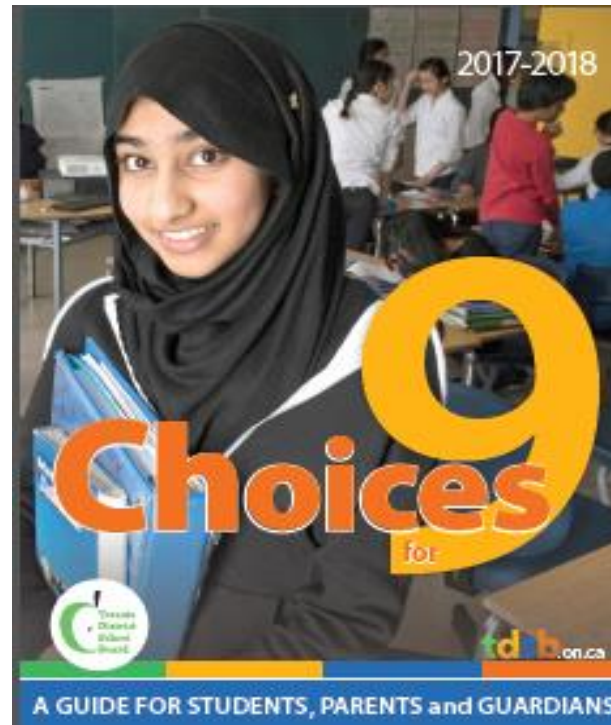


Information Session for Students, Parents and Guardians



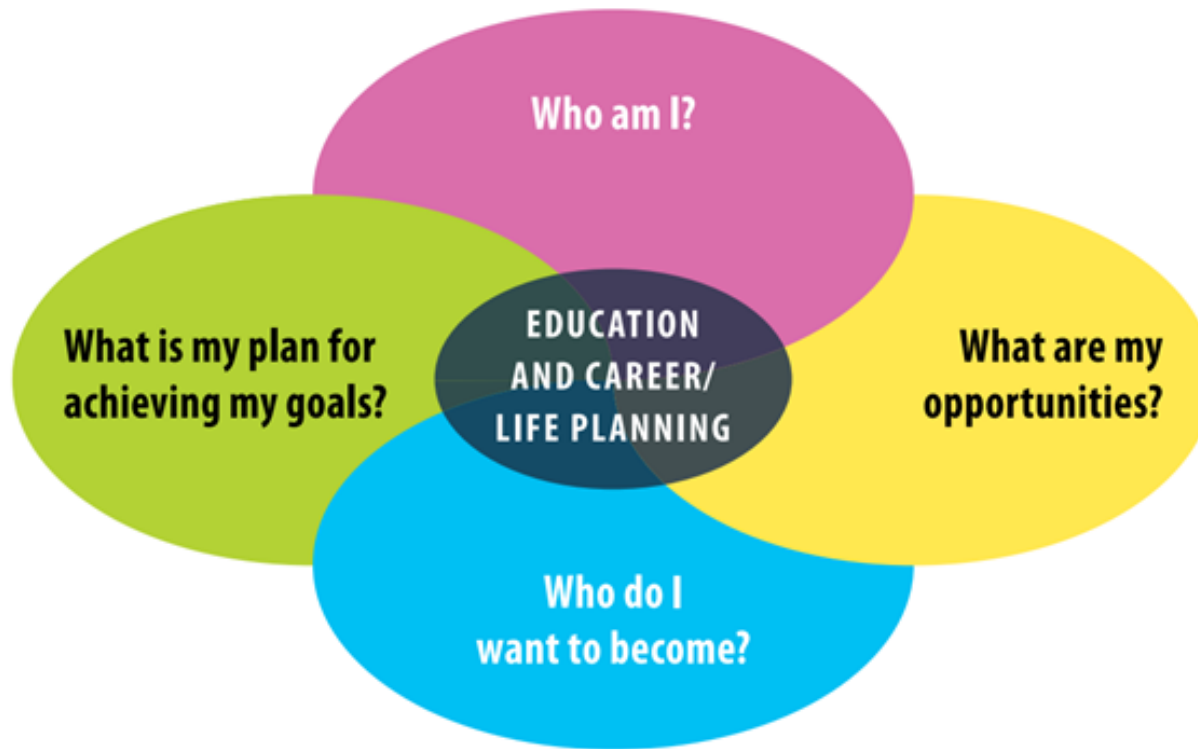
Transition from Grade 8 to 9 Choices for Nine 2017 - 2018



Goals for the Evening

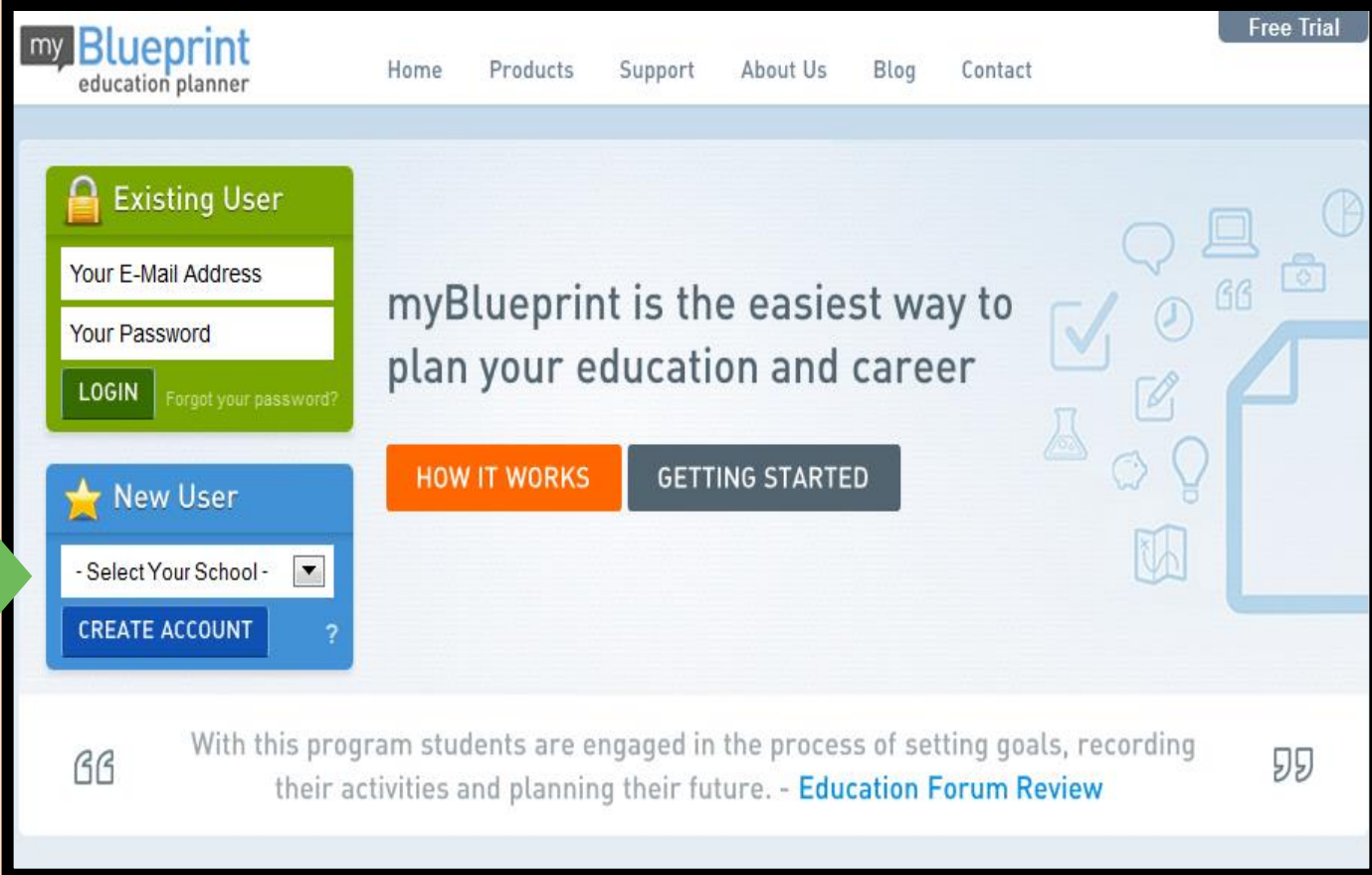
- To inform students, parents and guardians about high school choices in order to make a smooth and successful transition from Grade 8 to 9
- To assist students, parents and guardians in making informed choices about courses, programs and schools
- To raise student, parent and guardian awareness of the various program pathways available throughout the Toronto District School Board

Creating Pathways to Success, 2013



Accessing myBlueprint.ca/tdsb

Online educational & career planning tool for students and parents



The screenshot displays the myBlueprint.ca/tdsb website interface. At the top left is the logo "myBlueprint education planner". A navigation menu includes "Home", "Products", "Support", "About Us", "Blog", and "Contact". A "Free Trial" button is located in the top right corner. The main content area features two primary sections: "Existing User" and "New User". The "Existing User" section includes a lock icon, a text input for "Your E-Mail Address", another for "Your Password", a green "LOGIN" button, and a link for "Forgot your password?". The "New User" section features a star icon, a dropdown menu for "- Select Your School -", and a blue "CREATE ACCOUNT" button. A green arrow points to the "CREATE ACCOUNT" button. Below these sections are two buttons: "HOW IT WORKS" (orange) and "GETTING STARTED" (dark grey). The background contains various educational icons like a laptop, clock, lightbulb, and book. At the bottom, a testimonial reads: "With this program students are engaged in the process of setting goals, recording their activities and planning their future. - Education Forum Review".

www.myBlueprint.ca/tdsb

What Can Families Do to Help Students Make the Best Choices?

- Access and investigate *myBlueprint* career planning tool
- Attend Secondary Information Evenings/Open Houses
- Encourage continued participation in extracurricular activities
- Choose courses of interest
- Discuss future plans
- Stay involved and connected with the school

Considerations When Choosing a High School

- The range of subjects and programs offered in each grade
- Semestered and non-semestered schedules
- “Composite” schools and “Alternative” schools
- The size of the school – big or small settings
- The range of extracurricular activities, clubs and sports offered
- The supports available for English Language Learners and students with special education needs

The Year Ahead: Educational Planning and Course Selection Process

- Planning for the coming year is a process
- That process begins now and will continue until Course Selection Sheets are due in late February

www.tdsb.on.ca/GoingtoHighSchool

Find Your School



Toronto District School Board

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We're talking about **Equity** and we want to hear from **you!**

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Latest News for: Oct 05, 2016

October is Somali Heritage Month

October is Women's History Month

October is Islamic Heritage Month

Click on "Find your School"

Find Your School

Find your school by selecting how you want to search.

1 **By Address** »
Fill in your address in the search box.



2 **By School Name** »
Browse by Alphabetical school listing.



Information Evenings/Open Houses at the High Schools

- Program and school specific information is shared
- Dates and times of High School Information Evenings are listed in the *Choices for Nine* brochure and posted on the TDSB website

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/GoingtoHighSchool/OpenHousesandInformationNights.aspx>

Information Evenings at Specialized Schools

Specialized Schools and Programs include, but are not limited to: Arts, Entrepreneurship, International Baccalaureate, Science & Technology

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/innovation/highschoolspecializedprograms.aspx>

- . To investigate specialized schools or programs, check school websites and/or contact the specific school for admission requirements
- . Optional attendance guidelines and specific admission requirements will apply – check deadline dates for application

Making Course Choices

- Ultimately, students and families make the final course choices
- Grade 8 teachers or counsellors are there to offer their best suggestions about course choices based on evidence of a student's achievement, learning style, interests, and learning goals

What Course Type Choices Do Students Make in Grades 9 and 10?

- Applied
 - Academic
 - Locally Developed
 - Open
-
- Students can mix course types based on their achievement, interests, and skills. For example, a student may take applied English and French courses and academic Math

Academic and Applied Course Types

Academic Courses

Focus on theory and abstract problems

Applied Courses

Focus on practical applications and concrete examples

These courses include:

English, French, Geography, History, Math, and Science

Open Course Types

Open Courses

Optional courses that prepare students for further study and enriches the learning

These courses include (but not limited to):
Art, Music, Health and Physical Education

Locally Developed Course Types

Locally Developed

Compulsory courses for students provides more flexibility and support in learning

Courses that may be developed locally include:

English, French, History, Math, and Science

What Are the Graduation Requirements?

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

- Total of 30 course credits
 - 18 compulsory courses
 - 12 elective courses
- 40 Hours Community Involvement
 - Begins in summer after Grade 8
- Ontario Literacy Requirement
 - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

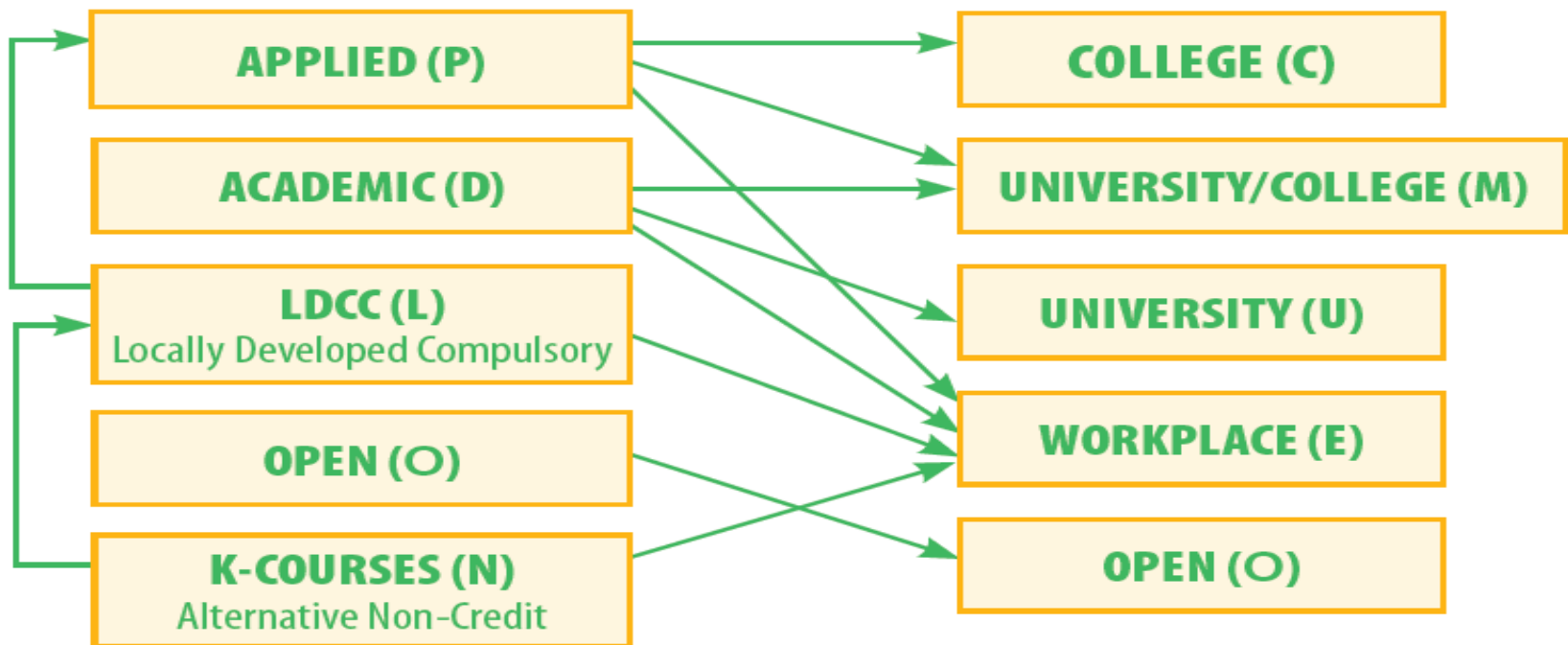
*Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12:
Policy & Program Requirements, 2011*

Understanding the 'Destinations'

FIND YOUR DESTINATION COURSES

Grade 9/10

Grade 11/12



How do Course Types Fit with Pathways

- All students can be successful in high school and there are many pathways to success
- Pathways are designed to keep options opened and students can revise plans just like climbing a wall, where every step is varied



Undecided?

If you are unsure about choosing a course, keep as many options open as possible and set a goal for success

Students should speak with their parents/guardians, Guidance Counsellor and Grade 8 teachers to determine the appropriate course selection for grade 9

What Course Type Choices Do Students Have in Grades 11 and 12?

- Students choose courses depending on their destination after high school:
 - Workplace
 - College
 - University
 - Mixed (University/College Preparation)
 - Open

What Happens if My Child Does Not Pass a Course?

- Students may repeat the course in summer school – research suggests this is the most effective way to “catch-up” and move on to the next grade level
- Students may be recommended for “Credit Recovery” – research suggests this is the next-best way to “catch-up”
- Students may repeat the course in the next semester or year – research suggests this is the least effective way for students to “catch-up” and move on to the next grade level

What Kinds of Programs Are Available to High School Students?

- See **Choices for Nine** for a full list of specialized schools and programs
- Many home schools also offer these additional learning opportunities:
 - Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)
 - Cooperative Education (co-op)
 - Technological Education Programs
 - Centres of Innovation for Skills and Technologies
 - Dual Credit Programs
 - Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/innovation/highschoolspecializedprograms.aspx>

Optional Attendance

- Students are encouraged to attend the high school within the catchment area of their residential address (home school)
- Use an *Optional Attendance Application Form (PR545)* when applying to a school other than your home school
- Forms will be available at the elementary schools in January
- Specific information regarding *Optional Attendance Procedures* will be communicated to students and families in early January

www.tdsb.on.ca/FindyourSchool/OptionalAttendance

Specific Dates

- **February 3, 2017** Optional Attendance applications due to secondary schools – delivered by student/parent/guardian
- **February 17, 2017** Secondary schools will inform Optional Attendance applicants by this date
- **February 24, 2017** completed via myBlueprint and returned to elementary teacher/counsellor
- **March 3, 2017** All course selection sheets due to secondary schools – delivered by Elementary Counsellor

Note:

- Only ONE course selection per student is submitted for ONE secondary school by the elementary school counsellor

Questions?

