

Secondary Students
and Families

A Guide for Secondary



PATHWAYS

> Your Post-Secondary Guide

This guide was developed for students to plan their individual pathway options after secondary school. Each pathway is as unique as you are. Explore your opportunities, set goals and discover Grand Erie's supports and resources.

Our Vision

Learn, Lead, Inspire.

Our Mission

Together, we build a culture of **learning**, **well-being** and **belonging** to inspire each learner.

Our Collective Priorities

To nurture **curiosity** and **opportunity** for each learner.

To support the **cognitive**, **social emotional** and **physical needs** of each learner.

To support an **equitable**, **inclusive** and **responsive** environment for each learner.

> Pathways and Destinations

Learning to Graduation

You've got the map. Where will it take you?

- Apprenticeship
- College
- Community
- University
- Workplace

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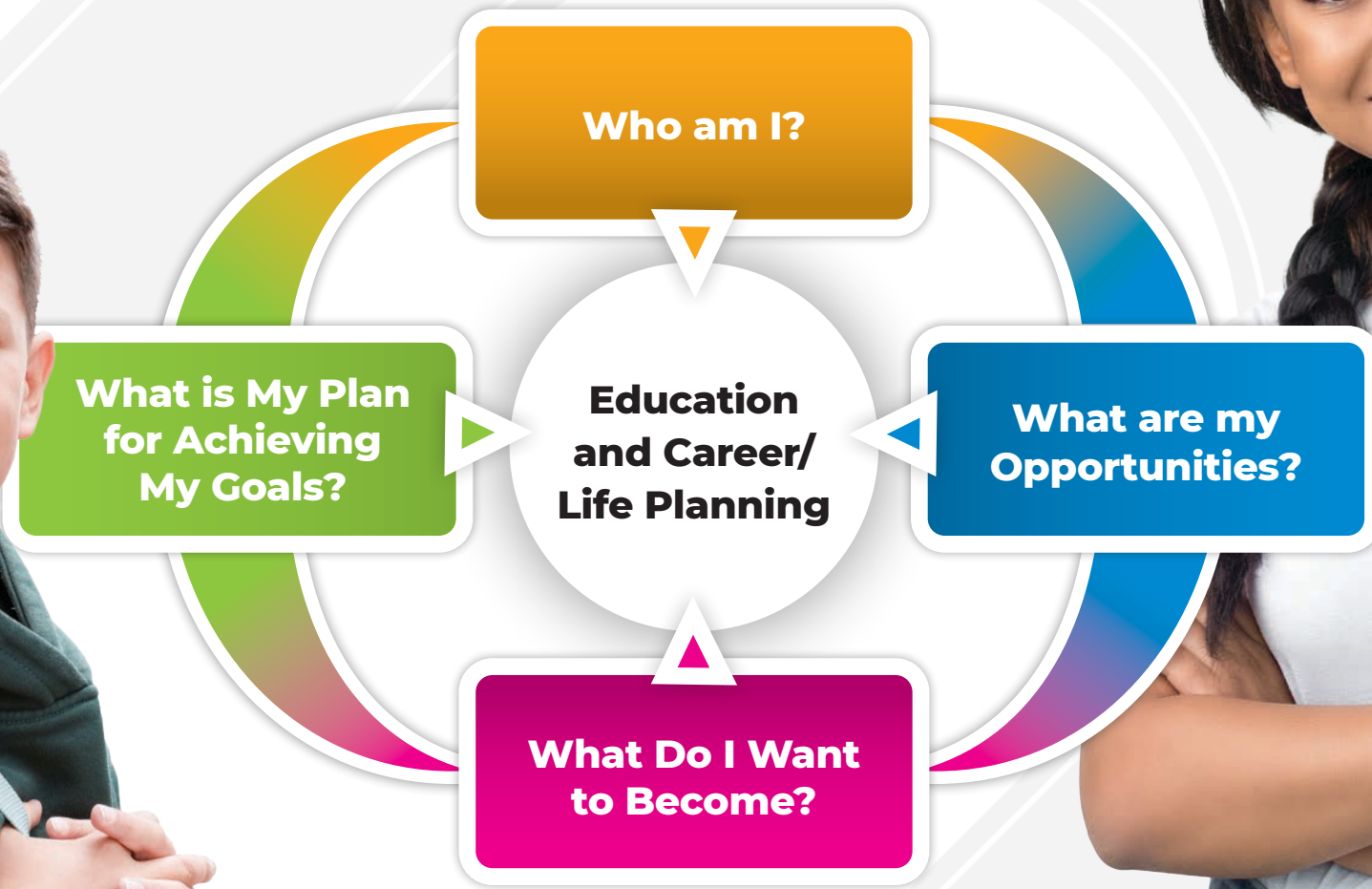
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> Who Am I?



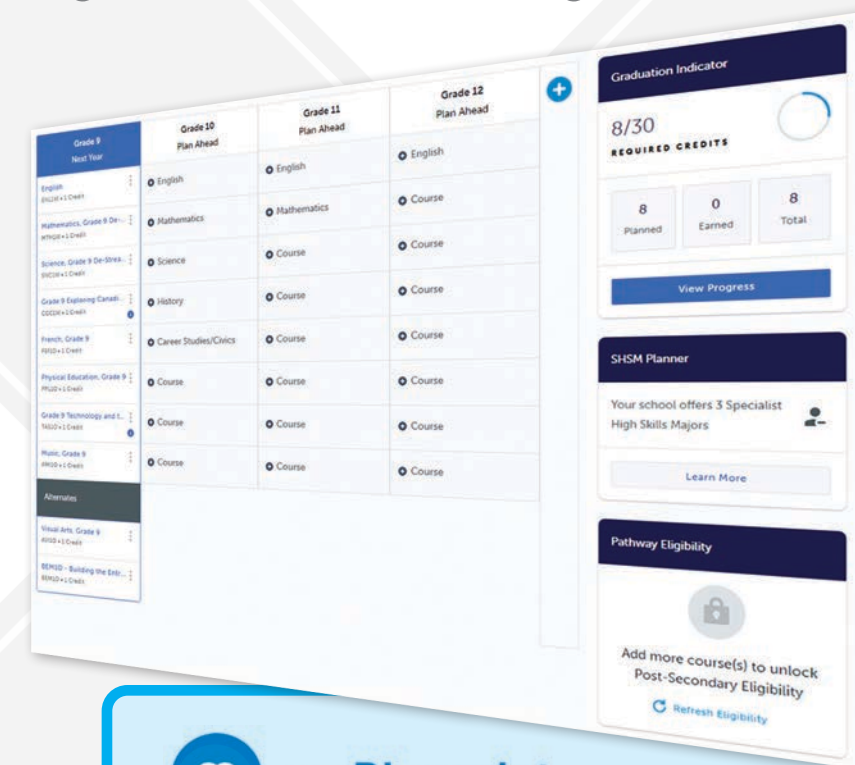
> MyBlueprint

Our Planning Tool for Secondary School and Beyond

MyBlueprint (Career and Life Planning Program) provides the tools you need to discover who you are as a learner and the various opportunities available.

Access MyBlueprint through your Grand Erie **Brightspace** account under **My Library** and **Resources**.

- › **Who Am I? Surveys**
Learn about your interests and strengths
- › **High School Planner**
Plan secondary courses, review graduation requirements, and explore eligibility for post-secondary programs
- › **Post Secondary Planner**
Learn about post-secondary opportunities in Apprenticeship, College, University, and Workplace
- › **Occupations**
Explore occupations and related occupations
- › **Money and Budgets**
Support financial planning
- › **Job Search**
Create résumés, cover letters, and search for employment opportunities



Family Account

- Visit myblueprint.ca/granderie
- Click **School Account** Login
- Enter your Grand Erie **email** and **password**
- For families, click **Sign Up** and select your student's school to create a **Family Account**



Pathways and Destinations

Community

Description

This post-secondary pathway offers opportunities for students with disabilities to transition to community participation through real-world work experience, volunteer experience and access to supportive college programs.



Support Services

Need help navigating these resources? Speak with your school's Learning Resource Teacher.

Community Integration through Co-operative Education (CICE)

Build communication, human relations, computer literacy and life skills in a college setting. Check out specific courses that interest you, such as Culinary Management, Law and Security, Office Administration, Social Service Work and more. Make sure to check which course specific offerings are available at the offering college before applying.

Norfolk Association of Community Living (NACL)

Access residential lifestyle and career supports for people with developmental disabilities in Norfolk County. NACL is a charter member of  **OASIS** (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs) and a member of  **CLO** (Community Living Ontario).

Community Living Brant

Discover services and supports that meet the diverse developmental needs of people within the community.



Support Services

Community Living Haldimand

Access community-based supports and resources with meaningful, inclusive possibilities for adults with developmental disabilities.

SOAR

Get help with employment, housing, justice, addictions and mental health. SOAR Community Services is a not-for-profit organization that supports people in Brantford, Brant and Haldimand.

Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN)

Increase employment opportunities with the Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN). ODEN is a province-wide organization that brings businesses and Employment Service Providers together.

Partners 4 Planning

Plan for the future with Partners 4 Planning, a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting people with developmental disabilities and their families in planning their next steps.

Contact Brant

Navigate community support for those with behavioural, developmental, and special needs with the help of Contact Brant.

Haldimand-Norfolk REACH

Find children's mental health support, developmental services, Autism services, youth justice services, family services and a residential program for transitional-aged youth.

Developmental Services Ontario

Access adult developmental services funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). There are nine locations across Ontario.

Timeframe

Resources may be accessed as early as age of 16. Speak to your **Learning Resource Teacher** to learn more and connect you to local supports.



Pathways and Destinations

Workplace

Description

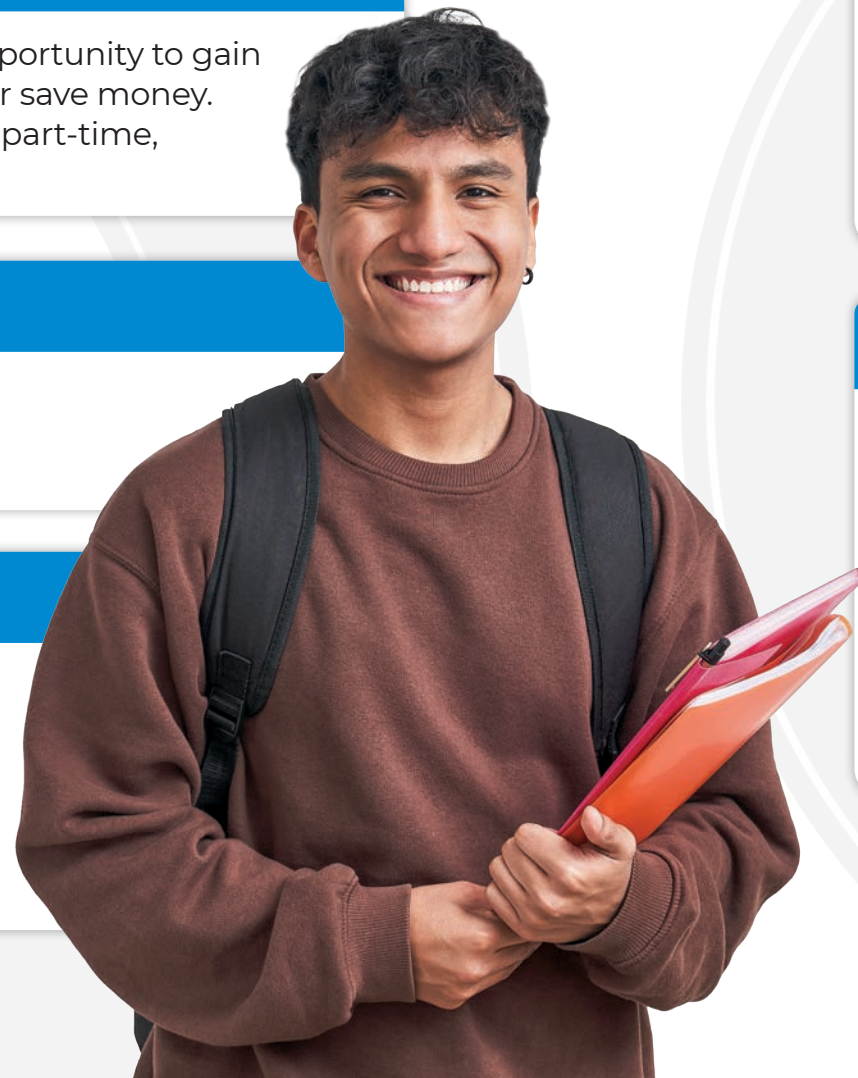
Students can directly enter the workforce after secondary school. This is an opportunity to gain experience in meaningful workplace training, develop transferable skills and/or save money. This may be for a period of time before exploring other opportunities through part-time, seasonal, or full-time employment.

Requirements

- » Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- » Ontario Photo Card
- » Some work placements require an Ontario Secondary School diploma (OSSD)

Recommendations

- » Set up a bank account for direct deposit from an employer (for pay)
- » Create or update your résumé
- » Understand your health and safety rights
- » Check out the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development website
- » Workers Health and Safety Awareness training videos
- » **Worker Health and Safety Awareness in 4 Steps | Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development**



Specialized Programs for students with disabilities

The following programs are for students with disabilities seeking a potential bridge from the community pathway, to the workplace pathway

» **Project | SEARCH - A School-to-Work Training Program**

Experience total workplace immersion (3 work placements, 700+ hours of hands-on experience) for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (MID, DD, ASD). Project | SEARCH works to ensure placements of competitive employment in an integrated setting in the community.

» **Community Integration through Co-operative Education (CICE)**

Build skills like communication, human relations, computer literacy, and life skills in a college setting. On top of these skill-building opportunities, you can select courses in a specific area that interests you, such as Culinary Management, Law and Security, Office Administration, Social Service Work and more. Make sure to check what course specific offerings are available at the offering college before applying.

Links

- » **Employment Ontario Live Chat**
- » **Grand River Employment and Training**
- » **Halton Industry Education Council (HIEC)**
- » **Job Market Trends**
- » **NPAAMB Indigenous Youth Employment & Training**
- » **Pathways Employment Help Center**
- » **YMCA Canada Employment Services**
- » **Youth in Canada**



Pathways and Destinations

Apprenticeship

Description

Apprenticeships provide targeted and specialized training in a skilled trade with 80-90% of the learning on-the-job. The remaining 10-20% learning is in-school at a college or approved union training centre. Students learn and earn money while working.

Starting an Apprenticeship

Students may start an apprenticeship while in secondary school and earn credits towards their diploma through the OYAP and OYAP-FAST programs.

The four sectors of apprenticeship are:

- » **Construction & Manufacturing**
- » **Industrial**
- » **Motive Power**
- » **Service**

Requirements

- » OSSD preferred
- » Age 16+
- » OYAP (for grade 11 and 12 students)



Application Process

» Current High School Student

Speak to your guidance counsellor/Co-op teacher about [OYAP](#).

» OSSD Graduate

Build a network in your community with people in the industry you are interested in. Explore the trade-specific training requirements and certification information. Secure employment in the industry and future sponsorship for apprenticeship training.

- » Explore information about Skilled Trades – Trades information – [Skilled Trades Ontario](#)
- » Secured an apprenticeship? [Register with Skilled Trades Ontario Apprenticeship](#)

Time Frame

- » Duration is dependent on the trade and occupation.

Credentials

- » Red Seal Program and Red Seal Endorsement.

Links

- [ApprenticeSearch.com](#)
- [Canadian Association of Women in Construction \(CAWIC\)](#)
- [myBlueprint Skilled Trades Site](#)
- [OYAP in Grand Erie](#)
- [Skilled Trades Exploration for Newcomers](#)
- [Support Ontario Youth](#)



Pathways and Destinations

University

Description

University provides students with the opportunity to explore an academic subject area, with an emphasis on independent learning and research. The subject of study is not always specific to a particular occupation, but certain careers require a university education in order to pursue them.

Requirements

- » Minimum of 6 Grade 12 U/M courses are required to apply, including Grade 12 English
- » Most universities require a 70%+ in 4U English
- » Check admission requirements for each program and institution that interests you.

Application Process

- » Students apply through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre. Check out:
[Undergraduate Application Guide | Ontario Universities' Application Centre](#)
- » Applications are received until January
- » Offers of admission communicated February-May
- » Universities must notify applicants of their application status by late May (students will either receive an offer of admission, a refusal, or a deferral)
- » Students must accept offers online by the deadline date indicated in the offer
- » All offers are considered conditional based on the completion of all graduation requirements and other conditions stated in the offer

Credentials and Time Frame

- » Undergraduate degree (3-4 years)
- » Honours Bachelor's degree programs (4 years)
- » Graduate programs – Master's Degree (1-2 years)
- » Doctoral programs (3-7 years)

Links

- » [Ontario Universities' Info \(OUInfo\)](#)
Explore OUInfo for program overview and admission requirements.
- » [University Study](#)
Learn more about universities (private and public) in Canada.
- » [Transition Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities](#)
Know what disability related services are available to you at a post-secondary institution – financial aid, academic support, accessibility services, and mental well-being. Transition Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities.
- » [Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program \(APSIP\)](#)
A consortium of Indigenous Recruiters for numerous colleges, universities, and polytechnics. Check the website for tour dates in the Grand Erie District School Board area.





Pathways and Destinations

College

Description

College programs focus on occupation-driven learning with a blend of academic learning and practical skills training. They develop technical and occupational skills required for your chosen career area.

Classes are often led by instructors with professional experience in the industry. Many college programs offer a co-op component to allow students to gain valuable experience in their chosen field before graduating.

Colleges

- » Preparation Programs
- » Pre-university programs
- » Academic Upgrading
- » Transfer Programs
- » Collaborative Programs – between a college and university
- » Degree Programs

Private Career Colleges

- » Certificate and diploma programs in specific fields (arts, business, service, trades, etc.)

Requirements

Completion of an OSSD, Grade 12 English (or Grade 12 French) and enrollment in either:

- » College (C)
- » Mixed (M)
- » Open (O)
- » University (U)
- » Combination of the course levels listed
- » **Note:** Degree programs at college require six U/M Grade 12 courses for admission



Application Process

- » Students apply through the Ontario Colleges website. Check out: ontariocolleges.ca
- » Students can apply to a maximum of five college programs.
- » Students may begin applying in October of their graduating year
 - » Pay attention to firm application deadlines for “highly competitive” programs
 - » All other programs remain “open” until the program is full
- » General application submit by date is end of January

Credentials and Time Frame

- » Certificates (range from 3 to 12 months)
- » Pre-programs (1-2 years)
- » Diplomas (2 years)
- » Advanced Diplomas (3 years)
- » Degrees (4 years)
- » Transfer programs (4-5 years) – time to earn a diploma or degree at one institution and second credential at another partner institution. Check out:

[Ontario's Transfer & Pathways Guide](#) [ONTransfer: Home Page](#)

Links

- [Ontario Colleges \(by OSCA\)](#)
- [Transition Resource Guide for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program \(APSIP\)](#)





Pathways and Destinations

Alternative Opportunities

Description

Consider a gap-year after secondary school to change possible barriers before making the commitment to a post-secondary pathway. This is a chance to figure out who you are, what your opportunities are, what you want to become and what you need to get there.

What can you do on a gap year?

» Volunteer

Volunteer in your community or abroad through a community development project, missions' program, exchange or medial program.

» Work

Work away from home or at home to broaden your financial options. This is an opportunity to save for the career path of your choice.

» Travel

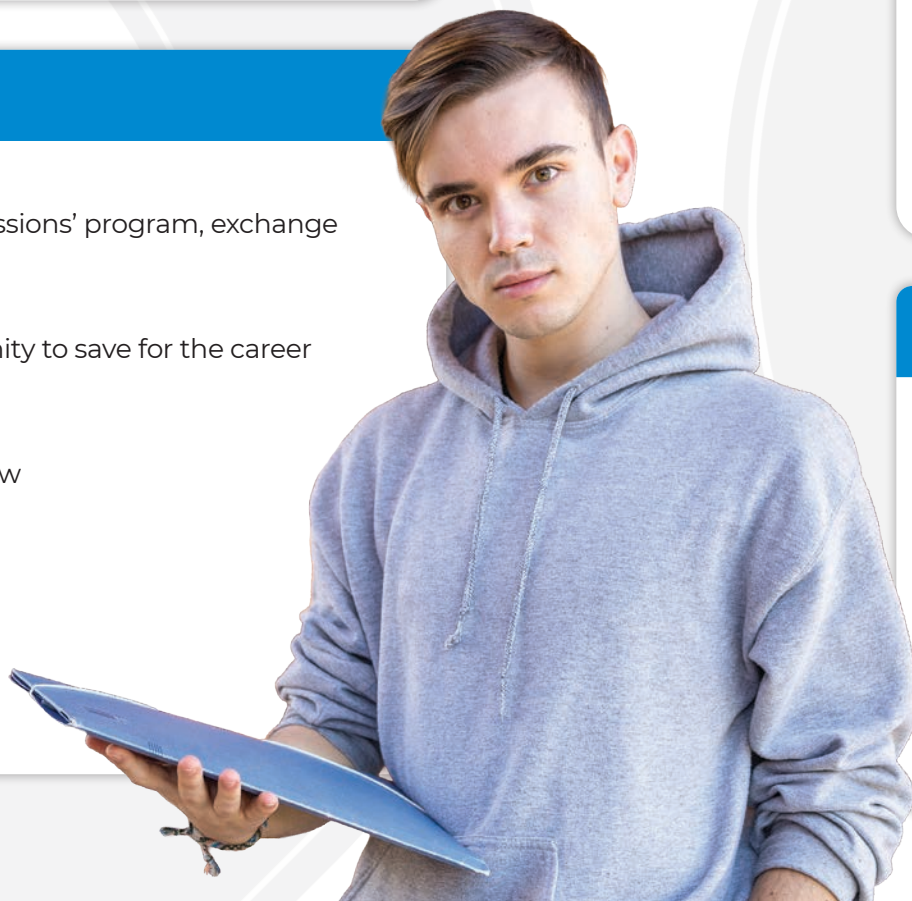
Travel to different parts of the world to learn another language, study, or experience a new culture.

» Explore

Explore a skilled trade, trial a career or participate in an internship.

» Certified Program

Consider a program that provides you with opportunities to develop your skills, engage in community service, mentorship, travel, and work terms.



What are the benefits?

- » Gain skills including independence, responsibility, adaptability, organization, communication, teamwork, and self-awareness through exploring who you want to become
- » Opportunity to further explore your pathway and areas of interest or passion

Considerations

You will want to have supports in place before taking a gap year. These supports may aid you in pursuing post-secondary after a gap year:

- » Talk to your guidance counsellor.
- » Talk to others who have experienced a gap year
- » Set goals and create an action plan (including how you will fund this year).

If you have applied and received an admission offer, directly reach out to the institution to learn more. You may be allowed to defer your admission.

Links

- » **Canadian Gap Year Association:** A non-profit organization supporting families and students in making purposeful post-secondary decisions.
- » **Discover Year:** Helping young adults better understand what they want in life and build the skills they need to go out and get it.
- » **International Experience Canada (IEC):** A government program (18-35 yrs.) designed to help you gain international work experience, improve language skills and work in Canada.
- » **Go International:** Gives young Canadians the opportunity to broaden their perspective of the world and Canada's place in it through international work and travel experience
- » **Volunteer Canada:** Volunteer Canada works with corporate, charity, non-profit, and education partners nationwide to strengthen the quality, quantity, and accessibility of volunteering.

Secondary Programming

Course Selection

OSSD, OSSC and Certificate of Accomplishments requirements.

Effective in 2024, students must complete **30 credits** to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). That's **17 compulsory** credits plus **13 elective** credits. In addition to 30 credits, students are required to complete their **Community Involvement hours** and **2 online credits**.

Compulsory Credits (Total Of 17)

- 4 Credits in **English*** (1 credit per grade)
- 3 Credits in **Math** (at least 1 credit in Grade 11 or 12)
- 2 Credits in **Science**
- 1 Credit in **The Arts**
- 1 Credit in **Canadian Geography** (Grade 9)
- 1 Credit in **Canadian History** (Grade 10)
- 1 Credit in **French as a Second Language**
- 1 Credit in **Health and Physical Education**
- 5 Credit in **Career Studies**
- 5 Credit in **Civics**
- 1 Credit in **Technology Education** (Grade 9 or 10)
- 1 Additional credit from the **STEM-Related** course group

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

- » Earn an OSSD by completing a minimum of 30 credits and involvement requirements.

Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

- » Earn an OSSC by completing a minimum of 14 credits, including seven compulsory credits.

Certificate of Accomplishment

- » Students may be granted a Certificate of Accomplishment if leaving secondary school at age 21 without having met the requirements for the OSSD or OSSC.

*All Grand Erie secondary schools offer the NBE3E/C/U as the grade 11 compulsory English credit.

STEM-Related Course Group

- ✓ **Business Studies**
- ✓ **Computer Studies**
- ✓ **Cooperative Education**
- ✓ **Mathematics** (in addition to the three compulsory credits currently required)
- ✓ **Science** (in addition to the two compulsory credits currently required)
- ✓ **Technological Education** (in addition to the one compulsory credit required)

Note:
For students who started secondary school before September 2024, click this button to see specific OSSD, OSSC and Certificate of Accomplishment requirements



For more information about earning your Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) visit: ontario.ca/page/high-school-graduation-requirements

Other Graduation Requirements

Elective Credits

In addition to 17 compulsory credits, students also earn 13 elective credits. These credits can be earned in a variety of subjects.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Students must complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test as a graduation requirement. Those who don't pass on the first try will have an opportunity to rewrite the test or complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.



Secondary Programming

How do I Pick my Pathway?

Choosing your career pathway is an exciting journey that involves exploring your interests, strengths, and values. It is important to research different careers, seek advice from mentors, and gain hands-on experience through co-op or part-time jobs. Remember, your career path may change over time, so stay open to new opportunities and be willing to adapt as you grow. As you explore your pathway consider the following:

Pathway Planning

- » Talk to a Guidance Counsellor
- » Talk to you Specialized Services Transition Navigator
- » Take Co-op
- » Explore a trade
- » Take a tour at a post-secondary institution
- » Talk to graduates
- » Engage in Career Coaching sessions
- » Explore opportunities in your area

Pathway Planning as a Family

Check out the myBlueprint Family Video Series to gain tips and tricks for pathway planning from a family perspective.

- » **High School Planning in myBlueprint:** Explore the Planning Grid, Graduation Tracker, and Pathway Eligibility.
- » **Pathway Planning Video:** Learn what it means to “Forwards Plan” and Backwards Plan.
- » **Planning Tools:** Learn how to navigate self-assessments, create portfolios and résumés, budgeting and scholarships, and Pathway Planning Guides.

Forwards/Backwards Planning

Whether you know what career you want to pursue or you are unsure these planning resources help you explore careers that may interest you or support you in planning your pathway.

- » **Forward Planning**
Supports students who are unsure about their future by exploring various programs and occupations, allowing them to create a flexible high school plan.
- » **Backwards Planning**
Ideal for students with a clear career goal, as it ensures students meet all necessary educational requirements to achieve their career path.

Click Here
For a Forwards/
Backwards
Planning
Guide PDF



Secondary Programming

Graduation Supports

Indigenous Graduation Coaches

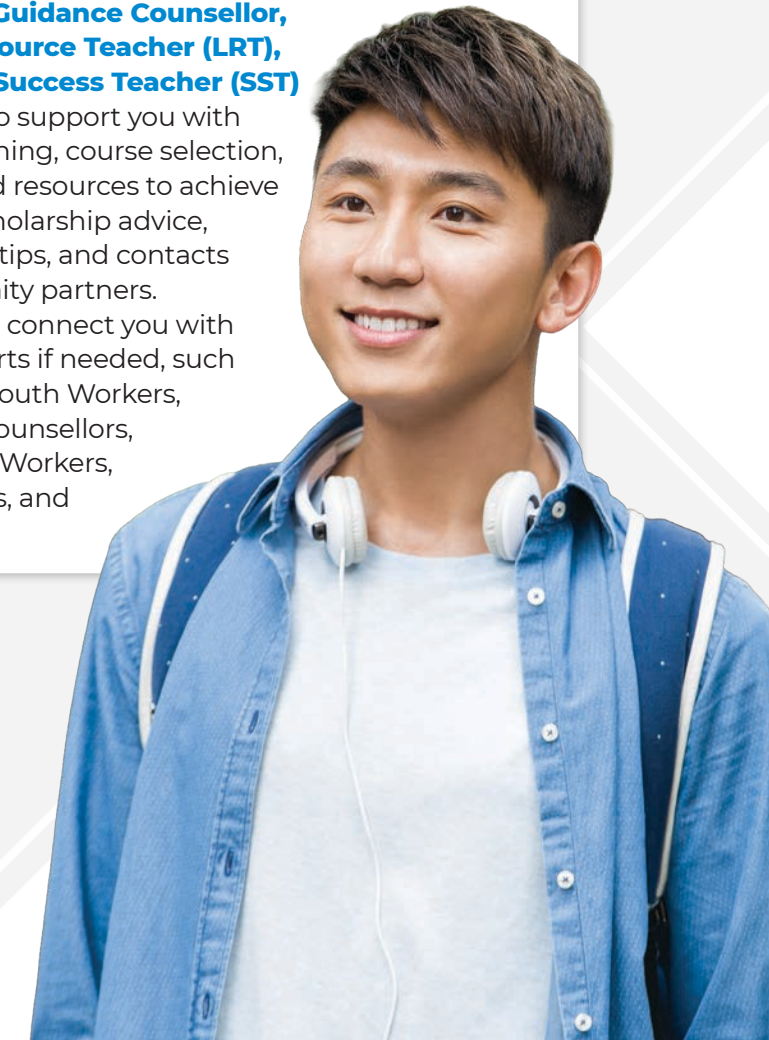
Your school's **Indigenous Graduation Coach** builds positive relationships with Indigenous students, families and communities. They are a role model in pathway planning related to graduation and post-secondary destinations, and they provide cultural teaching and programming opportunities to support your connection to your cultural community.

Specialized Services Transition Navigator

Transition Navigators support students with disabilities and their families through important school and life changes. They work with school teams, local colleges, community partners, and provincial groups to help you prepare for life after high school, including jobs, further education, and living independently.

Secondary School Team

Your school's **Guidance Counsellor**, **Learning Resource Teacher (LRT)**, and **Student Success Teacher (SST)** are available to support you with pathway planning, course selection, strategies, and resources to achieve your goals, scholarship advice, self-advocacy tips, and contacts with community partners. They may also connect you with further supports if needed, such as Child and Youth Workers, Attendance Counsellors, Public Health Workers, Social Workers, and more.



Secondary Programming

Alternative Programs

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

» OYAP

The **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)** allows you to explore a skilled trade and begin an apprenticeship while working toward your OSSD. OYAP also provides you with on-site work experience and the opportunity to register as an apprentice with an employer.

Requirements: OYAP students may begin work placements at 15 years old with 14 credits completed, though some workplaces may require a minimum age of 16.

» OYAP FAST: A New Pathway to the Skilled Trades


Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program – Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training (FAST) is an accelerated stream within OYAP. The FAST program allows students in grades 11 and 12 to obtain additional apprenticeship learning through cooperative education credits while completing their OSSD.

To enroll in this program students will be required to:

- » Meet the OYAP eligibility requirements
- » Have signed parent/guardian consent to participate in OYAP-FAST (if under 18)
- » Meet with the Guidance Department to plan student timetable

 **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program**

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

 **Specialist High Skills Major** combines training and real-world experience in a student's subject of choice. Students gain valuable industry experience through co-op placements and learn about career options. Upon completion, students obtain a red seal on their diploma.

School College Work Initiative (SCWI) Dual Credit and School Within a College (SWAC)

» School Within a College (SWAC)

Designed for students requiring an alternative secondary school environment to complete their high school credits and wanting a college experience. Students are enrolled in secondary and college courses but attend these classes at the college.

» Dual Credit

An opportunity to earn a college and secondary credit at the same time. Students receive college-level instruction aligned with the college curriculum, with the support of a secondary teacher. The dual credit program is often delivered at the same time and location as a secondary course. However, certain opportunities offer an on-site experience in a college lab. This program is available to Grade 12 students approaching graduation.

 **School College Work Initiative/School Within a College/Dual Credit**



Secondary Programming

Enhanced Programs

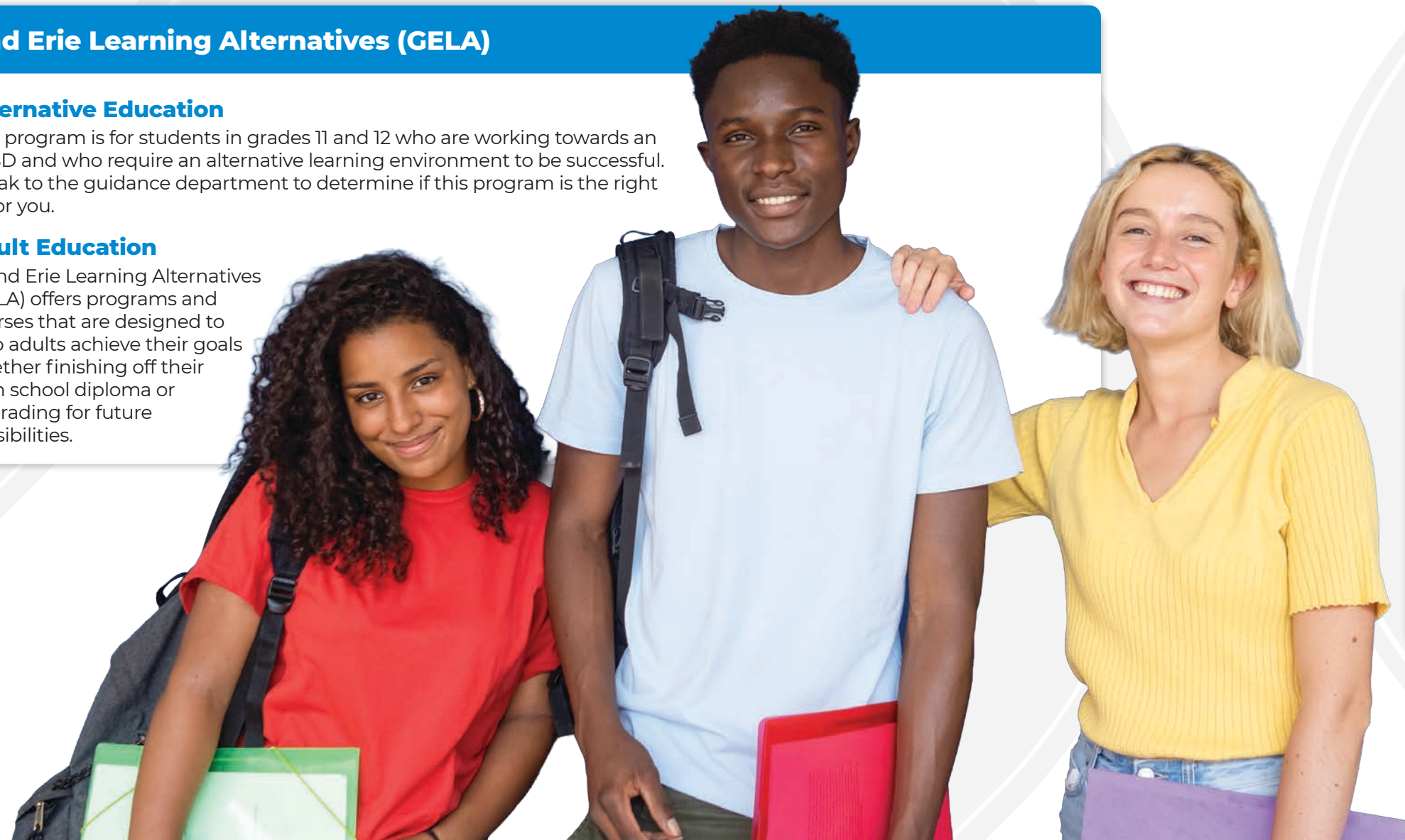
Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA)

» Alternative Education

This program is for students in grades 11 and 12 who are working towards an OSSD and who require an alternative learning environment to be successful. Speak to the guidance department to determine if this program is the right fit for you.

» Adult Education

Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA) offers programs and courses that are designed to help adults achieve their goals whether finishing off their high school diploma or upgrading for future possibilities.



Well-Being Supports

Supporting well-being through transitions in secondary and post-secondary education involves being mindful of both the challenges and opportunities that come with change. These transitions can bring new environments, responsibilities, and expectations, which can affect our mental and emotional health.

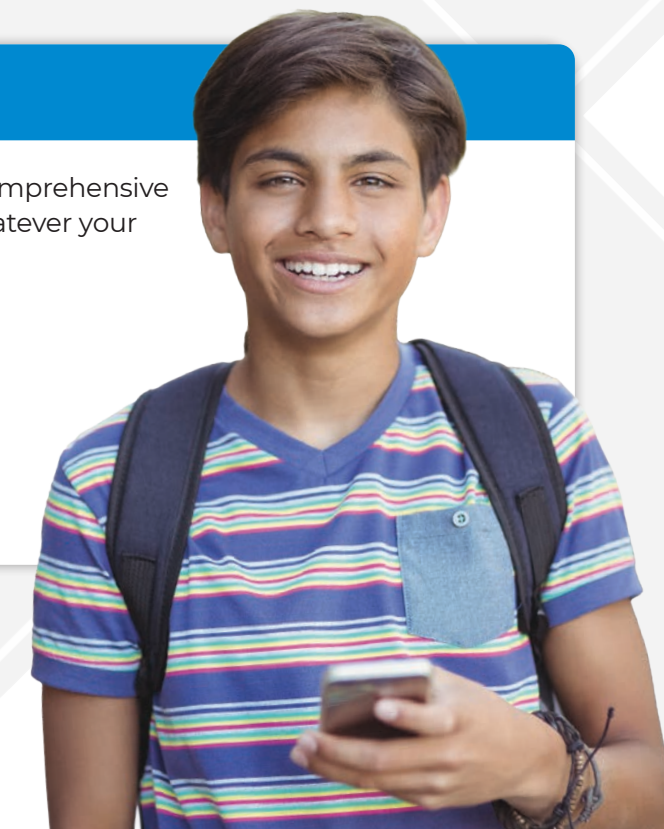
To navigate your pathway successfully, it is important to focus on building strong support systems, maintaining a balanced routine, and staying connected to your sense of purpose and identity. It's important to reflect on what helps you feel grounded—whether that's through friendships, hobbies, or self-care practices—and to seek out resources that promote resilience and growth.

Good mental health is essential to our overall well-being. When we have positive mental health, we experience a sense of purpose, belonging, and community. We are better equipped to manage everyday stresses and challenges, and we can thrive both academically and personally.

Supportive Mental Health and Well-Being Resources

The following resources come from **School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO)**, a comprehensive online resource for students, parents/caregivers, educators and professionals. Whatever your role, there are resources to support you in your well-being.

- » **No Problem Too Big or Too Small**
- » **Reaching Out**
- » **Self-Care 101**
- » **Know Yourself - My Mental Health Cues Activity**
- » **Know Yourself - Finding My Circle of Support Activity**
- » **My Circle of Support**



Funding Your Post-Secondary Pathway

While the cost of post-secondary education can feel daunting, it's important to know that there are numerous resources, planning tools, and financial support options available to help you manage and prepare for these expenses. Consider one or all of the following to financially prepare for post-secondary.

myBlueprint Resources

🔗 Money and Budgets – myBlueprint.ca

A video introducing the money section and the Budgets tool.

🔗 Financial Literacy Student Guide – myBlueprint.ca

A series of activities designed to help students grasp key aspects of financial literacy, including budgeting, saving, borrowing, overcoming financial barriers, and setting goals. The ultimate goal is for students to apply this knowledge and these skills to create a detailed financial plan and presentation for their first year after graduation.

» Scholarships

The myBlueprint scholarships are available to grade 12 students to apply, to support funding their post-secondary education.

Scholarships, Bursaries and Grand Erie Supports

🔗 Grand Erie – Scholarships

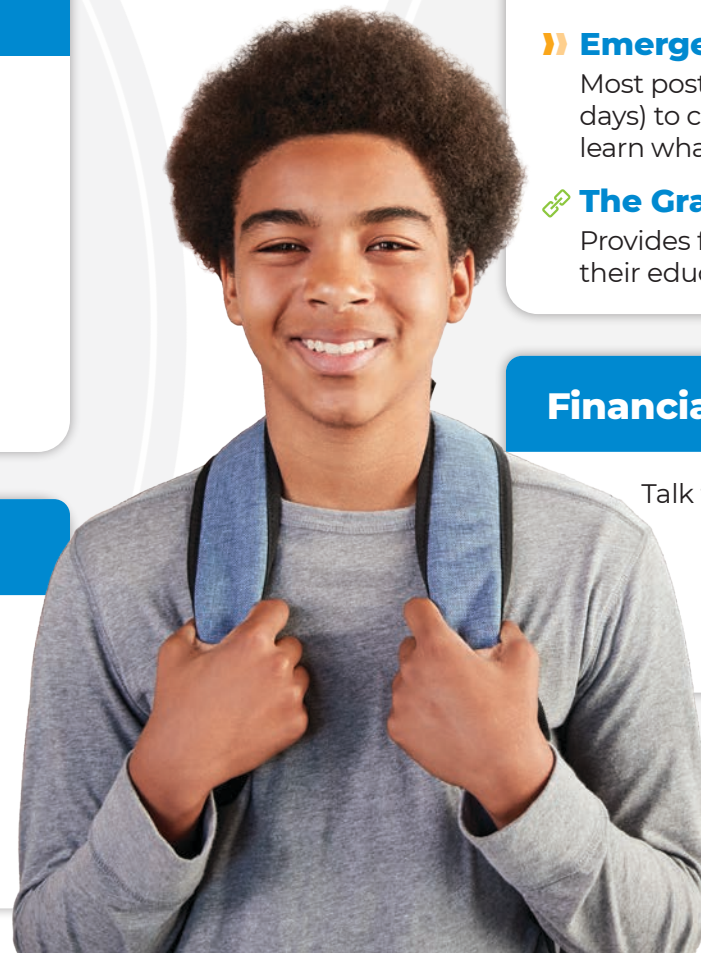
Check out available scholarships on the Grand Erie website.

» Guidance Counsellors

Speak to the Guidance department at your school to learn about school specific opportunities.

» Scholarship Databases

Explore more scholar opportunities through databases such as 🔗 [ScholarshipsCanada](#) and 🔗 [Student Awards](#)



Government Loans and Bursaries

🔗 OSAP: Ontario Student Assistance Program

A financial aid program that can help you pay for college or university.

🔗 Ontario Learn and Stay Grant

Provides funding for students studying in priority postsecondary programs in underserved and growing communities in Northern, Southwestern and Eastern Ontario. Explore the requirements and what is covered under this grant.

» Financial Aid from Schools

Check with a college or university to see what financial aid programs they offer.

» Emergency Loans

Most post-secondary institutions also offer emergency loans. For example, you could be eligible for a short-term loan (90 days) to cover tuition, if you're waiting for OSAP to arrive. Start with your post-secondary institution's financial aid office to learn what is available

🔗 The Grand River Post Secondary Education Office (GRPSEO)

Provides financial education assistance for indigenous students with Grand River Territory lineage looking to continue their education at a post-secondary institution. Contact GRPSEO for requirements.

Financial Institutions

Talk to your financial institution for more information.

- » Registered Education Savings Plans
- » Line of Credit
- » Loans
- » Investment(s)

Self-Funded

Save money from a summer job or job you hold throughout the year to help pay for your education.

Timelines for Post-Secondary Planning

This month-by-month timeline is designed to guide Grade 12 students through the key steps of post-secondary planning. It highlights important tasks and deadlines to help you stay organized and make informed decisions about your future.

Community Involvement hours are a graduation requirement and should be submitted as soon as they are completed. Consider submitting each month to keep track of your earned hours.

September

- » Ensure you have all required courses for graduation and your planned programs and pathways
- » Attend Ontario Universities info sessions and regional fairs (dates vary)
- » OUAC site opens for university applications
- » Apply for your **Ontario Photo Card**
- » OYAP Participant forms due (Semester I)

October

- » Attend Ontario Colleges info sessions and regional fairs (dates vary-speak to your Guidance department for support)
- » OCAS site opens for college applications

November

- » Seek apprenticeships or work possibilities
- » Visit Universities and Colleges
- » Apply for your **Social Insurance Number (SIN)**
- » Accelerated OYAP application and training agreement due
- » Attend Indigenous University, College, and polytechnics recruiter information sessions hosted by The Aboriginal Post Secondary Information Program (**APSIP**)

December

- » Visit Colleges and Universities
- » Check scholarships/bursaries and awards for specific universities and colleges
- » Explore Grand Erie's Scholarship page for potential scholarships/bursaries
- » Complete **Worker Health and Safety Awareness** modules to understand your rights in the workplace

January

- » Study for exams and prepare for culminating tasks
- » OUAC applications due mid-January (confirm date with Guidance) for equal consideration
- » Verify 6 U/M courses for university or 6 Senior C/U/M courses for colleges
- » Check scholarships/bursaries and awards for specific universities and colleges
- » Explore **Grand Erie's Scholarship page** for potential scholarships/bursaries

February

- » OCAS applications early February (confirm date with Guidance) for equal consideration
- » OYAP Participant forms due (Semester II)
- » Complete course selection, if needed for a Grade 12+ year
- » Apply for your **Ontario Photo Card**

March

- » Complete any supplementary applications
- » Explore **Grand Erie's Scholarship page** for potential scholarships/bursaries; Speak to your Guidance department for school specific scholarships/bursaries or awards
- » Visit colleges and universities over March break

April

- » Explore **Grand Erie's Scholarship page** for potential scholarships/bursaries
- » Visit colleges and universities
- » Open a bank account
- » Apply for your **Social Insurance Number (SIN)**

May and June

- » Verify all graduation requirements are met and submitted to Guidance
- » Accept offers - verify specific timelines
- » Apply for OSAP
- » Apply for residence or look for housing possibilities
- » Complete **Worker Health and Safety Awareness modules** to understand your rights in the workplace



Community Living Timeline

Transitioning to adult services is a process that takes time and requires planning. When you turn 18, children services will end, and new adult services may begin. A successful transition begins as early as possible to prepare you for adulthood. The following timeline shows important transition periods organized by age.

Timelines

High School Entry

- » Request a psychological assessment that includes cognitive and adaptive function scores for Developmental Services Ontario (DSO).
- » Update your transition plan and Individual Education Plan (IEP) with your school team

Age 16

- » Contact DSO for short intake.
- » Mail the requested information to your DSO, including your psychological assessment.
- » Your DSO will mail you a letter to confirm if you are eligible for adult developmental services at 18.
- » Investigate day programs and/or post secondary options with your school team.

Age 17.5

- » Complete your Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) application (separate from DSO).
- » Attend your ODSP eligibility interview. Your doctor will need to complete an eligibility package if you don't have your DSO letter that confirms that you are eligible to receive adult developmental services at 18.

Age 18

- » If you are eligible, your monthly ODSP will begin.

Timelines

Age 18+

If your application has been started:

- » An appointment will be set up with a DSO assessor to complete the application package.
- » Your DSO assessor will send you an Assessor Summary Report (ASR).

Age 18-21

- » Graduation from high school between 18 and the year you turn 21.
- » Inform your DSO and ODSP of your graduation date six months prior.

Updating Information

Keeping your local Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) up to date is important. Contact your local DSO if you are planning to move or change your phone number.

More information:

DSO Hamilton-Niagara. 140 King Street East, Suite 4, Hamilton, On. L8N 1B2. 1-877-376-4674. (1-877-DSO-HNR4)

- » DSO Hamilton-Niagara supports Brant, Brantford, Haldimand, Niagara, Norfolk and Hamilton.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do we switch our child/student's level/ pathway now that their post secondary decision has changed?

Answer: Speak to the Guidance Department at your Secondary School. They will guide you through which course and opportunities are available for navigating a new post-secondary pathway.

What resources and support systems are available at colleges and universities to help our child succeed academically and personally?

Answer: Each post-secondary institution offers a variety of supports including Accessibility Departments, Student Unions, Registrars and Financial Aid offices. Explore your future post-secondary institution website for more information. More details of supports will be listed in your program offer in the Spring.

What is the difference between taking Applied, Academic, College, Mixed, Open, University?

Answer: Explore the course descriptions in [Secondary school courses and related procedures | Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2024 | ontario.ca](#)

What are the benefits of taking a blend of in-person and eLearning (online) courses?

Answer: Students in eLearning and in-person courses develop: time management, self-discipline, collaboration, and independent learning skills. Speak to your guidance counsellor for further information.

What courses keep the most doors open?

Answer: Taking a mixture of **M** (University/College), **O** (Open) and **U** (University) courses keeps the college, university and workplace pathways open. Explore program requirements at colleges and universities to determine pre-requisite expectations.

I have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). How does that transfer to post-secondary?

Answer: Upon acceptance to your post-secondary school institution, contact the accessibility department at the post-secondary institution.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I am undecided on which pathway to take. Could I apply to both college and university programs?

Answer: Yes, you can apply to both college and university programs. However, there is a fee associated with applying to post-secondary institutions. Speak to your guidance counsellor for more information.

Can I apply for OSAP before knowing if I am receiving a bursary or scholarship as I am not declaring it as other income?

Answer: Yes, you can apply for OSAP before knowing whether you'll receive a bursary or scholarship.





Grand Erie District School Board

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