



Accessful is an EnAbling Change Partnership project

November 2018

Dear Teachers,

Reimagining student success through accessibility is the goal of a new initiative being led by OSSTF and its members in District 19 funded by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario.

Accessful is an initiative to dramatically improve employment for youth with disabilities, to diversify the workforce and to grow a stronger culture of acceptance within the province, which exemplifies the goals of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Five key audiences are invited to participate: students (identified through IPRC); education support workers and teachers; parents; employers; and social agencies—with the goal of strengthening employability skills and accessing employment opportunities for students in Gr 10 through 12 with learning, physical, and mental health disabilities.

Multi-day conferences, called Symposia, will be held for each of the key Accessful stakeholder groups and will focus on the important task of identifying 'Barriers to Employment for Youth with Disabilities.'

We need your help to nominate student participants. You may be thinking, "How will I decide which 15 students to invite from my school?" We have provided some guiding questions so you can choose students best suited for this pilot program (see attached guidelines.)

Once you have decided which students to approach, you can explain Accessful by sharing the Student Flyer. Please send the parent information package home for their consideration and begin collecting all required forms. **All collected forms and surveys can be sent to Dan Earle at OSSTF District 19 office by Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.**

Your principal is aware of the Teacher Symposia component and will make arrangements for a supply teacher to provide release time. This involves attending a 'working lunch' plus a 75-minute period conference. Your Teacher Survey should be completed and submitted via email by the date noted.

School Group 1

Chinguacousy SS
Louise Arbour SS
Sandalwood SS
Castlebrooke SS

School Group 2

Brampton Centennial SS
David Suzuki SS
John Fraser SS
Applewood School

School Group 3

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

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

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

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

Transportation must be arranged by the supervising teacher(s) with a nominal fee applied to students. We recommend coordinating with neighbouring schools to share bussing costs. Event location to be confirmed.



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Teacher Symposia date:
Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019

Teacher Symposia date:
Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019

Teacher Symposia date:
Friday, Jan. 11, 2019

Each Student Symposia will be a full-day field trip event.
Parent Evening Symposia will be held from 6-8 pm at a host school.

We are currently securing a venue for each symposia and will notify schools directly within a few weeks.
You will then be able to book a school bus for your Student Symposium field trip.

We thank you for participating in this exciting pilot project and appreciate the time you are offering to help empower your students. Accessful staff will contact you to answer any questions.

Regards,

Richard Clewes
Accessful Coordinator

SAMPLE



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Student Nomination Information

Special Education, Guidance and civics/co-op teachers can use these guidelines to identify 15 student candidates for the Accessful pilot project.

Remember this is a sample of the school population for the pilot project. Other students can benefit from the resources at a later time.

Participating students may have been formally identified through the IPRC process or have an IEP.

A variety of disabilities should be represented but not limited to LD, ASD, ADHD and other mental health needs, BLV or DHH, etc.

Consider students possibly struggling with gaining employment or have indicated interest in getting a job.

Would this student likely engage in the experience when accompanied by familiar staff?

Have parents advocated for support around employment?

Would parents be motivated to attend their own symposia to support their teen?

Would this family benefit from becoming better advocates?

Is the family able to support the teen's employment? (i.e. driving to work, freeing up summer holiday schedules, etc.)

You may not be able to answer these questions. They are only to assist in the identification of 15 possible candidates that would benefit from the program.