

# Accessing Alternative, Non Credit-Bearing Programs

Working Together to Ensure a Smooth Transition

# Hello! We're...

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# **This Session:**

**Program Overview**

**Pathways to Employability Program**

**Work Experience**

**Pathways Options**

# Program Overview

- The Functional Life Skills (FLS) Program addresses the individual needs of students who demonstrate moderate to severe delays in academic skills and adaptive functioning (i.e., skills of daily living necessary to function in everyday environments).
- Students are integrated in two or three mainstream classes each semester.
- Students participate in a segregated FLS class in each semester.

# Who Participates?

- Students with a variety of cognitive profiles and diagnoses participate.
- Students in this program have been placed in the Functional Life Skills or Social Communications program through the formal IPRC process.
- Students are not working towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Generally, students do not earn credits.
- Students will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment upon completion of the program, which can last anywhere from 4–7 years.

# Program Framework

- Functional Literacy/Numeracy
- Social Skills
- Motor Skills
- Transition Skills
- Daily Living Skills

# Sample Schedule

- **Period 1** – FLS classroom
- **Period 2** – Integrated in Mainstream classroom
- **Period 3** – FLS/Work Experience classroom  
OR Integrated in Mainstream classroom
- **Period 4** – Integrated in Mainstream classroom

# The Individual Education Plan

- The I.E.P. is a **LIVING DOCUMENT** that is constantly evolving and is meant to give a meaningful overview of learning needs and the most appropriate and effective accommodations in order to access the academic program.
- As we get to know students, accommodations are added and/or removed from the I.E.P. → as skills are mastered and higher degrees of independence achieved, needs shift and strategies need to match those needs.
- I.E.P.s are issued in the first 30 days of EACH semester; opportunities for feedback are provided for students, parents/guardians, teachers and Administration.



# Alternative Expectations

- KAL – Creative Arts for Enjoyment and Expression
- KBB – Money Management & Personal Banking
- KCC – Transit Training & Community Exploration
- KEN – Language and Communication Development
- KGL – Personal Life Skills
- KMM – Numeracy and Numbers
- KPF – Personal Health & Fitness
- KTT – Information Technology

# Enrichment Opportunities

- In addition to a fulsome educational program, staff facilitate a variety of different experiences that enrich programming and promote a high level of student engagement and social connections:
  - Cardinal Bocce team
  - York Region Public Health Nutrition Ambassador Program
  - YCDSB Special Olympics
  - Cardinal Games
  - Best Buddies
  - Grade 12 Leadership

# Pathways to Employability Program (P.E.P.)

**PEP** is an experiential learning program intended for students aged 16 – 21 with special needs who require accommodations to overcome barriers in accessing work experience opportunities. Each experiential learning opportunity prepares the student for success in a future experience of greater intensity, sharper focus, and longer duration. Work placements are offered both in school and in the community, for students who are willing to learn job readiness skills and participate in transit training. Admission into this program is via application in consultation with the Itinerant Work Experience Teacher and Special Education teacher.

# Work Experience

- Teachers provide direct instruction of various transferable employability skills such as:
  - Communication
  - Transit training
  - Resume writing
- Depending on the student's skill set and readiness, jobs within the school can be assigned, for example:
  - Mail delivery
  - Small business ventures: Cardinal Cafe, greeting cards, used uniforms
  - Library assistance

# Pathways

## School to Post-Secondary

- Community Integration through Co-operative Education (CICE)
- Vocational Program
- Interest Program

## School to World of Work

- Pathways to EmployABILITY Program (PEP)
- Transit Training

## School to Community-Based Program

- Youth Engagement Program
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Recreational Services

**Questions?**

