

College Connections

College-connection programs involve partnerships between school boards and colleges designed to motivate students by raising their awareness of potential college destinations. These programs:

- may involve delivering selected secondary school courses on the college campus;
- may involve students' auditing or enrolling in college-level courses;
- often involve the sharing of secondary school and college staff and facilities.

Resources available to support college-connection programs include the following:

- an implementation guide
- information brochures and a promotional DVD for students and parents
- student resources, such as course outlines
- teacher resources, such as project binders

Success for Targeted Groups of Students

Programs for targeted groups serve specific student populations, such as Aboriginal students, homeless youth, youth from low-income backgrounds, and students in English-as-a-second-language (ESL) programs, whose difficulties succeeding in the traditional school environment relate to particular social or cultural needs. These programs:

- address the identified needs of the target population;
- may involve adjustments in school format and structure, such as program location, provision of support staff, alternative curriculum focus, or adaptive timetabling.

Resources available to support programs for students with particular social or cultural needs include the following:

- an implementation guide
- student resources, such as informational brochures and various resources on CD
- teacher resources, such as instructional units.

Testimonials from students who participated in ministry-funded Student Success / Learning to 18 pilot projects across Ontario:

"I'm passing everything this term ... unlike last semester when I was failing everything ..."

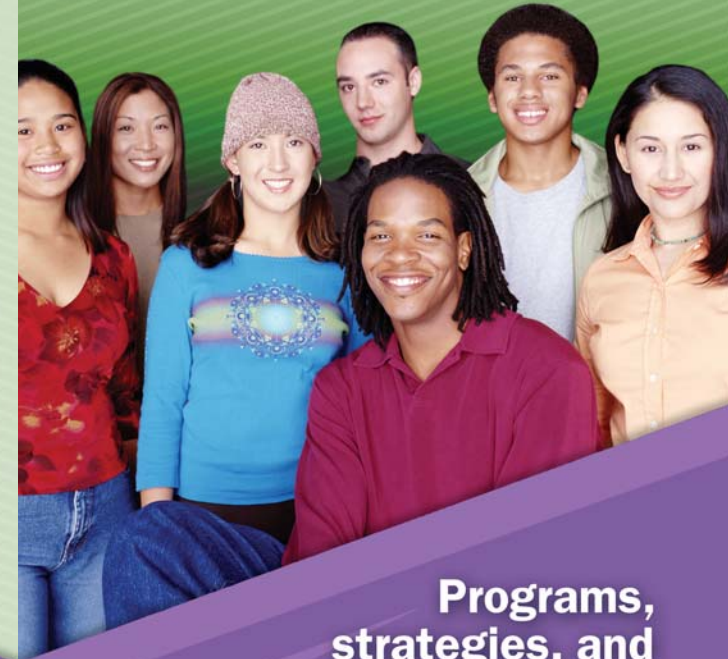
"This experience ... has changed my life."

"This program would not be half as successful if it was ... inside a school."

"I enjoyed ... getting a taste of different jobs before making a decision to go to college."

"I've wanted a chance, and it finally came to me."

Strategies for **student success**



**Programs,
strategies, and
resources to help students
succeed in Grades 7–12**

For more information:

Call 416-325-2929 or 1-800-387-5514,
or visit the Ministry of Education website, at
www.edu.gov.on.ca

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 Ontario

In 2005, the Ministry of Education funded 105 pilot projects, in schools across Ontario, to design and implement innovative programs aimed at helping all students achieve their potential and succeed in secondary school. As part of the ministry's Student Success and Learning to 18 initiatives, the programs focus on six key areas:

- Credit recovery
- Alternative education
- Student success in Grades 9 and 10
- Program pathways to apprenticeship and the workplace
- College connections
- Success for targeted groups of students

Programs such as these have had an impact in reducing the drop-out rate, keeping young people in school, increasing graduation rates, and encouraging youth who have recently left school to return and complete their diploma requirements. The teams involved in the pilot projects have developed – and continue to develop – a variety of tools and resources to support the efforts of teachers and administrators across the province in developing or refining similar programs in their own schools. These supports include “how-to” guides for developing and implementing programs and strategies; descriptions of best practices; supports for students, teachers, and parents; and various multimedia resources and web links.

Detailed descriptions of the pilot programs, along with the resulting resource collections, are being made available on the ministry website, at www.edu.gov.on.ca.

Credit Recovery

Credit-recovery programs help students earn the credits they have previously failed to achieve, as they develop the learning skills needed for academic success. Provincial credit-recovery class codes have now been introduced to support greater timetabling flexibility. These programs:

- focus on improving learning skills;
- may target particular curriculum expectations that students have failed to achieve;
- may include behavioural or other supports;
- may involve the recovery of more than one credit;
- can involve both independent and group learning;
- may be combined with remedial programs, and may accommodate continuous intake.

Resources available to support credit-recovery programs include the following:

- an implementation guide
- online learning modules for students, and student workbooks
- teacher handbooks/resources
- sample completion contracts
- information brochures for parents and staff

Alternative Education

Alternative education programs are designed to re-engage students who have had difficulty succeeding in a traditional classroom or school environment, including students who are returning to school after having dropped out. These programs:

- use innovative approaches to help students earn the credits they need to graduate;
- often provide social or emotional support;
- may provide timetabling flexibility to accommodate student employment and/or continuous intake;
- may involve online learning, modularized course delivery, and cooperative education;
- typically involve strong connections to the workplace and/or community agencies;
- may operate as a “school within a school” or may be located off-site, in a mall, office, or other facility.

Resources available to support alternative education programs include the following:

- an implementation guide
- student resources, such as curriculum packages
- teacher resources, such as intake forms and student tracking forms
- a DVD on program development

Student Success in Grades 9 and 10

Programs and strategies aimed at supporting students who are struggling in the critical first two years of secondary school are essential for credit accumulation and student success in the senior grades. These programs and strategies:

- help increase students' sense of engagement with school, as well as their level of participation;
- provide varied supports and interventions that meet the needs of the individual student;

- may involve adjustments to enable interdisciplinary teaching and blocking of student timetables;
- involve close monitoring of student attendance and participation;
- may involve specialized support from district school board personnel.

Resources available to support programs for students in Grades 9 and 10 include the following:

- an implementation guide
- student resources, such as curriculum packages
- teacher resources, including course-of-study binders

Program Pathways to Apprenticeship and the Workplace

Program pathways to apprenticeship and the workplace involve the provision of a combination of courses and learning experiences that will best prepare students for their particular workplace destinations and enable them to obtain their graduation diplomas. Program pathways:

- typically involve learning outside the school, in the workplace, a training centre, or a community college;
- may lead to involvement in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP);
- can lead to non-apprenticed workplace destinations in fields such as travel and tourism, agriculture, food processing, or retailing;
- may lead to recognized industry certification, such as Smart Serve in the tourism industry.

Resources available to support program pathways include the following:

- teacher resources, such as tracking sheets and support manuals
- a Pathways Program DVD
- promotional videos for use with students and parents
- student resources, such as course modules
- links to online resources