

Grade Seven Career Awareness Program (Pilot)

(2015-2016 – Pilot Project)

Getting Started

In collaboration with the Halton District and Halton Catholic District School Boards and with support from the Burlington Community Foundation, HIEC has developed a new career education initiative: the Grade Seven Career Awareness Program (CAP). The program is designed to complement HIEC's long-standing Grade Eight Career Awareness Program, helping students to learn more about themselves, their career choices, and work environment preferences as well as the career opportunities best matched to these early inclinations.

The program is currently being piloted in the city of Burlington with intent to expand across Halton region. Using a variety of in-class activities and an assembly format, students will engage with four units aligned with Ontario curriculum:

- Expanding Student Horizons
- Intro to High School
- Intro to Pathways
- Reflection

Each unit is comprised of seven lessons aimed to engage all learning styles using technology, experiential learning and authentic open dialogue between teachers, parents and other students.



How it works

The Grade 7 CAP provides students with a foundation of knowledge to help them prepare for their future in the workforce and make informed career/life choices.

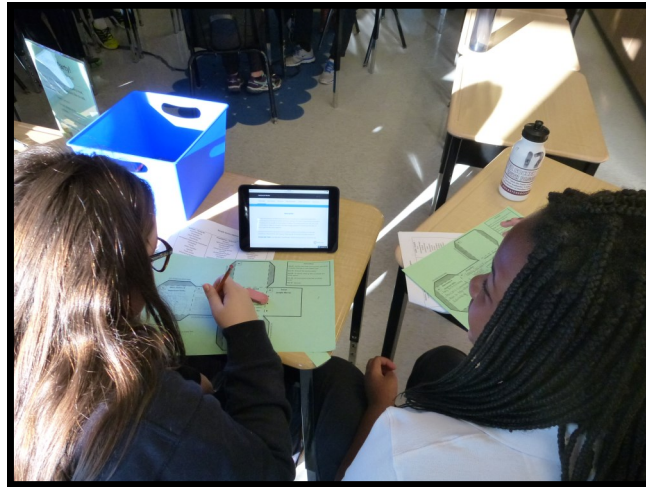
The program is comprised of several key elements:

- An in-class lesson and presentation facilitated by HIEC staff with built-in opportunities for students to research career options on myBlueprint
- A detailed teacher resource package outlining connections to Ontario Ministry of Education policies, lesson plans, links and resources
- Tools for building connections in-school and at-home, allowing for parents, educators, students and the broader Halton community to support student learning and engage with the program's development, implementation, and evaluation

Benefits for Educators

The program provides numerous measurable benefits to students, including:

- Meeting expectations of the Ontario Ministry of Education's *Creating Pathways to Success* and *School Effectiveness Framework* documents
- Exposure to myBlueprint and opportunities to complete 4 out of 5 IPP requirements
- Gaining experience in reflection and decision-making
- Gaining familiarity with five distinct post-secondary pathways
- Developing research skills
- Advance understanding of personal learning styles, high school vocabulary and post-secondary options



Student testimonials from focus groups

"It is good because then we can feel more comfortable with thinking about the future."

"Good to be able to see all the career paths we can do"

"To be exposed to the work world early on, rather than having to plan in a rush."

"Helps us better understand what we will be going through in the future."

"Helps you to take control of your future."

"Being able to make an educated choice on your path in life."

"We will know more early on so we can make better choices throughout school/life"

"You will have an idea of what you want from a younger age."