alternative Centre**

160 Silverhill Dr, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-394-2120

- Grade 10 -12

## **Inglenook Community School**

19 Sackville St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-0560

Email: Inglenook@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 10 -12

## **North East Secondary Alternative Centre**

2900 Don Mills Rd, North York

Phone: 416-395-5300

- Grade 10 -12

## **North West Secondary Alternative Centre**

425 Patricia Ave, North York

Phone: 416-395-4824

- Grade 10 -12

## **Oasis Alternative Secondary School**

20 Brant St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-9830

Email: Oasis@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 9 -12



# OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

## **SEED Alternative School**

885 Dundas St E 2nd Fl, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-0564

- Grade 11- 12

## **School of Life Experience**

1 Hanson St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-0756

Email: SOLE@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 11- 12

## **School Of Experiential Education**

40 McArthur St, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-394-6990

Email: Experiential.Edu@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 9 - 12

## **South East Secondary Alternative Centre**

720 Midland Ave , Scarborough

Phone: 416-396-4552

- Grade 10 -12

## **Subway Academy 1**

16 Phin Ave, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-9466

Email: SubwayAcademy1@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 9 - 11

# OSSD: ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

## **Subway Academy 2**

64 Baldwin St, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-1445

Email: SubwayAcademy2@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 11 - 12

## **The Student School**

160 Glendonwynne Rd, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-9639

Email: TheStudentSchool@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 11 - 12

## **West End Alternative School**

777 Bloor St W 3rd Fl, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-0660

Email: WestEnd@tdsb.on.ca

- Grade 10 -12

# OSSD: ADULT HIGH SCHOOLS

The TDSB has five adult high schools that support more than 12,000 learners each year to find a career pathway and to meet their academic goals. These adult schools offer a variety of credit courses for adults who want to complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, prepare for post-secondary education, or gain job-related training. They also offer specialty programs like Personal Support Worker and Practical Nursing.

Each adult high school offers both EdVance, a program specifically for 18-20-year-olds completing their high school diploma, and an Adult Program for learners who are 21 years and older.

Adult high schools offer classes in quads starting in September, November, February, and April. Tuition is free and classes are offered through different methods such as day school, night school, and online learning. Contact your closest adult high school for more information.

## **Burnhamthorpe Adult Learning Centre**

500 The East Mall, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-394-7130

Email: [Burnhamthorpe@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Burnhamthorpe@tdsb.on.ca)

## **City Adult Learning Centre**

1 Danforth Ave, Toronto

Phone: 416-393-9740

Email: [CityAdult@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:CityAdult@tdsb.on.ca)

## **Emery Adult Learning Centre**

3395 Weston Road, North York

Phone: 416-395-3225

Email: [EmeryAdult@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:EmeryAdult@tdsb.on.ca)

# OSSD: ADULT HIGH SCHOOLS

## **Scarborough Centre for Alternative Studies**

720 Midland Ave

Phone: 416-396-6921

Email: [ScarboroughCentre@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:ScarboroughCentre@tdsb.on.ca)

## **Yorkdale Adult Learning Centre**

38 Orfus Rd, North York

Phone: 416-395-3350

Email: [Yorkdale@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Yorkdale@tdsb.on.ca)

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY: GED

- ⇒ General Education Development (GED) is a high school equivalency certificate.
- ⇒ The GED is not an OSSD but it is recognized as the equivalent form.
- ⇒ A GED is earned through writing and passing tests in five subject areas: reading, writing, social studies, math and science.
- ⇒ Many colleges, apprenticeship programs, and careers schools will accept the GED for entry into their programs.

## To take the GED Tests in Ontario, you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- have not graduated from high school
- have been out of the school system for at least one full year
- be a resident of Ontario

Some students choose to prepare for GED testing on their own. The GED preparation textbook is available through libraries and bookstores. There are also supports available through community agencies.

**TVO ILC** is the only organization authorized by the Ontario Ministry of Education to deliver the GED tests. You can register with them at [ged.ilc.org/en-ca/GED/register](https://ged.ilc.org/en-ca/GED/register). There is a registration fee of \$100.00 to write the GED exam with the ILC.



# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

## RESOURCES: GED

Many community agencies in Toronto offer programs to assist students with high school equivalency: GED preparation. A list follows:

### ETOBICOKE

#### **PTP Adult Learning and Employment Programs - GED Achievement Coaching Program**

PTP West Toronto Centre

5353 Dundas St. W Suite 300, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-239-7309

Email: [info@ptp.ca](mailto:info@ptp.ca)

[Ptp.ca/how-we-can-help-you/ged-achievement/](http://Ptp.ca/how-we-can-help-you/ged-achievement/)

- For individuals 18+ who have been out of full-time school for at least one year. This is a fee for service program, but if you are receiving social assistance, there may be funding availability for the program.
- When you go to PTP you will meet with an intake counsellor to assess your current knowledge level using the GED readiness assessment. The GED Achievement program consists of 6 small group coaching sessions, each 2.5 hours long spread over a six-week period.

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

## RESOURCES: GED

### SCARBOROUGH

#### **Native Child and Family - Scarborough Aboriginal Family Life Centre**

156 Galloway Rd, Scarborough

Phone: 416-969-8510

Email: [Info@nativechild.org](mailto:Info@nativechild.org)

[Nativechild.org](http://Nativechild.org)

- GED program for youth 18-20 years.

#### **YWCA Toronto - Literacy and Essential Skills Program**

3090 Kingston Rd Suite 300 B, Scarborough

Phone: 416-269-0090 ext. 231

Email: [YWCATainingCentre@ywcatoronto.org](mailto:YWCATainingCentre@ywcatoronto.org)

[Ywcatoronto.org/employment](http://Ywcatoronto.org/employment)

- A seven-week instructor led career planning and employment skills program for women, meant to enhance literacy skills in preparation for the GED examination.
- Admissions to the program is subject to test results on math, reading, writing and grammar.
- The course value is \$950, however there is free training for those who qualify.

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY:

## RESOURCES: GED

### TORONTO & EAST YORK

#### **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health—LEARN Clinic**

1709 St Clair Ave W, Toronto

Phone: 416-535-8501 ext. 77300

[Camh.ca](http://Camh.ca)

- For young people aged 16-29 who are experiencing an episode of psychosis, who want access to their GED, social and recreational planning, and additional recovery programs.
- Physician referral required.

#### **United for Literacy - GED Preparation Course**

35 Jackes Ave, Toronto

Phone: 416-923-3591 ext. 360

Email: [rbacchus@unitedforliteracy.ca](mailto:rbacchus@unitedforliteracy.ca)

[Unitedforliteracy.ca/programs](http://Unitedforliteracy.ca/programs)

- For youth aged 19 to 24.
- Offers one-on-one learning.

#### **Centre of Learning & Development - Academic Skills Upgrading**

540 Dundas Street East

Phone: 647-493-2462

Email: [info@tcclld.org](mailto:info@tcclld.org)

[Tcclld.org/programs/academic-upgrading](http://Tcclld.org/programs/academic-upgrading)

- For youth aged 19+.
- This free 6-month program focuses on improving writing, reading, math, computer and other basic skills. They also help with GED preparation and transitioning to post-secondary.

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

## RESOURCES: GED

TORONTO & EAST YORK CONT.

### **Miziwe Biik - The Ngindaasmin Academic Program**

167 Gerrard St E, Toronto

Phone: 416-591-2310

Email: [tim@miziwebiik.com](mailto:tim@miziwebiik.com)

[Miziwebiik.com/education-and-training](https://miziwebiik.com/education-and-training)

- They offer academic upgrading and academic supports from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. They provide school supplies, the GED textbook, and TTC tokens if needed.
- The program is free and for Aboriginal peoples.

### **PTP Adult Learning and Employment Programs - Academic Skills Upgrading**

PTP East Toronto Centre

815 Danforth Avenue, Suite 201

Phone: 416-510-3266

Email: [info@ptp.ca](mailto:info@ptp.ca)

- For individuals 19+ with a Grade 12 education or less and those seeking Grade 12 equivalency credits in English and Mathematics. Transportation support is available if you qualify.
- This free program offers individualized and in-class instruction to gain the senior credits. Classes are offered Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30pm to 8:30pm.

### **West Neighbourhoods House (formerly St. Christopher House) - Adult Learning Program**

6 Locations across Toronto

Phone: 416-539-9000

Email: [literacy@westnh.org](mailto:literacy@westnh.org)

[Westnh.org/learning](https://Westnh.org/learning)

- This free program is offered to anyone who is over 18 and has not completed their high-school education. Programming is offered virtually, online and over the phone.
- They support with reading, writing, math, completing the GED and preparations for college or work. They have both group classes and one-on-one support available.

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

## RESOURCES: GED

### ONLINE

#### **The Learning Hub - Online GED Preparations**

[Link](#) to access GED Preparation resources

Phone: 1-844-470-7877

[learninghub.ca](http://learninghub.ca)

- For individuals who are 19 years or older and have a valid Social Insurance Number.
- This website provides free GED preparation lessons you can access from home. Each lesson provides tutorials, quizzes and other learning tools.
- To apply you must complete a registration form and a short skills assessment.

### GED Support For Individuals On Remand

#### **Amadeusz**

[Amadeusz.ca](http://Amadeusz.ca)

Phone: 416-251-0685

Email: [info@amadeusz.ca](mailto:info@amadeusz.ca)

- Offers free educational support for individuals on remand at the Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre and The Vanier Centre for Women



# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY: ACE

- ⇒ The Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) program is a high school equivalency program for adults.
- ⇒ Delivered in class by Ontario community colleges and online by the ACE Distance Program.
- ⇒ Colleges recognize the ACE certificate as a high school equivalent for admission.
- ⇒ Can be used to apply for college post-secondary programs and apprenticeship training programs.

**In order to qualify for an ACE Certificate, students need to complete the following courses:**

- Communications (English or French)
- One Mathematics course
- Any two other courses in line with student's learning goals

**Courses usually offered in ACE programs include:**

- Apprenticeship Math
- Computers
- Core Math
- Physics
- Self Management/Self Direction
- Technology Math
- Biology
- Business Math
- Chemistry
- Communications

## **Tuition-Free Program**

ACE Distance programs are offered tuition-free, if you meet the requirements.

*NOTE: Fees apply to ULevel / UPrep ACE courses. For more information, contact one of the colleges that offers these programs.*

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY: ACE

## Eligibility

You must be an Ontario resident at least 19 years old and proficient in English OR French to benefit from instruction.

## Requirements

You will need your own professional email address, access to the Internet, and a reliable computer. If you do not have a computer, there are 112 access sites in communities across Ontario where you can use computers at no charge. For more information about locations, go to [www.studyonline.ca](http://www.studyonline.ca).

## Step 1: Assessment

You must complete an assessment that will indicate your current skill level in several areas. This assessment is called ESEE — Essential Skills for Employment and Education.

## Step 2: Learn to Learn

In order to participate in ACE Distance courses, all students must complete Learn to Learn, or L2L. Learn to Learn is a 20-hour course that will introduce you to online learning and help you to decide if this is the right learning approach for you. The Learn to Learn course includes an assessment component that helps you determine if you have the computer skills, academic background and personality to succeed in ACE Distance courses.

ACE programs are geared towards adult learners who have not completed high school. For more information on completing the ACE Certificate online, please visit [www.acedistancedelivery.ca](http://www.acedistancedelivery.ca).

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

## RESOURCES: ACE

### Colleges that Offer ACE Programs:

#### **Centennial College - Academic and Career Entrance Certificate**

75 Ashtonbee Rd, Scarborough

Phone: 416-289-5272

Email: [Academicupgrading@centennialcollege.ca](mailto:Academicupgrading@centennialcollege.ca)

[Centennialcollege.ca](http://Centennialcollege.ca)

- A free 14 week academic upgrading undertaking that offers college and career preparation. You must complete four credits to receive the ACE certificate. This will include mandatory English, mathematics, along with biology, chemistry, self-management or digital literacy electives.

#### **George Brown College - Academic Upgrading**

200 King St. E, Toronto

Phone: 416-415-5000 ext. 6193

Email: [UpgradingInfo@georgebrown.ca](mailto:UpgradingInfo@georgebrown.ca)

[Georgebrown.ca](http://Georgebrown.ca)

- Tuition-free program for English speaking adults aged 19+ who want to improve their reading, writing, math, science, and computer skills.
- Offered on campus with in-person classes, or online (ACE Distance). The ACE Distance program offers free classes with limited space as well as classes offered for a fee which have more space.

# HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

## RESOURCES: ACE

### Colleges that Offer ACE Programs:

#### **Humber College - Academic Upgrading Program**

205 Humber College Blvd, Etobicoke

Phone: 416-675-6622 ext. 74842

Email: [academicupgrading@humber.ca](mailto:academicupgrading@humber.ca)

[Humber.ca](http://Humber.ca)

- A tuition-free, non-postsecondary program offered at the Humber North Campus with classes typically scheduled Monday to Friday.
- Purpose is to help learners to improve their English, math skills, and computer skills as well as biology and chemistry in lab-based environments.
- Students who complete the ACE Communications, ACE Mathematics, and any two other Ace level courses with a 60% or higher received a Certificate of Completion from Humber College.

#### **Seneca College, Yorkgate Campus - Academic Upgrading Program**

1 Yorkgate Blvd, North York

Phone: 416-764-0476

Email: [autestbooking@senecacollege.ca](mailto:autestbooking@senecacollege.ca)

[SenecaCollege.ca](http://SenecaCollege.ca)

- A one-to-two semester Academic Upgrading program intended for those who require additional credits for a college certificate or diploma program.
- Once you have completed four advanced level subjects, including English & Communications and an Advanced Level math course, you will be eligible for the Seneca College Academic and Career Entrance (ACE) certificate.

# ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

## Academic Skill Building Programs:

These resources do not go towards any credits; however, they help develop and better literacy and numeracy skills.

### CITY WIDE

#### **Toronto Public Library**

Phone: 416-393-7131

[Torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://torontopubliclibrary.ca)

- Provides free resources to support learning .

#### **Toronto District School Board** - Essential Skills Upgrading

Multiple Locations - Main Office Phone: 416-396-6905

Email: [Upgrading@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Upgrading@tdsb.on.ca)

[Tdsb.on.ca/adult-learners/learn-english/essential-skills-upgrading](http://tdsb.on.ca/adult-learners/learn-english/essential-skills-upgrading)

- For youth 19+
- Free, non-credit program to improve reading, writing and math skills.
- East Toronto - 416-396-6904
- Central Toronto - 416-393-1995
- West Toronto - 416-394-3809

#### **Toronto Catholic District School Board** - Essential Skills Training

Multiple locations

Phone: 416-397-6072

Email: [Gabrianna.jolie@tcdsb.org](mailto:Gabrianna.jolie@tcdsb.org)

[Tcdsb.org/o/adulteducation/page/essential-skills-training](http://tcdsb.org/o/adulteducation/page/essential-skills-training)

- For youth 19+
- The goal is to help students upgrade their skills in reading, writing, math, computer skills and financial literacy.

# ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

## ETOBICOKE & YORK

### **Belka Enrichment Centre - High School Program**

120 Norfinch Dr, North York

Phone: 416-276-0852

Email: belkaradio@gmail.com

[Belkacenter.com](http://Belkacenter.com)

- For youth up to 18. Students are taught by high school teachers and given the opportunity to apply their knowledge outside of the classroom setting.

### **Lamp Community Health Care - Adult Learning**

185 Fifth St , Etobicoke

Phone: 416-252-9701 ext 243 or 360

Email: Learning@lampchc.org

[Lampchc.org](http://Lampchc.org)

- For youth 19+.
- Free small group tutoring to improve reading, writing, math, and/or digital literacy.

## NORTH YORK

### **Toronto Catholic District School Board - Essential Skills Training**

45 Norfinch Dr, North York

Phone: 416-397-6072

[Tcdsb.org/o/adulteducation/page/essential-skills-training](http://Tcdsb.org/o/adulteducation/page/essential-skills-training)

- For youth 19+.
- A free, non-credit program to improve reading, writing and math skills.

# ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

## SCARBOROUGH

### **Toronto Catholic District School Board - Essential Skills Training**

270 Cherokee Blvd (Victoria Park & Finch)

Phone: 416-397-6072

Email: Gabrianna.jolie@tcdsb.org

[Tcdsb.org/o/adulteducation/page/essential-skills-training](https://tcdsb.org/o/adulteducation/page/essential-skills-training)

- For youth 19+.
- Free, non- credit program to improve reading, writing and math skills.

## TORONTO & EAST YORK

### **Alpha-Toronto Conseil Inc**

90 Richmond St E Ste 302, Toronto

Phone: 416-542-1574

Email: alphatoronto@bellnet.ca

[Alpha-Toronto.ca](https://Alpha-Toronto.ca)

- Offers free French literacy and basic skills to francophone adults who have not completed their high school education

### **Alexandra Park Neighbourhood Learning Centre - Basic Skills and Academic Upgrading**

Scadding Court Community Centre - 707 Dundas St West, Toronto

Phone: 416-591-7384

Email: Info@apnlc.org

[Apnlc.org](https://Apnlc.org)

- Free literacy, numeracy and essential skills services for adults 19+
- Assistance is available to anyone who needs to improve reading , writing math or basic computer skills. They also provide college/university preparation.

# ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

TORONTO & EAST YORK CONT.

## **Canadian Hearing Society**

271 Spadina Rd, Toronto

Phone: 1-866-518-0000 ext 4220

Email: LiteracyTraining@chs.ca

[Chs.ca](http://chs.ca)

- Free classes for youth aged 19+ provided in American Sign Language to help improve math and English skills. They also offer literacy, numeracy, and essential skills services.

## **Centre of Learning & Development - Academic Skills Upgrading**

540 Dundas Street East

Phone: 647-493-2462

Email: info@tcclld.org

[Tcclld.org/programs/academic-upgrading](http://tcclld.org/programs/academic-upgrading)

- Free program for youth aged 19+ that focuses on improving writing, reading, math, computer and other basic skills.

## **Davenport Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre**

1900 Davenport Rd, Toronto

Phone: 416-656-8025 ext 421

Email: wtse@dpnchc.ca

[Dpnchc.ca](http://Dpnchc.ca)

- Free literacy program for youth 19+ with no high school diploma to help improve reading, writing and math skills in tutor groups.

## **Dixon Hall - Literacy Basic Skills Adult Upgrading (Virtual)**

Phone: 416-956-4949

Email: Info@dixonhall.org

[Dixonhallonlinetraining.org/literacy-basic-skills](http://Dixonhallonlinetraining.org/literacy-basic-skills)

- Free classes for youth aged 19+ to improve reading, writing, and basic math skills.



# ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

## TORONTO & EAST YORK CONT.

### **East York Learning Experience**

266 Donlands Ave, East York

Phone: 416-425-2666

Email: Eyle@idirect.com

[Eastyorklearningexperience.ca](http://Eastyorklearningexperience.ca)

- Free supports for individuals to upgrade literacy, math, and digital literacy skills.

### **Parkdale Project Read – Academic Upgrading Program**

180 Sudbury Street, Unit C7

Phone: 416-531-6308

[Parkdaleprojectread.org](http://Parkdaleprojectread.org)

- Free programming for youth and adults who have not completed their high-school education to support reading, writing, basic math and computer skills.

### **Street Haven at the Crossroads - Academic Upgrading**

87 Pembroke St, Toronto

Phone: 416-967-6060 ext.400

Email: fundraising@streethaven.com

[Streethaven.org/training-services.html](http://Streethaven.org/training-services.html)

- Free for youth aged 19+. Youth can choose to receive one-on-one tutoring, participate in small learning groups or join their classroom sessions to upgrade skills in reading, writing, math and communications.

# ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WITH ACADEMIC MATERIAL

Educational programs often have identified support within. Ask the program you are working with if they offer additional tutoring.

## Free Tutoring

### IN PERSON...

- **Pathways to Education** offers tutoring in Regent Park, Lawrence Heights, Rexdale and Scarborough Village to those who are enrolled in the program.

[www.pathwaystoeducation.ca](http://www.pathwaystoeducation.ca)

- **The Toronto Public Library** through their basic skills program.

[www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/adult-literacy/](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/adult-literacy/)

### ONLINE...

- **Khan Academy for Mathematics** offers practice exercise, videos, and a personalized learning dashboard to empower learners to study outside of the classroom.

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

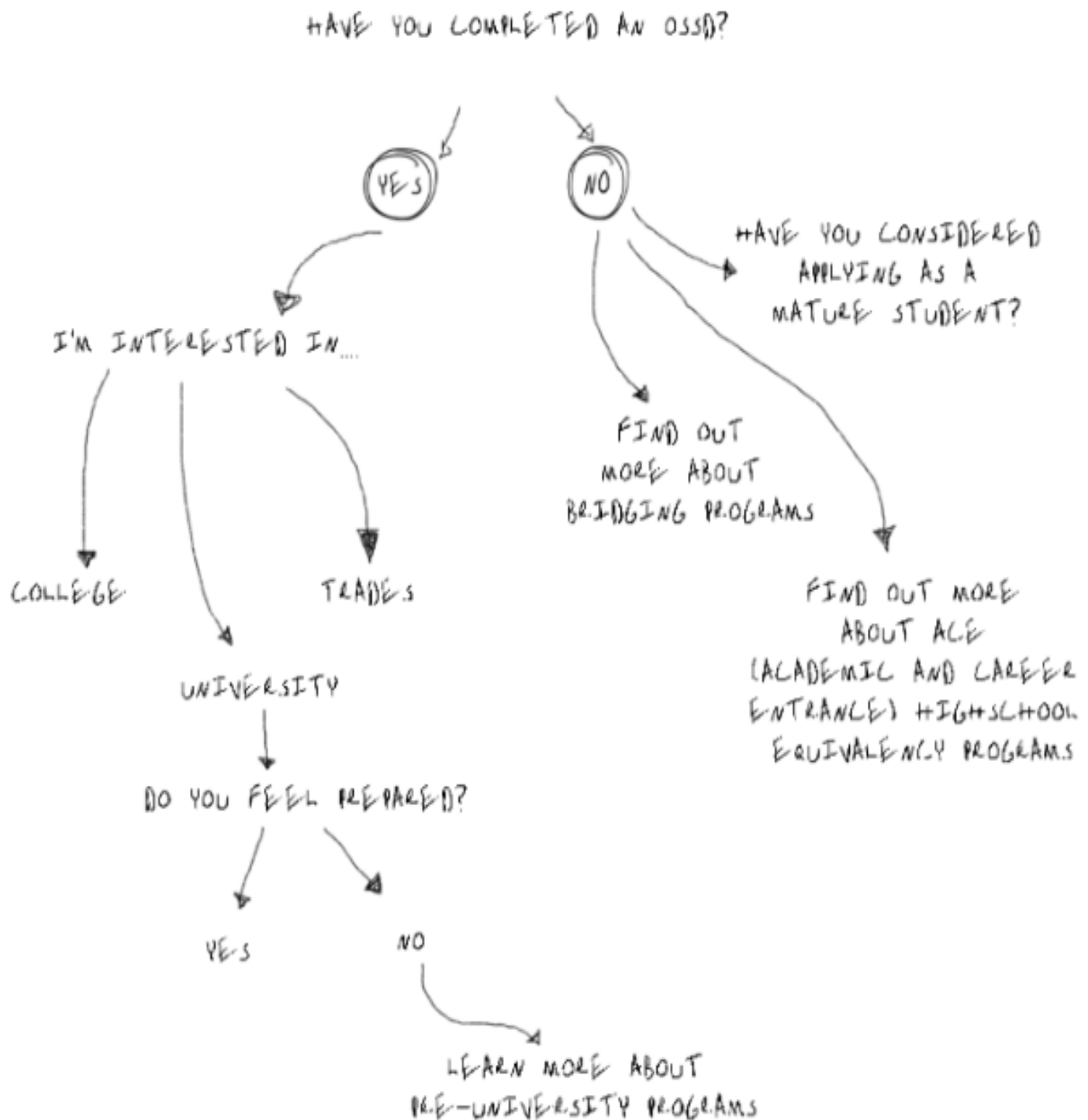
- **Homework Help** has qualified teachers available for 1 on 1 online tutoring through the Ministry of Education for Mathematics. To sign up, students need an Ontario Education Number

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/homework.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/homework.html)

- **TVO Learn Mathify** offers free online 1:1 grade 4 to 12 math tutors Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm, and Saturday and Sundays from 3pm to 9pm.

<https://www.tvomathify.com/students>

## INTERESTED IN POST SECONDARY EDUCATION?



# POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

## College & University Studies

In Ontario, there are 23 public universities, 24 colleges and many registered private career colleges. It can seem like a daunting task to decide what school and program is the right fit for you. If you have access to a computer, visiting [www.ontario.ca/page/go-college-or-university-ontario](http://www.ontario.ca/page/go-college-or-university-ontario) is one possible starting place. If possible, visiting a school and arranging to meet with academic advisors can provide helpful information. There is also a lot of information on the Ontario colleges and universities websites:

⇒ [www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca)

⇒ [www.ouac.on.ca](http://www.ouac.on.ca)

### Mature Students

There are a variety of ways to access post-secondary education. Although it can be helpful, it is not essential to have a high school diploma in order to pursue post-secondary studies. For example, if a person is not applying directly from high school, they would likely apply as a mature student, and they do not necessarily need to have completed secondary school to do so. Each college and university has specific application requirements and procedures, so visiting the school's website or calling the registrar's office is a good place to start. Below are websites with information regarding applying as a mature student for Ontario colleges and universities:

⇒ <http://www.ouac.on.ca/ouac-105/105-mature/>

⇒ <http://www.ontariocolleges.ca/apply/mature-students>

### Pre-University Programs

Some schools offer "Pre-University Programs," which give people the opportunity to take courses in a certain field of study that can be used towards a university degree. For more information, refer to the website below:

<http://www.ontariocolleges.ca>

# POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

## Community Colleges & Universities

### ETOBICOKE & YORK

#### **Humber College**

Various Campuses

Phone: 416-675-3111

Email: [Enquiry@humber.ca](mailto:Enquiry@humber.ca)

[Humber.ca](http://Humber.ca)

### NORTH YORK

#### **Seneca College**

Various Campuses

Phone: 416-764-0555

Email: [student.Recruitment@senecacollege.ca](mailto:student.Recruitment@senecacollege.ca)

[Senecacollege.ca](http://Senecacollege.ca)

#### **York University**

Various Campuses

Phone: 416-736-5000

Email: [study@yorku.ca](mailto:study@yorku.ca)

[Yorku.ca](http://Yorku.ca)

### SCARBOROUGH

#### **Centennial College**

Various Campuses

Phone: 416-289-5000

[Centennialcollege.ca](http://Centennialcollege.ca)

#### **University of Toronto Scarborough Campus**

1265 Military Trail , Scarborough

Phone: 416-287-8872

[Utscc.utoronto.ca](http://Utscc.utoronto.ca)

# POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

Community Colleges & Universities

TORONTO & EAST YORK

**Université de l'Ontario français** - French language university

9 Lower Jarvis St, Toronto

Phone: 416-968-8326

Email: [registraire@uontario.ca](mailto:registraire@uontario.ca)

[Uontario.ca](http://Uontario.ca)

**George Brown College**

Various Campuses

Phone: 416-415-2000

Email: [ask.george@georgebrown.ca](mailto:ask.george@georgebrown.ca)

[Georgebrown.ca](http://Georgebrown.ca)

**OCAD University**

100 McCaul St, Toronto

Phone: 416-977-6000

Email: [admissions@ocadu.ca](mailto:admissions@ocadu.ca)

[Ocadu.ca](http://Ocadu.ca)

**Toronto Metropolitan University** – Formerly Ryerson University

350 Victoria St, Toronto

Phone: 416-979-5000

[Torontomu.ca](http://Torontomu.ca)

**University of Toronto - St. George Campus**

27 King College Circle, Toronto

Phone: 416-978-2011

[Utoronto.ca](http://Utoronto.ca)

# POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

## Transition & Bridging Programs

Some colleges and universities offer transition or bridging programs for students who have not completed high school. These programs generally offer smaller class sizes and provide support for students who may have been away from school for some time. Depending on the program, courses taken may count as credit towards a diploma or degree. A few bridging programs are listed below, but it is often a good idea to connect directly with the school.

### York University - Transition Year Program (TYP)

[Transitionyear.info.yorku.ca/](https://transitionyear.info.yorku.ca/)

- The Transition Year Program (TYP) at York University is a special access program for youth (19+) and adults who are passionate about attending university. TYP provides an opportunity to transition to university for those that have previously experienced social and financial barriers to accessing the formal education system.

*\*Note that as of January 2023, the York University Transition Year Program is currently being re-structured and is therefore not currently being offered. Updates will be posted on their web-site.*

### University of Toronto - Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program

Email: [Academic.Bridging@utoronto.ca](mailto:Academic.Bridging@utoronto.ca)

[Wdw.utoronto.ca/index.php/programs/academic\\_bridging/overview/](https://wdw.utoronto.ca/index.php/programs/academic_bridging/overview/)

- The Millie Rotman Shime Academic Bridging Program offers an opportunity for those who do not meet the academic requirements for admission to the University of Toronto to qualify for Honors Bachelor of Arts or Honors Bachelor of Science degree programs in the Faculty of Arts & Science. This program also provides academic preparation in university-level reading, writing, research, examination, and critical thinking skills, financial aid, academic learning supports, and access to student services at the University of Toronto.

# POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

## Transition & Bridging Programs

### University of Toronto - Transitional Year Programme

Phone: 416-978-6832

Email: [TYP.Info@utoronto.ca](mailto:TYP.Info@utoronto.ca)

[Sites.utoronto.ca/typ/](https://sites.utoronto.ca/typ/)

- The Transitional Year Programme (TYP) is a full-time, eight-month access-to-university program intended for adults who do not have the formal qualifications for university admission. Most TYP students have grown up in communities where very few people have access to higher education. The TYP provides students with an academic advisor, access to counseling and funding options, and full access to the University and its resources.

### Centennial College - HYPE

Email: [Hype@centennialcollege.ca](mailto:Hype@centennialcollege.ca)

[Centennialcollege.ca/about-centennial/community-commitment/hype-helping-youth-pursue-education/courses](https://centennialcollege.ca/about-centennial/community-commitment/hype-helping-youth-pursue-education/courses)

- HYPE (Helping Youth Pursue Education) is a tuition-free, 6-week program that supports young people aged 17 to 29 who have faced barriers to accessing post-secondary studies by providing a unique learning experience at the college. Benefits include TTC tokens, breakfast and lunch, textbooks and academic supplies, learning from Centennial College professors, and potential eligibility for a bursary.

### Humber College - Youth Transition Program

Phone: 416-675-6622 ext. 5129

Email: [YTP@humber.ca](mailto:YTP@humber.ca)

[Humber.ca/community/youth.html](https://humber.ca/community/youth.html)

- Humber College offers a free 7-week Youth Transition Program for youth between the ages of 19 and 29. This program has been designed to help youth make a successful transition to college, whether they have completed high school or not. There is a strong focus on developing individualized learning plans, mentoring, advising, career exploration, and skill building.



# POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

## Transition & Bridging Programs

### **Toronto Metropolitan University - Spanning the Gaps**

Phone: 416-979-5000 ext. 2291

Email: [SpanningTheGaps@ryerson.ca](mailto:SpanningTheGaps@ryerson.ca)

[Continuing.torontomu.ca/contentManagement.do?method=load&code=CM000078](https://Continuing.torontomu.ca/contentManagement.do?method=load&code=CM000078)

- Toronto Metropolitan University offers various programs to help ensure a successful transition to post-secondary with the goal of increasing the post-secondary participation of adults and young people who might not otherwise experience post-secondary education. Programs and workshops include the Transition Foundations Program (part-time program to facilitate a pathway to post-secondary education for mature learners 21+), Veterans Transition to Education (peer assistance for the veteran community), academic preparation workshops, and an Aboriginal Foundations Program.

### **York University School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies Bridging Program for Women**

Phone: 416-736-2100 ext.77818

Email: [Cirvin@yorku.ca](mailto:Cirvin@yorku.ca)

[Yorku.ca/laps/gsws/bridging-program-for-women/](https://Yorku.ca/laps/gsws/bridging-program-for-women/)

- York University's Bridging Program for Women is for women aged 20+ who have been out of school for a minimum of two years to upgrade their writing and speaking skills and to explore university studies. Upon completion, a grade of B or higher means you can get an offer of admission to the Faculties of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies.

# APPRENTICESHIPS

- ⇒ An apprentice learns a skilled trade on the job, under the direction of more experienced workers
- ⇒ Apprentices also complete classroom instruction as a part of their training
- ⇒ Apprentices are workers, so you will need to find an employer who will train you

## Online Search Tools

### Employment Ontario Employment Service

- Helps match employees with employers looking to hire workers and apprentices.  
[Jobskills.org/employment-ontario-employment-services/](http://Jobskills.org/employment-ontario-employment-services/)

### Ontario Job Bank

- Jobs and apprenticeship opportunities across the province  
[Jobbank.gc.ca](http://Jobbank.gc.ca)

## Ontario Colleges of Trades

Apprentices must be members of the Ontario College of Trades. Becoming an apprentice can be an important first step to learning new skills and building a rewarding career. Jobs in the skilled trades pay well, and are interesting and challenging. Plus, you earn while you learn.

There are hundreds of trades to choose from. Find a list at [www.skilledtradesontario.ca/](http://www.skilledtradesontario.ca/).

Some apprenticeships require you to take an exam once your training is complete. Training in what are known as Red Seal Trades allow you to work in other provinces and territories. Please see below.

Apprentices become skilled workers once they have acquired the knowledge and skills in a trade or occupation and are certified by a provincial or territorial authority.

# APPRENTICESHIPS

## What is Pre-Apprenticeship?

**A pre-apprenticeship is a preparatory program that supports individuals who want to begin an apprenticeship for certain industries and trades.** Pre-apprenticeship programs such as those offered at the Pre-Apprenticeship Training Institute equip workers with expertise and real life experience to help them find employment as an apprentice and, eventually, as a licensed professional.

People who enroll in a pre-apprenticeship program get a head start on succeeding as an apprentice because they learn prerequisite skills, gain an overview of daily expectations in their target professional field, and learn strategies for getting selected into formal Apprenticeships.

**Due to the focus on job readiness, pre-apprenticeship training includes extensive amounts of hands-on preparatory work to simulate real world application of skills and experience.** When not working on projects and assignments, participants of pre-apprenticeship training also spend time in the classroom with licensed and certified instructors, learning from texts and code books.

Many community based organizations provide pre-apprenticeship programs. A google search for free pre-apprenticeship programs in Toronto will get you off to a great start.

### Pre-Trades Programs at Ontario Colleges

The trades industry is always in need of skilled professionals, but without prior experience, it can be difficult to decide which trade to pursue. **Pre-trades programs at Ontario colleges expose students to a variety of skilled trades by providing hands-on experience in each**, so students can become familiar with what the industry has to offer. After completion of these programs, students have a better idea of which skilled trade program to pursue and which career path is the right choice. Contact your college of choice to inquire about their pre-trades program offerings (if applicable).

# APPRENTICESHIPS

## The Red Seal Program

- The Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA) is a voluntary partnership between Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments. **The CCDA supports the development of skilled trades in Canada and it manages the Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Program.** The Red Seal Program is the Canadian standard of excellence for skilled trades. Formally known as the Interprovincial Standards Red Seal Program, it sets common standards to assess the skills of tradespersons across Canada. **Tradespersons who meet the Red Seal standards receive a Red Seal endorsement on their provincial/territorial trade certificates.**
- There are currently 56 designated Red Seal trades, Find a list at [www.red-seal.ca/about/pr.4gr.1m-eng.html](http://www.red-seal.ca/about/pr.4gr.1m-eng.html)

## Hammer Heads

Phone: 416-449-5115

Email: [Hammerheads@hammerheadsprogram.com](mailto:Hammerheads@hammerheadsprogram.com)

- Hammer Heads is a 12-week comprehensive skills development program that introduces youth to several different construction trades while developing skills important to successful and long lasting careers in construction. The program is comprised of safety training, hands-on skills development, mentoring and coaching and represents a life-changing journey for our participants. It is offered to youth aged 18-26 who reside in an under-resourced community in the GTA. A minimum of grade 10 math, English and science credits, or a GED, is required. More information can be found at [hammerheadsprogram.com/program-overview/](http://hammerheadsprogram.com/program-overview/).

## Building Up

Phone: 647-723-6930

Email: [Hello@buildingup.ca](mailto:Hello@buildingup.ca)

- Building Up's pre-apprenticeship program is a 16-week paid training program that uses construction contracts and in-class training to prepare individuals facing barriers to employment for successful careers in the trades. Applicants must be 18 years or older and have their high school transcript (high school completion not required), government issued photo ID, and SIN card to apply. More information can be found at [buildingup.ca](http://buildingup.ca).

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

**Check it out** – Financial aid programs are often changing, with new scholarships and bursaries available every day. Scholarship databases are continually updating their information. It is highly recommended to check resources often and research financial aid directly at the school or program you are applying to.

**Schools** – Financial aid programs are often available through schools. You could be eligible for bursaries, scholarships, work-study programs, or summer employment opportunities.

**Emergency loans** – Most schools offer emergency loans. You could be eligible for a short-term loan (ex. 90 days) to cover tuition while you wait for OSAP to arrive.

**Eligibility criteria** – Scholarships are often aimed at specific target groups, which can be based on income, minority status, geographic region, subject of study, crown ward status, or disability. Search criteria can be used to find scholarships or bursaries that may be applicable to you.

## Types of Financial Aid - Quick Definitions

- ⇒ **SCHOLARSHIPS** – A financial prize that is to be used towards tuition payment; no repayment is required. Applicant criteria vary, but often include academic merit, extracurricular activities, and/or financial need. Application procedures are different for each scholarship. Some will request a copy of academic transcripts. Most academic institutions offer scholarships that you either need to apply for or are automatically considered for (i.e., entrance scholarships).
- ⇒ **ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP** – Specific type of scholarship, often not requiring an application, that is based on academic performance from a previous school, most often high school. Similar to general scholarships, no repayment is required. Check out each academic institution for specific dollar amounts and requirements.
- ⇒ **RENEWABLE VS. NON-RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIPS** – Generally, these meet the same criteria as above. Renewable scholarships continue year after year, so long as minimum requirements are met as set out by each scholarship. Non-renewable scholarships are generally for one defined time period, i.e. one year.
- ⇒ **BURSARIES** – A financial award for students with demonstrated financial need. Bursaries often have academic requirements, however more generally focus on students who do not have the financial resources to pay for school. Application procedures are different for each bursary; generally, you are required to show why you are in need of assistance and how great your need is.
- ⇒ **LOANS** – Borrowing money with the requirement to pay back, often with interest. Common loans include government loans (OSAP) and bank loans (student loans). Loans are often paid back once education has been completed or stopped.
- ⇒ **OTHER AWARDS** – Includes all other financial prizes. This can include contest-type prizes or prizes from corporate/private sector. Tips: Always read the eligibility criteria for any scholarship, bursary, or award. Adhere strictly to deadlines and submit all required documents.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

## Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP)

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) is a financial aid program that can help you pay for college or university. OSAP offers funding through two kinds of money: grants (money you don't have to pay back) and a student loan (money you need to repay once you're done school). When you apply for OSAP, you will be automatically considered for both grants and loans. If you don't want to take a loan, you can decline it after your application is approved. There are also programs to help you repay your student loan once you're done school.

There are 24 OSAP aid programs – grants, scholarships, bursaries and loans. To apply for OSAP, an online application must be created, which allows access to a variety of different financial aid programs depending on individual circumstances.

### ***How much OSAP can I get?***

Individual qualifications depend on a number of different factors including:

1. **Education expenses:** Amount of money required to pay for education, including tuition, books, child care, living expenses, materials.
2. **Personal financial situation:** Personal and family contribution, based on personal and family income and other factors.
3. **Course load:** Full-time or part-time.

The basic formula is: Allowed education expenses – personal financial contribution = financial need (\$). This is a general estimate; it is highly recommended to speak to an OSAP representative for exact details.

To get an estimate on the OSAP aid you will receive, visit [osap.gov.on.ca/AidEstimator1920Web/enterapp/enter.xhtml](https://osap.gov.on.ca/AidEstimator1920Web/enterapp/enter.xhtml)

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

## How to Apply for OSAP

1. **Register online for an OSAP account at [www.osap.gov.on.ca](http://www.osap.gov.on.ca).** You will need your Social Insurance Number to create your OSAP account. Be sure to write down your OSAP access number and password
2. **Apply for OSAP through your account.** This typically takes less than 15 minutes. You will need information about your school and program, your parents' or spouse's SIN number (if applicable), your tax information, and your parents' or spouse's tax information (if applicable).
3. **Submit your OSAP application by the deadline.** For part-time students with study periods of 21 weeks or more and for all full-time students, submit your application no later than 60 days before the end of your study period. For part-time students with study periods of 20 weeks or less, submit your OSAP application no later than 40 days before the end of your study period. For micro-credential programs, submit your OSAP applications no later than the end of your study period.
4. **Receive an estimate of how much OSAP funding you may be eligible for after submitting your application.** You could qualify for more money if you are an Indigenous student, a student with a permanent disability, or a current or former Crown ward. See next page for more details.
5. **Complete either a Full-Time or Part-Time Master Student Financial Assistance Agreement (MSFAA) if required.** This is a lifetime student loan agreement, which only needs to be completed once for full-time or part-time studies. If you are enrolled in a micro-credential program, you will complete a Micro-credential Student Loan Agreement instead.
6. **You may need to complete your signature and declaration forms and upload them to your OSAP account.** You may also need to submit additional documents. For full-time and part-time students, your financial aid office must receive these documents no later than 40 days from the end of your study period. For micro-credential students, you must provide these documents no later than five days after your study period has ended.
7. **Check your OSAP account regularly and opt-in for email notifications so that you know when updates occur.** It typically takes about three to six weeks to hear back after submitting your application and documents.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

## OSAP for Under-Represented Learners

### Indigenous Students

Funding may be available to you through various sources including your band and OSAP. Other funding programs include...

1. **The Indigenous Student Bursary:** Available to full-time and part-time postsecondary students attending publicly-assisted colleges and universities in Ontario or an approved Indigenous Institute in Ontario. Bursary amounts range from \$1000-\$3500. Visit [https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/POCONT1\\_066873](https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/POCONT1_066873) for more information.
2. **Ontario Indigenous Travel Grant:** Assists with the cost of travelling between your remote First Nations community and the postsecondary school that you attend. Visit [https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/POCONT1\\_068272](https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/POCONT1_068272) for more information.

### Current and Former Individuals in Extended Society Care (previously known as Crown Wards)

Individuals who were in Extended Society Care, and other youth 21 to 24 years old who left care of a Children's Aid Society, may be eligible for a Living and Learning Grant. This grant provides additional funds above the regular full-time OSAP aid limits. You are automatically considered for this grant when you submit an OSAP Application for Full-Time Students. Supporting documents may be required to confirm your eligibility.

### First-Generation Students

If your parents didn't attend postsecondary studies, you could be eligible for the Ontario First Generation Bursary for between \$1000-\$3500. Each school will have an Ontario First Generation Bursary application which will outline any required supporting documents.

### Students with Disabilities

If you have a permanent disability or a persistent or prolonged disability, you could be eligible for full-time OSAP funding if you are taking 40% or more of a full course load. You must self-identify as having a disability when applying for OSAP to be considered.

You may also be eligible for the Bursary for Students with Disabilities and/or the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment—Students with Disabilities, which help eligible full-time and part-time students pay for disability-related services and equipment needed to participate in postsecondary students. Visit [osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/POCONT1\\_067672](https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/POCONT1_067672) for more information.



# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

## Continuing Education Scholarships

This is a broadly used term to define post-secondary learning activities and programs, beyond the typical undergraduate and graduate programs. Forms of post-secondary learning include: degree credit courses by non-traditional students, non-degree career training, workforce training, formal personal enrichment courses, self-directed learning, and experiential learning. Continuing education does not typically include basic instruction such as literacy, English language skills, vocational training, or GED. Scholarships may be available for different continuing education programs at different schools. Check out each program's website to determine if financial support/scholarship support is available.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MVP YOUTH

There are scholarships available for youth from a range of communities. Examples include:

### Second Chances Scholarships

To provide post-secondary education scholarships to youth who are, or have been, involved in the criminal justice system or multi-barriered youth who are most vulnerable to becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

[www.secondchancescholarshipfoundation.ca/](http://www.secondchancescholarshipfoundation.ca/)

### FYI Future Fund

The FYI Future Fund supports youth aged 16-29 who live, work, volunteer, and/or go to school within York-South Weston and Oakwood-Vaughan communities towards a brighter future through funding support for various forms of education including: college, university, training, trades, and certificate programs.

[www.foryouth.ca/future-fund](http://www.foryouth.ca/future-fund)

### Investing In Our Diversity Scholarships

Scholarships of up to \$4,000 for youth up to the age of 29 who are Toronto Community Housing tenants or a person living in the Scadding Court Community Centre catchment area. Recipients must have made a contribution to their communities in promoting diversity, equity, and anti-racism dialogue. Scholarships can be used for: post-secondary education or training including college, university, trade school, or apprenticeship.

[www.torontohousing.ca/iiods](http://www.torontohousing.ca/iiods)

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

**Banks** - Banks often have scholarship opportunities specifically for students. These scholarships may have specific eligibility requirements, which could be dependent on post-secondary institution, status and non-status Aboriginal, gender, and/or income. It is recommended to check out each individual website to determine scholarship details.

**Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)** - This is a long-term savings plan that assists in saving for a child's post-secondary education. Savings grow tax-deferred until they are withdrawn. When funds are withdrawn for education purposes, the money is taxed in the student's hand, typically at a lower rate.

**Canadian Learning Bond** - CLB is a grant from the Canadian government that helps low-income families save money to send their children to post-secondary education. The bond works by depositing money for each eligible child, born in 2004 or later, into a Registered Education Savings Plan. You don't need to invest anything to receive these deposits. In the first year, the CLB deposits \$500 per child initially and \$100 per child every year until each child turns 15, up to a maximum of \$2000. Employment and Social Development Canada will also pay \$25 into the RESP in recognition of a one-time incidental expense associated with opening the RESP account. For more information, call 1-800-622-6232.

**Pathways to Education** - If you were a program participant in the Pathways to Education program, post-secondary financial support may be available. Connect with your local Pathways program to determine this.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

## Scholarship Databases

There are a number different scholarship databases that list the current available scholarships, eligibility criteria, and submission requirements. These databases are continually updating their information, so it is recommended to check back regularly.

### **Council of Educations (CET)**

[www.councilofeducators.ca](http://www.councilofeducators.ca)

The Council of Educators is a network of all the school boards, colleges and universities in Toronto, acting together to make post-secondary education more accessible for those who face challenges in their life. The website includes information on: access programs, in school support, paying for school, and resources. The website also hosts an extensive database of scholarships, bursaries and grants searchable by post-secondary institutions, demographics of applicants, and field of study.

### **Black Foundation of Community Networks**

[www.bfcn.ca/scholarships.html](http://www.bfcn.ca/scholarships.html)

Black Foundation of Community Networks Scholarship Directory is a free detailed and accessible compilation of 50+ available scholarships, awards, and bursaries for youth pursuing post-secondary education primarily at the undergraduate level. This directory was created to support students and their parents, educators, coaches, and guidance counselors in finding, applying for, and winning scholarships, awards and bursaries.

### **Ontario Universities Info (OUInfo)**

[www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/scholarships](http://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/scholarships)

These scholarships are primarily available to high school students from Ontario, Canada who are applying to first-year university. Most universities offer scholarships to applicants from outside Ontario and from outside Canada, as well as upper-year and mature students, but these scholarships are not listed on OUInfo. Contact the university directly for further information. Sort by school, deadline and scholarship amount.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

## Scholarship Databases

### **Council of Educators of Toronto - Metro Hall**

55 John St, 8th Floor, Toronto

Phone: 416-397-0442

Email: [CouncilOfEducators@toronto.ca](mailto:CouncilOfEducators@toronto.ca)

[Postsecondaryispossible.com](http://Postsecondaryispossible.com)

- Website provides a portal to a list of scholarships available for post-secondary institutes primarily in Toronto
- You can search for financial assistance by the institution of your choice, the field of study that interest you, or by demographics such as financial need/low income, Crown Ward, disability, etc

### **Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)**

Mowat Block

900 Bay St 9th Floor, Toronto

Phone: 416-325-2929

[Osap.gov.on.ca](http://Osap.gov.on.ca)

### **Corsage Project**

25 Spadina Rd, Toronto

Phone: 416-923-0924 ext. 227

Email: [CorsageScholarships@gmail.com](mailto:CorsageScholarships@gmail.com)

[Corsageproject.ca](http://Corsageproject.ca)

- Young women and men with limited resources, graduating high school and pursuing post secondary education

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

## Scholarship Databases

### **Indspire**

555 Richmond Street West Ste 1002, Toronto

Phone: 1-855-463-7747

Email: Education@indspire.ca

[Indspire.ca](http://Indspire.ca)

- Bursaries, scholarships, and awards for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students.

### **Métis Nation of Ontario**

350 Rutherford Rd South, Brampton

Phone: 905-450-4844

Email: PSESupport@metisnation.org

[Metisnation.org/](http://Metisnation.org/)

- Offers bursaries to Métis citizens at 43 Ontario post-secondary institutions.
- Students may reapply for bursaries and or scholarships each year when they register for school. Apply through your post-secondary institution directly.

### **Government of Ontario—Apprenticeship Grants**

625 Church St 1st Floor, Toronto

Phone: 416-326-5800

- The Ontario government provides financial support to apprentices through grants that will financial support to help buy tools for your trade, once you complete your apprenticeship, if you are studying full-time, or if you have a disability.
- There are also Apprenticeship Incentive Grants for those training in a Red Seal trade as well as specifically for women in the trades.

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

## Additional Websites

### **Yconic**

[www.yconic.com](http://www.yconic.com)

- Offering free scholarship matching & peer-to-peer support for life as a student

### **Scholarships Canada**

<https://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>

- Canada-wide database of scholarships

### **Government of Canada**

[www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca)

- Information and tools designed to help people save, plan and pay for post-secondary education

The **TYES Frontline Workers Toolkit Series** is designed to provide resources to City & community-based staff working with MVP youth (*youth most vulnerable to involvement in serious violence & crime*).

 @TorontoTYES



torontotyes



facebook.com/torontotyes

