



Accessful is an EnAbling Change Partnership project

November 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your teen has been selected to take part in a program called Accessful. This pilot program is funded by an EnAbling Change grant through the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario and is supported by OSSTF and the Peel District School Board Together, we are working to support students with disabilities (learning, physical, or mental health) to find summer employment in 2019.

Over the course of the *Accessful* activities during this school year, your teen will gain a better understanding of their employment readiness. Activities will include:

1. Completion of a survey
2. A full day field trip (see dates below) where students share their thoughts and concerns
3. Semester Two: Programming related to employment readiness and self-advocacy

Only a nominal transportation fee for the field trip is required to participate. (Collected by the school.)

Research indicates having one paid job in high school is the number one predictor of future employment for people with disabilities.*

School Group 1

Chinguacousy SS
Louise Arbour SS
Sandalwood SS
Castlebrooke SS

Student and Parent date:
Monday, Dec. 10, 2018

School Group 2

Brampton Centennial SS
David Suzuki SS
John Fraser SS
Applewood School

Student and Parent date:
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018

School Group 3

Applewood Heights SS
T.L. Kennedy SS
Rick Hansen SS
West Credit SS

Student and Parent date:
Friday, Dec. 14, 2018

Each Student Symposia will be a full-day, field trip event. Location to be determined. Parent Evening Symposia will be held from 6-8 pm at a host school. Details will be sent home soon.

Accessful is also meant to support parents. There is a survey where you can share thoughts related to your teen's future summer employment. We will be hosting an informational meeting so you can ask questions and provide insight into the needs of your teen.

Some of your teen's teachers and Special Education resource staff will be participating in their own *Accessful* programming. School personnel will be collecting permission forms and will ensure safe and confidential storage of student information. Student information will only be shared with Accessful staff for programming purposes and will not be released for any other purpose.

Part of our mandate is to change the way disabilities are seen in our community. We want employers to know *all* Ontarians deserve employment, regardless of any barriers they may face. We will work with **employers** and **agencies that support individuals with disabilities** to shift attitudes and improve employment opportunities.

Please complete all forms and surveys if you would like your teen to participate in this exciting program. They can be returned to the Special Education Head at your teen's school **by Monday, November 26, 2018.**

We look forward to working with you, your teen and members of the school community.



Richard Clewes
Accessful Coordinator

* Source: *Predictors of Postschool Employment Outcomes for Young Adults With Severe Disabilities*. Journal of Disability Policy Studies. Hammill Institute on Disabilities. University of Wisconsin-Madison.

For more info, please visit Accessful.org

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