



Exploring Opportunities Program

Alexander Mackenzie High School, (905) 884-0554
Huron Heights Secondary School, (905) 895-2384
Markham District High School, (905) 294-1886
Richmond Green Secondary School, (905) 780-7858
Sutton District High School, (905) 722-3281
Thornlea Secondary School, (905) 889-9696

Dear Principal / Vice-Principal / Guidance Counsellor,

This page explains the board-wide specialty “high skills” program, ***Exploring Opportunities Program***.

The *Exploring Opportunities Program* is a board-wide specialty “high skills” program for students who learn best through applied learning. The program will help students accumulate credits and work experience through a focus on the skilled trades. This program would benefit students interested in participating in an Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) in future years. Students will complete in-school courses embedded with work experience and essential skills training. Individualized programs will be developed for students working toward the completion of their OSSD. The number of credits will depend on the date of enrolment, individual student needs (credit or otherwise) and the motivation of the student.

The program will be delivered at various schools across the region, and enrollment is limited to 16-20 students per program. There will be continuous intake for this program.

If you have a student(s) that displays an aptitude for the skilled trades, please complete the attached vetting form, and provide a copy of the student’s credit counselling summary, attendance records, and I.E.P. (if applicable). The student must complete the attached application package, and attend a candidate selection day that will consist of an aptitude test and a verbal interview.

Selection Criteria

If your student learns better by hands-on learning opportunities and meets the following criteria, he or she may be eligible to participate in this unique experience.

- ✓ 16 years of age or older;
- ✓ registered in a YRDSB secondary school or planning to re-enter school;
- ✓ a demonstrated aptitude and interest in a skilled trade career (for example, aptitude for applied technologies, problem solving, good hand/eye coordination, and facility with workplace concepts in math & science);
- ✓ a demonstrated interest in one of the three industry sectors (Manufacturing, Construction or Transportation);
- ✓ working towards the completion of his/her OSSD;
- ✓ enrolled in a school that does not have the trade specific technology; and
- ✓ registers and applies through a standardized application available through the school guidance department.

Courses / Curriculum

The following programs will run out of the following schools. Students interested in registering for these programs are to use these holding codes:

Manufacturing

- **Huron Heights Secondary School** (holding codes SCE3X5, SCE4X5)
Phone # 905-895-2384

Construction

- **Richmond Green Secondary School** (holding codes SCE3X1, SCE4X1)
Phone # 905-780-7858
- **Markham District High School** (holding codes SCE3X2, SCE4X2)
Phone # 905-294-1886

Transportation

- **Alexander Mackenzie High School** (holding codes SCE3X6, SCE4X6)
Phone # 905-884-0554
- **Sutton District High School** (holding codes SCE3X3, SCE4X3)
Phone # 905-722-3281
- **Thornlea Secondary School** (holding codes SCE3X7, SCE4X7)
Phone # 905-889-9696

Health and Wellness

- **Sutton District High School** (holding codes SCE3X4, SCE4X4)
Phone # 905-722-3281

The courses and number of credits offered depend on the date of enrollment of the student, the student's individual needs (credit or otherwise) and the student's motivation.

Course Delivery

The course delivery will include a variety of applied learning methods including:

- On-line learning components
- Independent learning
- Additional Certification Programs (e.g. WHMIS, Fall Arrest Training, First Aid, Proton Training, Service Excellence, Drive Clean, etc.)
- Problem-based learning
- Job shadow/job twinning
- Field trips
- Workshops, Guest Speakers
- Work experience in a variety of trade related occupations
- Cooperative Education Programming

Timetable / Courses Offered

- ❑ Timetable and course offerings will be determined by the host school
- ❑ Courses may include:
 - GLD20/GLD40 - Discovering the Workplace / Navigating the Workplace
 - Technology Course, Grade 11 or 12 - appropriate to the trade sector chosen
 - Technology Co-op - Grade 11 or 12
 - Independent Learning Course or On-Line Course - any grade or subject required

Costs

- ❑ The student is responsible for transportation costs to and from the host school and to and from the Co-op placement.
- ❑ Financial assistance may be provided to students in need.

Steps to the Application Process

1. Recommendation of student, to the program, by school administration or guidance;
2. Principal / VP / Guidance complete Candidate Vetting form;
 - To ensure that students accepted into the program are both well suited to the program, and have a high probability of successfully completing the program, please complete the accompanying Candidate Vetting form.
 - Please consult with the people indicated who know the most about the student's overall reality, and fill in the form, noting any concerns that may put into question the student's ability to successfully participate and complete the program, and also note any perceived strengths of the student (especially as they pertain to this program).
 - Remember that this Candidate Vetting form is only one of several important parts of the application process, which also includes a Student Application, Teacher Reference, participation in a Candidate Selection Day, and parental contact. As such, please freely express your professional concerns.
 - Please make sure to attach a copy of the student's credit counselling summary, attendance records and I.E.P.(if applicable).
3. Complete the **Application for Student Transfer from One York Region School to Another**, if applicable;
4. Student completes application package (refer to checklist to ensure that all forms/submissions are complete);
5. Student returns complete application package to the Guidance Department at his/her school; Guidance completes the application package by adding the required documentation specified in the Administrator's package;
6. The Guidance Department contacts the Exploring Opportunities teacher at the host school to schedule a student interview (parents welcome); and
7. Student brings completed application package to the interview.
8. Upon acceptance into the program the student(s) transfer to the host school. The student(s) still retain the rights and privileges to attend functions at their home school, including the option for graduation if applicable.