

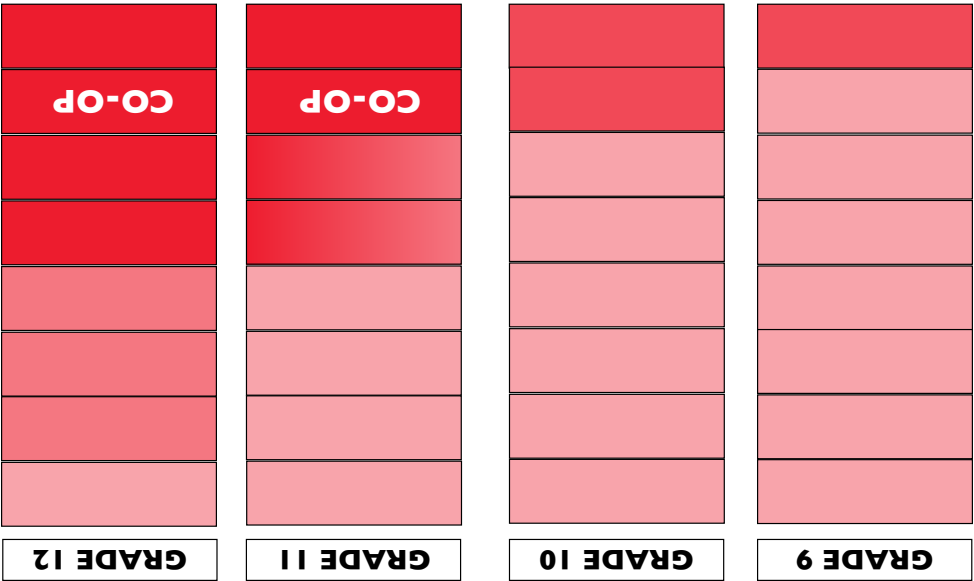
Compulsory Credits
18 Specific courses are mandated by the Ministry of Education for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)



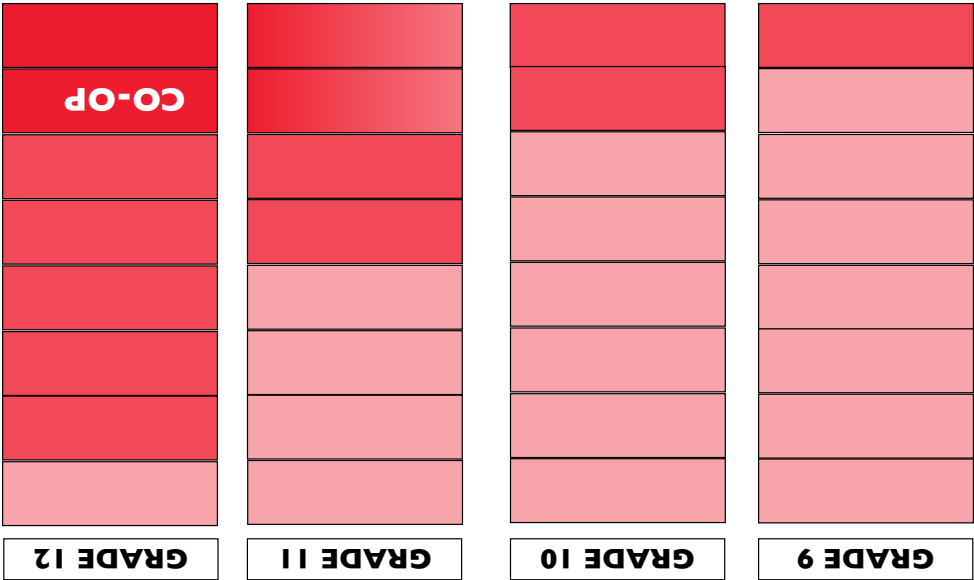
Optional Credits
12 additional optional courses are also required for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)



Cooperative Education Credits



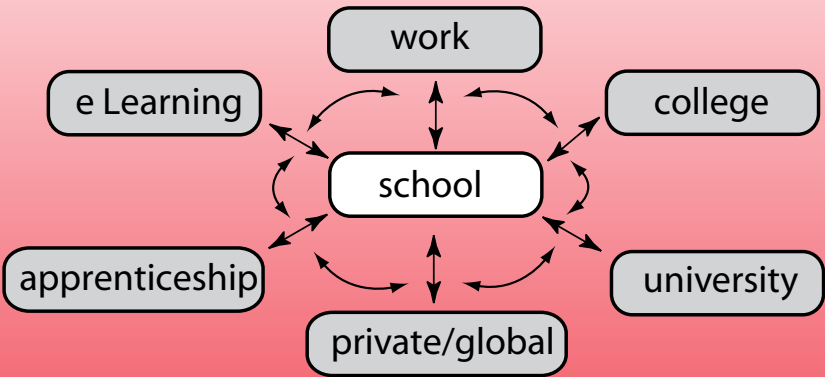
DESTINATIONS: Apprenticeship / Workplace



DESTINATIONS: University / College



PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Transition Years

Curriculum & Instructional Services



path-

to



opportunity.

School-Work Transitions Experiential Learning Opportunities


Pathways to Opportunity is a package of career choice information: The focus of this School-Work Transition information package is to ensure that students, parents and teachers are well informed about available educational opportunities.

Job Shadowing: one-on-one *observation* of a worker at a place of employment

Job Twinning: one-on-one *observation* of a cooperative education student at his or her placement

Work Experience / Virtual Work Experience: a planned learning opportunity, within a credit course, that provides short term work experiences, 1-4 weeks in duration

Cooperative Education: a planned learning experience, for which credits are earned, that integrates classroom theory with practical learning experiences in the workplace

Target Audiences	Parents	Elementary Students	Secondary Students	Teachers / Administration	Community
Awareness Strategies 	Email School Bulletins / Articles / Newsletters www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca Parent Councils Parent Night Displays	Career Fairs / Skilled Trade Fairs Mentors / Guest Speakers / Videos / Industry Tours www.class2careers.com YRDSB brochures / posters: Job Shadowing / Job Twinning Work Experience Co-op Experiential Learning Programs Pathways OYAP ICE School web sites Skills Canada-Elementary Day Transition Programs: use Co-op students from the community schools • Job Shadowing / Job Twinning Opportunities Promoting Skilled Trades and Technologies Grade 7 Initiative	Career Fairs / Skilled Trade Fairs School Calendars Guidance / Career Studies Class Visits - Gr. 10 www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca Mentors / Guest Speakers / Videos / Industry Tours www.class2careers.com School web sites YRDSB brochures / posters: Job Shadowing / Job Twinning Work Experience Co-op Experiential Learning Programs Pathways OYAP ICE Specialized Programs Skills Canada Secondary Day Transition Programs: • “Take Our Kids to Work” • Job Shadowing • Work Experience • Co-op Programs	Regional and school PD Curriculum Heads Associations Choices Into Action / School Plan Links to resources: www.bww.edu.on.ca www.tww.edu.on.ca www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca Cooperative Education monitoring visits Employer Appreciation Events “Take Your Teacher to Work” Events YRDSB brochures / posters: Job Shadowing / Job Twinning Work Experience Co-op Experiential Learning Programs Pathways OYAP ICE Additional Certification Programs	School Advisory Committees The Learning Partnership York South Simcoe Training and Adjustment Board Chambers of Commerce Rotary Clubs Boards of Trade YRDSB Communications and Public Affairs www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca News Articles Jump Start- Co-op Newsletter Employer Appreciation Events Additional Certification Programs

Tips for Parents and Students

Students

Know Yourself:

Take time to identify your skills, interests, strengths, and make time for the activities that you love to do.

- Try some of the interest inventories on the web.
- Learn about the skills that employers are seeking in today's job market.

What would you like to try?

- Don't focus too much on "what you want to be".
- Use your time in high school to explore a variety of career options.
- Ask family friends and neighbours what they do for a living.
- Check out the career exploration sites on the internet.
- Focus on jobs that match your strengths and passions.

Check out Career Exploration Websites:

- www.careercruising.com
- www.mazemaster.on.ca
- www.jobfutures.ca
- www.skillswork.com
- www.careermatters.tv.o.org
- www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/career

Apply for the Co-op Education Program at your school:

No matter what your post-secondary destination is, the opportunity to explore the world of work during high school will develop new employability skills, and provide potential networks for community service and job opportunities. These experiences may introduce you to the job of your life.

Build your skill sets:

- Employers are seeking new employees that have the following skills: literacy, numeracy, positive attitude, team work, critical thinking skills.
- Enhance these skills through school and work experiences.

Build your portfolio:

Develop a personal portfolio for the workplace, or for college / university applications. Include references from teachers, coaches, employers, and community leaders, and examples of your personal achievements.

Develop your money management skills:

Learn how to manage your allowance or job earnings over time. Put a portion of your earnings aside for long-term savings. Shop for bargains, and only buy when you can afford it.

Focus on the journey:

- Take time to explore and know yourself.
- Get involved in school activities that you enjoy.
- Test your capabilities.
- Discover your strengths and follow your heart.

Parents

Help your teen understand who they are:

- Take time to help your teenager understand what makes him / her tick.
- What are their interests? What are their strengths? What do they enjoy doing during their spare time?
- Praise them on their achievements and help them identify their skill sets.

Honour your teen's decisions:

- Teens should explore a variety of courses and experiences during high school.
- Be open-minded and support them in their decisions.
- Help them investigate opportunities that match their interests, abilities and passions.
- It's better to "try something on for size" now and avoid costly mistakes later.

Help your teen explore a variety of careers:

- Investigate career resources with your teenager.
- Surf the internet career exploration pages.
- Visit a youth employment centre.
- Introduce them to friends, neighbours and business contacts who have jobs that might be of interest.

Encourage your teen to apply for a Co-op Education Program:

Every secondary school in YRDSB offers a variety of Cooperative Education experiences that allow students to try out placements that interest them, while they earn related school credits. They can explore a wide variety of workplaces, develop valuable workplace skills, and showcase their experiences on their résumé and portfolio.

Help your teen develop good work skills:

- Develop maturity, responsibility and a positive attitude in your children.
- Encourage them to do their best on homework assignments, class attendance, and participation in school activities.

Help your teen build a personal portfolio:

Encourage your teens to save examples of their achievements in school, sports, community groups or at work. These resources could play an important role in future job or school interviews.

Provide advice on money management:

Set an example for your teens – allow them to earn money for jobs on the home front. Help them set up a bank account for savings and expenditures. Encourage them to save money for special purchases / events.

Recognize the importance of setting directions for the future by encouraging your teen to:

- Consider long-range planning options.
- Research job opportunities.

Remember – Pathways are changeable and flexible.

As interests, skills and aptitudes develop and mature, there will be many opportunities to re-chart your journey.

Specialized Programs:

School-Work Transition Programs: school and work-based education involving a combination of Job Shadowing / Work Experiences / Cooperative Education Programs

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP): an opportunity for a student to meet diploma requirements while participating in an apprenticeship occupation through Co-op placements and related curriculum

International Cooperative Education Program (ICE): a credit-earning program in Ecuador

Alternate Education Program: programming for at-risk students

Summer Co-op Program: 1 - credit Co-op programs

Essential Skills:

Learning Skills: These generic skills are listed on the student's report card and are seen as essential skills for life: www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/essentialskills

Employability Skills: The Conference Board of Canada outlines the essential employability skills required to be a successful and productive member of the workplace: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca>

- school newsletters / bulletins
- parent council sessions
- classroom resources

- parent information nights
- part of course selection handouts
- to build teacher awareness of programming opportunities in the secondary curriculum

PATHWAY PLANNING: COURSE PROGRESSIONS

Important to know:

- diploma requirements to graduate
- pre-requisites for courses
- admission requirements for post-secondary opportunities
- how to plan for experiential learning opportunities
- how you learn best, your interests and aptitudes
- how best to prepare yourself for school-work

What choices do I need to make?

In Grade 9 & 10 consider:


- course type (academic, applied, locally developed, open)
- compulsory courses
- optional courses
- my interests and aptitudes

In Grade 11 & 12 consider:

- course type (workplace, college, college/university, university, open)
- compulsory courses
- optional courses
- my interests and aptitudes
- required courses for post-secondary destination of choice

There are many Pathways to post-secondary destinations. These Pathways are not fixed, they are directly influenced by a student’s interests and aptitudes and they can be altered to reflect the growth and development of the student.

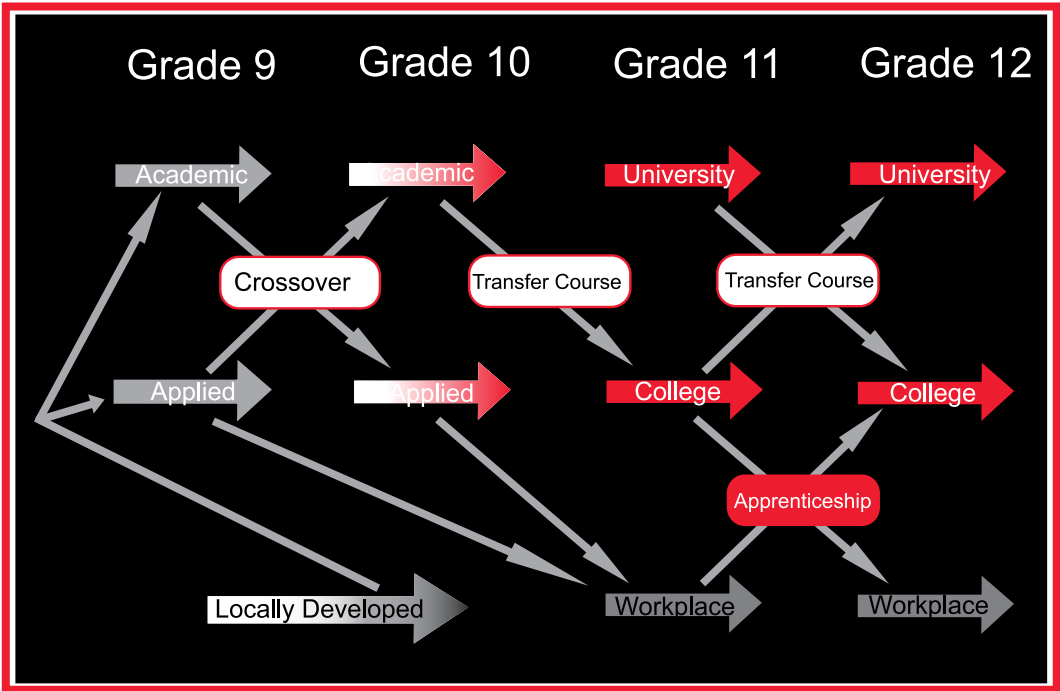
What is important is honest self assessment, your ability to match your interests with your aptitudes.

<p>“Pathways to Opportunity” recognizes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are many Pathways to post-secondary destinations.• These Pathways are not fixed• Pathways are directly influenced by a student’s interests and aptitudes• Parents, students and educators need to focus on the journey, not the destination	<p>In Secondary Schools we model this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing our students with real-life applications as part of their learning• Broadening and intensifying the experiential learning opportunities through curriculum delivery• Developing Pathways that include an opportunity for Job Shadowing / Job Twinning, Work Experience, Cooperative Education Programs and Specialized Programs such as School-Work Transitions, OYAP and International Co-op Programs• Recognizing that depending upon a student’s aptitudes, interests and strengths, some Pathways will require a more sequential approach to successful experiential learning  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enriching the curriculum with guest speakers, industry tours, mentors• Utilizing initiatives such as Character Education, Choices Into Action, TAP and the Annual Education Plan• Building opportunities for additional certification programs	<p>Skills Inventory Activity (Grade 6 to 8):</p> <p>www.careerccc.org/destination2020</p> <p>Future Focus:</p> <p>Occupational Trends in the GTA (booklet from the Conference Board of Canada).</p> <p>To order, fax 416-973-6040.</p> <p>Employability Skills Profile:</p> <p>www.conferenceboard.ca</p> <p>Essential Skills Database:</p> <p>www15.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/English/general/es.asp</p> <p>Employability Skills:</p> <p>www.youth.gc.ca (Select “What employers are looking for”)</p> <p>Work Destinations:</p> <p>HRDC, Workinfontet, and Job Futures: www.workdestinations.ca</p> <p>Strategies-Industry Canada: www.strategis.gc.ca</p> <p>Making Sense of Labour Market Information: www.makingcareersense.org</p> <p>Human Resources Management Cluster: www.hrmanagement.ca</p> <p>Woman in Trades & Technology: www.wittnn.com</p> <p>Careermatters: www.careermatters.tv.org</p> <p>Ministry’s Skills Connect:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aligning the learning skills with the employability skills required in the workplace• Using labour market information about local job markets as well as Canadian trends to build purposeful School-Work Transition Programs	

Pathways to Opportunity

Definition: School-Work is a philosophy of approaching education K-12, that of making a connection between the way we develop skills, to the future roles that individuals will have in life and at work

Need to Know	Things to Consider	Resources
<p>In YRDSB we refer to this philosophy as “Pathways to Opportunity”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">All students are going to work regardless of their post-secondary destinationStudents need time and opportunity to discover their interests and aptitudesStudents need opportunities to reflect about how these interests and aptitudes are aligned with skills and learningStudents need opportunities to discover how these interests, aptitudes, skills and knowledge can be applied in real-life applications	<p>1. The foundations you have built to make a successful transition from school-work</p> <p>2. The culture within your school community that honours all students regardless of their post-secondary destination</p> <p>3. How your school culture defines success for all students</p> <p>In Elementary Schools we model this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Providing our students with real-life applications as part of their learningEnriching the curriculum with guest speakers, mentors, industry tours, career fairsJob Twinning with a secondary Co-op studentIntroducing our students to a broad range of career opportunitiesIntroducing our students to their own personal skills, interests and aptitudesUtilizing initiatives such as Character Education, TAP and the Annual Education PlanSupporting Choices Into Action through the school plan	<p>YRDSB Pathways to Opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Poster6 Pathway ChartsPathways folderPathways Glossary of termsPathways to Opportunity Overview <p>YRDSB Pathways – School-Work Transition “Mission Possible”</p> <p>YRDSB Job Shadowing / Job Twinning Brochure</p> <p>YRDSB Work Experience Brochure</p> <p>YRDSB Cooperative Education Brochure</p> <p>YRDSB Experiential Learning Programs Brochure</p> <p>Community Based Education Head in your local high school</p> <p>Guidance / Career Studies Head in your local high school</p>



Elementary School → Secondary School → Post-Secondary

University College Apprenticeship Workplace

Stats and Facts:



Destinations:

- Between 60%-70% of Ontario’s Grade 9 students do not go on to complete a college diploma or university degree. This means that approximately 6 of every 10 students could end up in the workplace with few workplace skills and minimal certification. They often fall into entry-level jobs with low pay and / or part-time hours.

Workplace Opportunities:

- Employers estimate that 40% of all new hires will be in the skilled trades and technologies.
- The average age of today’s skilled labour force is between 45-55 years of age. Employers are forecasting critical shortages of skilled labour in the next 5 years.
- Skilled trades people earn incomes well above the average.
- There are over 130 skilled trades to explore through the Cooperative Education Program in your high school.
- For students who do not achieve their high school diploma, there are many rewarding jobs as assistants in the skilled trades and technologies.

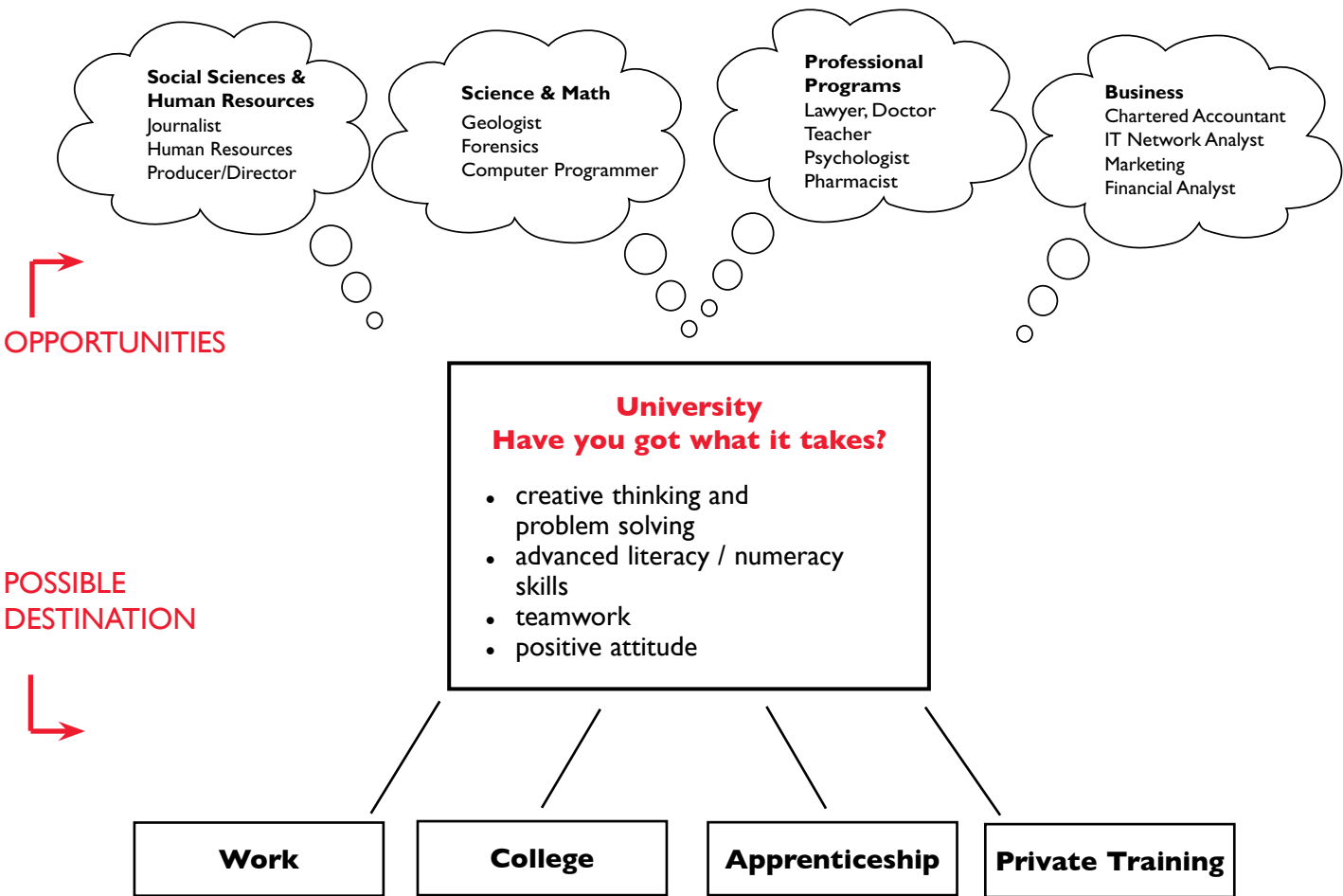
The Importance of Essential Skills:

Demands of the labour market are changing, essential workplace skills include:

- Literacy and numeracy skills
- Computer literacy
- Academic and problem-solving skills
- Inter-personal and communication skills

By building the essential skills into the curriculum, and reinforcing the learning skills, students will be better prepared for their post-secondary destinations of choice.

Pathways:



Weblinks: University Information: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/guidance.services
Ontario Universities: www.myfuture.ca
University INFO Program Guide: www.ouac.on.ca/index/index.html

Destination: University

The purpose of a university education is to help you refine your higher order thinking skills. Most university programs consist of a wide selection of courses that will allow you to explore your subject of major interest. You will learn to think critically, look at the big picture and analyze relationships. In the past, there was a clear distinction between Universities (which provided theoretical training and granted degrees) and Community Colleges (which provided practical training for a specific career and granted diploma's). This gap has been bridged and Applied Degree Programs (with practical career training) are now being offered by both Colleges and Universities.

Angela's Story:

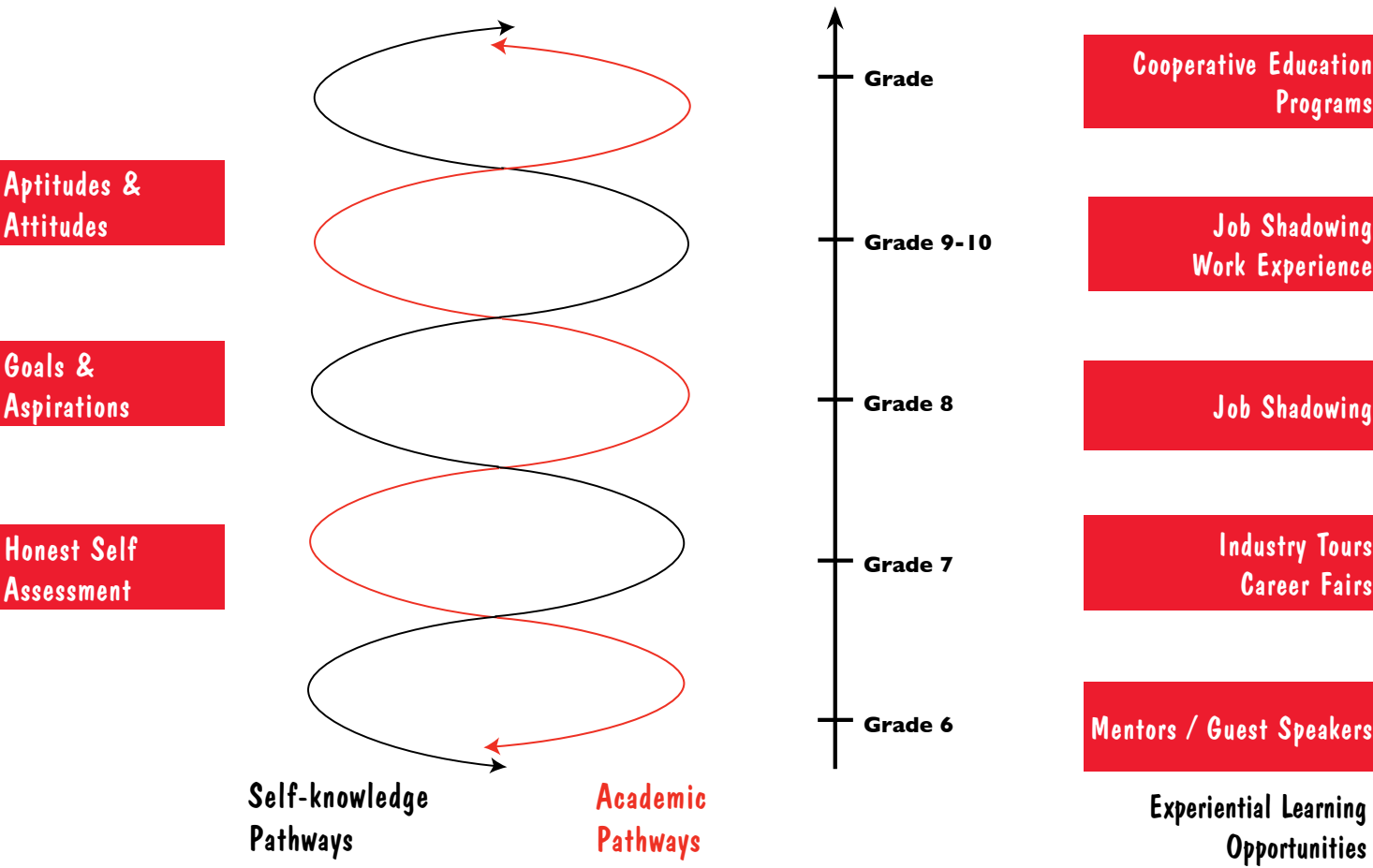
Angela always wanted to work with children. When she graduated from high school she worked at a day care for a year while studying for her Early Childhood Educator (ECE) diploma at night at her local college. During this time it became clear to Angela that she would like to become a primary elementary school teacher. She applied to the University Education Program and along with her acceptance came the news that she would be given credit towards her Bachelor of Education for the work she completed in her ECE diploma!

Stats 'n Facts:

- There are over 19 universities to choose from throughout Ontario.
- Program links between colleges and universities are increasing dramatically. Many colleges and universities are offering joint programs that will provide students with both the theoretical and practical skills required for their career and earn them a degree and a diploma in four years. Lots of opportunities for transferability between colleges and universities now exist. Check out the transfer and articulation agreements in the Ontario College and University Transfer Guide at: www.ocutg.on.ca
- There are four basic types of undergraduate university degrees including: B.A. - Bachelor of Arts, B.Sc.- Bachelor of Science, B.FA.- Bachelor of Fine Arts and Professional Degrees.

Post-Secondary Destinations - Workplace, College, University, Apprenticeship

Pathways are changeable and flexible as you move towards your destination of choice.



Destination: Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship is the School-Work destination of choice for students who want to work as skilled trades people in the construction, manufacturing, transportation and service sectors. The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) offers secondary students the opportunity to begin this transition before graduation. After graduation, the vast majority (85%) of their apprenticeship training occurs in the workplace under a trained journeyman, with short intervals of in-school training at a training centre. Apprenticeship is especially suited for students who learn best in a “hands-on” environment.

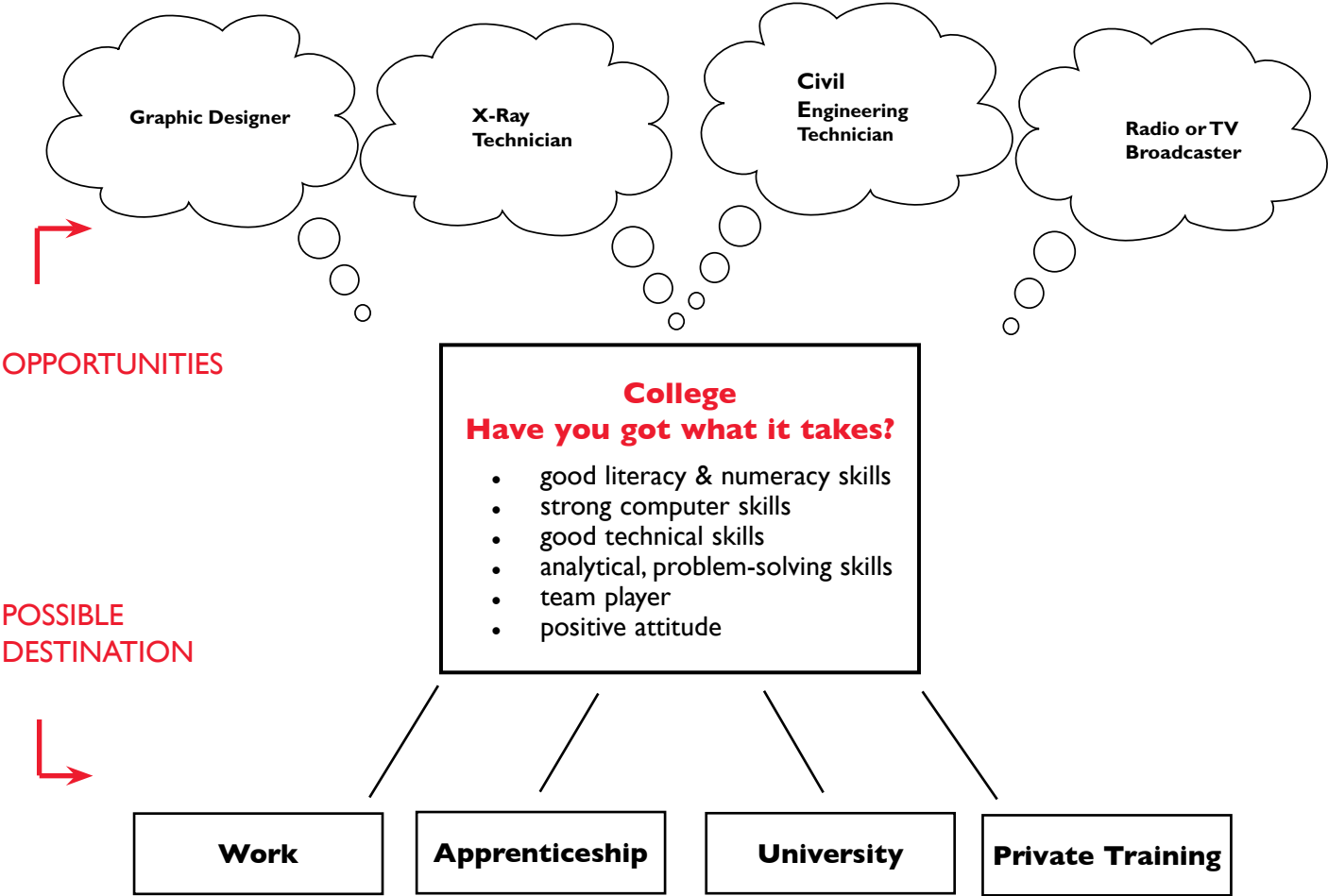
Nikki’s and Jamie’s stories:

1. Nikki secured a Grade 11 Cooperative Education placement as a Tool and Die Maker, after enjoying her Grade 10 class in Design Technology. As a result of her OYAP placement she was registered as an apprentice with her employer and began to earn credits towards her apprenticeship while completing her high school diploma. Since graduating, she is now training as a full-time first-year apprentice while earning \$36,000.
2. Jamie graduated from University with a degree in Geology. Unable to find related employment, he realized that his aptitude and mechanical / problem solving skills were also well-suited for employment in the heating / air conditioning business. He began an apprenticeship as a Refrigeration / AC Technician and is now earning \$50,000 a year as a certified tradesperson.

Stats ‘n Facts:

- Canada’s healthy economy offers many rewarding career opportunities in the skilled trades.
- A Ernst & Young survey of Canadian CEO’s found that 35% believe that in the next decade a technical education will be more valuable than a university education.
- The Ontario Government predicts a 42% job-vacancy rate in the skilled trades by 2007.
- Many tradespeople can earn \$50,000 – \$75,000 within 3-5 years of high school graduation, making these the new “gold collar” occupations.

Pathways:



Weblinks: Ontario Community Colleges: www.ontariocolleges.ca
Colleges in Canada: www.schoolfinder.com
Trades training: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/training/apprenticeship/skills

Destination: College

Colleges offer 1 - 3 year certificate and diploma programs which provide both theoretical and practical training for a specific career.

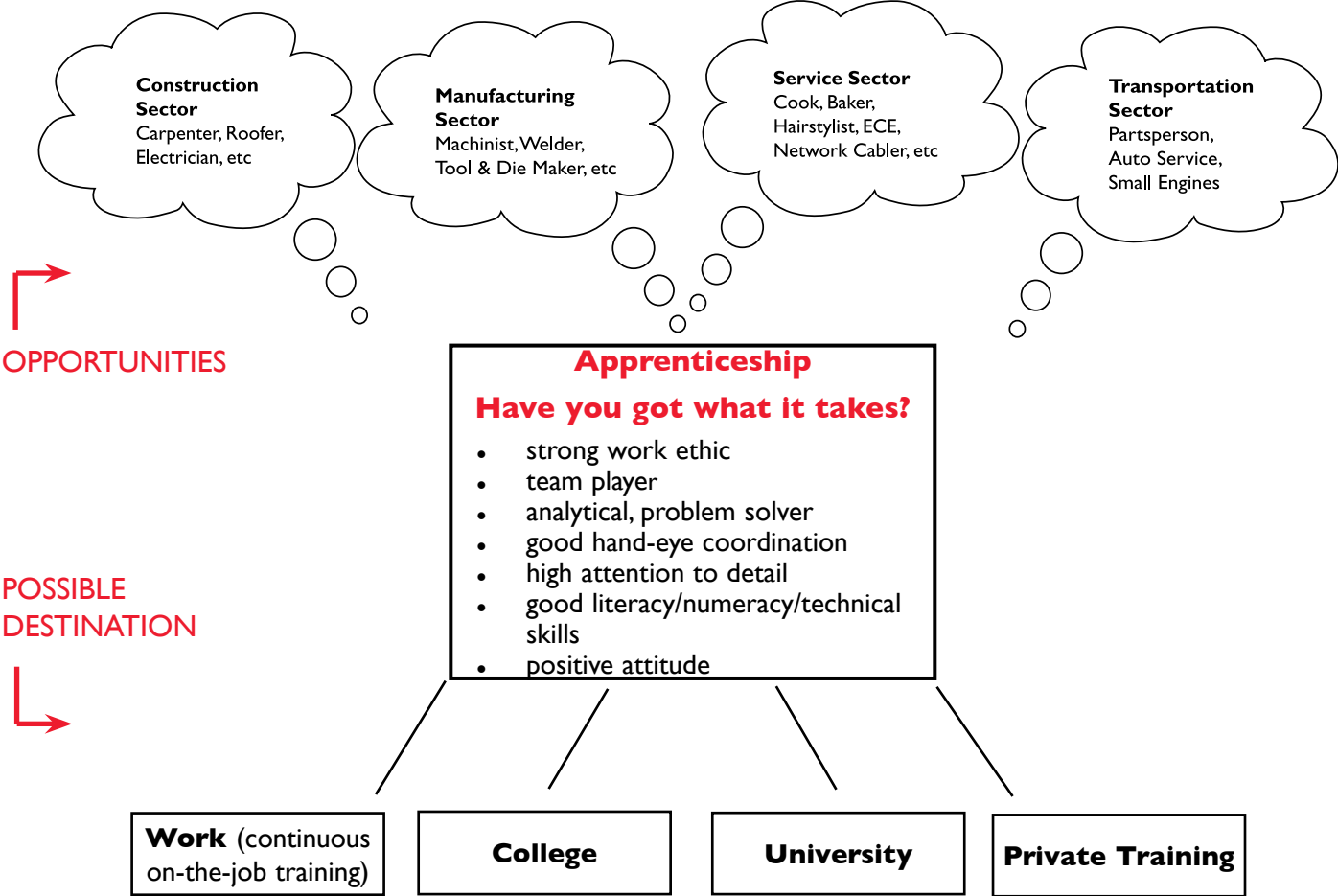
Anika's Story:

Anika's enjoyment of her Grade 10 and Grade 11 Graphic Designer classes led to her participation in a 2-credit Cooperative Education Program in Grade 12. These experiences allowed her to create a strong portfolio for her application and interview with a community college for entry into a 3-year diploma program in Graphic Design. Anika is currently completing her 3rd year of the Graphic Design Program while still working part-time at the Graphic Design firm where she conducted her Grade 12 Cooperative Education placement.

Stats'n Facts:

- There are over 25 Colleges to choose from throughout Ontario.
- There are an increasing number of program links between Colleges and Universities (such as Nursing, ECE, Paramedical Sciences).
- Applied Degree Programs are now granted by several Colleges.
- Several Colleges offer Pre-Apprenticeship Programs for the skilled trades (eg. Automotive Service, Early Childhood Education, Tool & Die Maker).
- New job opportunities: Air Quality Specialist, Chemical Technician / Technologist, Aerospace Mechanic, Multimedia Product Tester.

Pathways:



Weblinks: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/oyap
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/skills.html>
www.apprenticesearch.com
<http://skilledtrades.ca>

Destination: Workplace (without OSSD)

Maybe you'll leave high school before getting your diploma and are looking at job possibilities. Keep in mind that it's becoming more and more difficult to find work if you don't complete high school. Not completing high school places you at a disadvantage in a labour market that now demands increased skills and abilities.

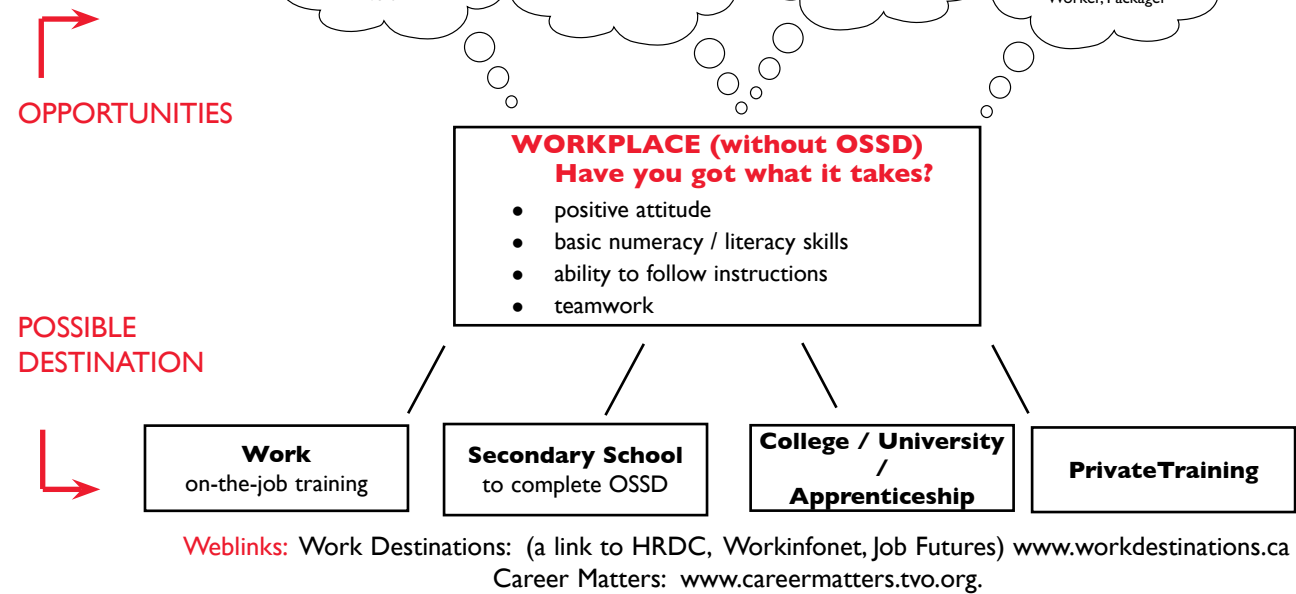
Janet's and Nabil's Stories

- 1. Janet found an office job as a mail clerk after leaving Grade 11. She was paid minimum wage and found it very difficult to pay her rent and utilities. The possibility of a promotion was a way of increasing her pay but Janet could not apply as the requirements always stipulated a high school diploma. Janet is now looking at ways to complete her high school education while continuing with her employment.
- 2. Nabil always found school work challenging. He enrolled in high school essential programming which provided him with an opportunity to build employability skills through real-life experiences. Nabil was able to acquire some additional certification through Service Excellence, which along with his Co-op experiences, opened the doors to employment in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry.

Stats 'n Facts:

With high school completion, earnings increase substantially; without a high school diploma, you will earn little more than the minimum wage with earnings averaging under \$45,000.

Pathways:



Destination: Workplace (with OSSD)

Changes in the economy are having an impact on educational requirements for workers. Studies show that a high school education is now essential and planning for post-secondary or additional training is becoming increasingly necessary. There are, however, many viable entry-level job opportunities for those students who have completed their OSSD and have workplace experiences.

Matt's Story

Matt was so pleased to be the first in his family to complete his high school education and find employment in his chosen field as a day care teacher assistant. Although Matt was relatively happy, he wanted to progress in the job but this required further training. Matt decided to do some research to discover the best route for his chosen vocation. He found that his high school diploma opened the doors to college, university and apprenticeship programs.

Stats 'n Facts:

Your chances of employment are higher if you have completed a high school education and opportunities for advancement improve with any

Pathways:

