OVERVIEW FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

FOCUSING DIRECTION

CULTIVATING COLLABORATIVE CULTURES

SECONDARY
PATHWAY
PLANNING
SECURING DEEPENING
ACCOUNTABILITY

CULTIVATING
COLLABORATIVE
CULTURES

DEEPENING
LEARNING

FOCUSING OUR DIRECTION

for intentional transition planning to secondary school

Education directly influences students' life chances and outcomes.

-Ontario Ministry Of Education





"WHEN STUDENTS ARE
EMPOWERED TO DESIGN AND
PLAN THEIR OWN LIVES, THEY
ARE ENGAGED, THEY ACHIEVE
AND THEY FIND THEMSELVES
APPLYING THEIR LEARNING
IN THEIR DAILY LIVES."

-Creating Pathways to Success, 2013

"What students believe about themselves and their opportunities... significantly influence the choices students make and the degree to which they achieve their goals."

—Creating Pathways to Success, 2013

"75% of all teens say their parents influence the decisions they make."

-Teens Can Be Resilient in High School, 2016

"...every student has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of ancestry, culture, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, physical and intellectual ability, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or other factors."

—Achieving Excellence, 2014

CHOOSING MySUCESSI

- · When students are at the centre of their own learning, they view themselves as architects of their own lives.
- All students are encouraged to balance personal dreams with realistic assessment of skills, interests and values in choosing future programs.
- · Self-knowledge is key to this decision making process.
- Students need ongoing support to learn how to make informed, responsible and appropriate choices that will help them progress successfully through secondary school and beyond.
- Students need program pathways that are clearly aligned with their strengths and learning styles.
- By making careful and evidence-informed choices, students will see their future program as viable and credible, enabling them to achieve educational goals that align with their life goals.
- A successful pathway plan provides focus, holds out the prospect of success, develops workplace-specific skills and gives students hope for their future.

Adapted from Building Pathways to Success 7-12, 2003 Adapted from Creating Pathways to Success, 2013



CORE STUDENT SUCCESS BELIEFS

All students can be successful Success comes in many forms There are many pathways to success

THE WHAT

- Ensure universal messaging for "Choosing My Success" to all stakeholders
- Ensure grade 9 course selection is evidence-informed following guided and thoughtful considerations that are strategically mapped out in steps
- Ensure opportunities for student to design personal pathway goals for secondary and beyond

• Create multiple opportunities for all stakeholders to develop a common understanding of "Choosing My Success"

 Create pathway counselling experiences that are grounded in the philosophy that all students can be successful

CULTIVATING
COLLABORATIVE
CULTURES

 Create cultures and experiences that provide opportunities for questioning and revision within the decision-making process

SECONDARY TRANSITION PLANNING

SECURING ACCOUNTABILITY

FOCUSING

DIRECTION

DEEPENING LEARNING

- Support all stakeholders with a variety of resources to deepen their understanding of connections between student success and trajectory outcomes when selecting grade 9 courses
- Support further learning on the need to interrupt unintentional consequences of levels of study selections for equitable outcomes
- Support evidence-informed pathway planning with individualized student data for all

- Provide clear timelines for all stakeholders that ensure "Choosing My Success" outcomes are met
 - Provide clear and intentional leadership actions for all administrators and teachers in pathway counselling roles
 - Provide multiple checkpoints in the course selection process that reflect a commitment to student success and achievement in secondary school

OUR DDSB COMMITMENT

Ensuring all Grade 8 students transitioning to Grade 9 will make thoughtful, evidence-informed pathway choices for their personal success. In the DDSB, we have the ability to change a student's trajectory and pathway for life success and we will.

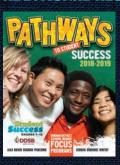
-Lisa Millar, Director of Education

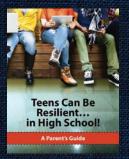


WHERE TO GO TO NEXT

Ensuring all students reach their potential in high school requires deep learning and focused direction setting between families and schools. The DDSB Choosing My Success transitions guide has detailed and helpful information about transitioning to high school that Grade 8 students and families can use to support this important planning.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES





EDUCATION AND CAREER-LIFE Planning Process THE HOW



A pathway is your individual journey that includes opportunities and experiences in your school, at your home and in your community. The four step inquiry process is ongoing and cyclical. It helps you to establish your own personal goals and individualized pathway for your future. As you navigate your pathway, you will regularly return to the four questions, equipped with a greater knowledge of yourself and your opportunities and a growing understanding of how they can successfully shape your future.

Who am 1?

- What are my strengths and accomplishments?
- What is my learning style?
- What factors shape me?

What are my opportunities?

What opportunities are available to develop my skills at home, school and in the community?

What is my plan for achieving my goals?

- What is my plan?
- What are the resources I need to implement my plan?

Who do I want to become?

- Reflect on opportunities explored.
- What are my career/life goals?

*Remember to actively use Career Cruising to explore and map your journey.

Who am I?

What is my plan for achieving my goals?

EDUCATION AND CAREER/ LIFE PLANNING

What are my opportunities?

Who do I want to become? Creating Pathways for Success puts students at the centre of their own learning, viewing them as the architects of their own lives.

-Creating Pathways to Success, page 7

