



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 Parent,

The York Region District School Board is **pleased to offer your son or daughter** the opportunity to apply for the ***Exploring Opportunities Program***.

Program

The *Exploring Opportunities Program* is a board-wide specialty “high skills” program for students looking for an alternate approach to school and learning, that focuses on learning opportunities in the skilled trades. This program is intended to benefit students interested in participating in an Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) in the future, with an emphasis on one of four trade sectors: Manufacturing, Construction, Service or Transportation.

Offered at a variety of schools across the region, students complete in-school courses embedded with work experience and essential skills training. A readiness interview will be conducted. Enrollment is limited to 16-20 students per program. There will be continuous intake for this program.

Selection Criteria

If your son or daughter 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 four industry sectors (Manufacturing, Construction, Service, 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 completes Candidate Vetting form;
3. Student completes Application Package (**please assist your son/daughter in the completion of this package** - refer to checklist to ensure that all forms/submissions are complete);
4. Student returns complete application package to the Guidance Department at his/her school;
5. 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.

Questions?

If you require any further information, please contact the Guidance Department in your son or daughter's host school.

Your Exploring Opportunities Teacher