



Dear YCDSB Parents/Guardians,

Re: The YCDSB Pathways to EmployABILITY Program (PEP)

The York Catholic District School Board seeks to help all students reach their God-given potential so that they may participate fully in society, with competence and dignity. We celebrate the individual differences among students and always endeavour to offer inclusive programs free of barriers that respect and accommodate individual student needs. One such program is the ***YCDSB Pathways to EmployABILITY Program (PEP)***.

PEP is an inclusive experiential learning program similar to the Co-Operative Education Program, that is specifically intended for secondary students with special needs who require accommodations and support to overcome barriers in accessing work experience opportunities in the community. Since PEP candidates typically plan to enter the workplace directly after high school, facilitating opportunities to gain work experience prior to graduation is crucial for these students.

In an ongoing effort to continue to expand our partnerships with York Region employers/businesses who host students with special needs, **we are seeking additional employers/businesses who may be interested in offering our YCDSB students a rich learning experience.** Rest assured, YCDSB staff work closely with the employer every step of the way to ensure that the student is well-prepared to take on the required tasks of the job and work placement schedules are flexible and customized to the needs of both students and the host business. As it is a school based program, there is no cost to the employer.

If you would like to learn more about the role you or a friend/family member may play in enriching the lives of our special education students at your workplace, please contact pep@ycdsb.ca for more information.

[Pathways to EmployABILITY Program Flyer](#)