

It is important to remember that...

- Your teacher is your advocate and as such will be able to "open doors" that you might not be able to on your own.
- Co-op and Work Experience is about learning and as such there are school and curriculum expectations that supersede any expectations of the workplace.
- Experiential Learning could lead to part-time, seasonal and/or permanent employment.
- Your level of involvement at your placement will be dependent upon the initiative and commitment to learn that you demonstrate.
- Experiencing something without any self-reflection is a lost opportunity. That is why there is a classroom component to all Experiential Learning opportunities.
- The benefits of the experience and learning might not be realized or appreciated until later on in your educational journey.

Co-op...Experience it!

Experiential Learning Programming:

- Cooperative Education Programs
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
- School-Work Transition Programs
- International Cooperative Education (ICE) Program
- High Performance Athlete (HPA) Program
- Personalized Alternative Education Programs
- Summer School Co-op Programs
- SHSM Programming

For more information about Experiential Learning opportunities, see the Community-Based Education Head, or Guidance/Career Education Head, or Personalized Alternative Education Head in your school.

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
(select Schools, Community Based Education)



**Non-Paid
or
Paid
Co-op**

**Important
Considerations**

Non-Paid Co-op or Paid Co-op?



Whether you are considering a Non-Paid or Paid Co-op...

- The course program expectations are the same.
- The work you do at your placement must be directly linked to the course credit you are earning.
- Your teacher or guidance counsellor will be able to assist you in selecting the best match.

Experiential Learning such as Co-op and/or Work Experience is a great way to...

- Learn, first-hand, about what you like and/or don't like to do.
- See and try different career opportunities.
- Take your learning outside of the traditional classroom and apply it in the real world.

Here are some things you need to consider before you decide which program option is the best fit for you >>>

Non-Paid Co-op

If you are interested in exploring a future career path and would like to be placed in a work environment that matches or exceeds your current skill level then this may be the option for you.

Benefits:

- helps you clarify career goals;
- provides easy transitions into specialized programs such as the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program;
- allows for greater learning opportunities;
- reduces "conflict of interest" between placement supervisor, school and you, as no money is changing hands;
- structures are in place for teacher intervention and advocacy;
- opportunities for you to participate in job shadowing/job twinning experiences;
- insurance coverage is provided under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act by the Ministry of Education;
- increased networking opportunities; and
- greater flexibility in scheduling and programming.

Considerations:

- financial assistance is available on an "as needs" basis, to offset your travel and personal protective equipment (PPE), as per Board policy; and
- in some cases, you may receive an honorarium from the placement or an opportunity to transition into a paid experience (OYAP).

Paid Co-op

If you are interested in being placed in a work environment at your current skill level and are interested in earning minimum wage then this may be an option for you.

Benefits:

- helps you meet any financial needs you might have;
- helps you stay in school, earn credits and support yourself at the same time;
- provides an opportunity to get into the workforce and re-assess your educational plan; and/or
- as part of the OYAP program, once you become a signed apprentice, you are eligible to a salary and the financial incentives available to apprenticeships.

Considerations:

- selection of placements is limited to your current skills and abilities;
- placements tend to be service oriented, basic entry level positions and salaries are minimum wage;
- you might be required to assume responsibility for securing the placement;
- you will need to get your placement pre-approved by your teacher/monitor;
- there will be increased expectations from the placement supervisor as they are paying you;
- there is the potential for conflict of interest;
- learning opportunities may be limited;
- your employer (placement supervisor) must cover your WSIB insurance coverage;
- there is no financial assistance for transportation or personal protective equipment (PPE);
- limited opportunities for teacher intervention;
- you can be fired, putting your credits in jeopardy; and
- there may be variations between your work schedule and the hours that will be eligible for credit.