



An EnAbling Change Partnership Project with the Government of Ontario

January 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your teen has been selected to take part in a program called Accessful. This program, currently in Year Two, is funded by an EnAbling Change grant through the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility 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 2020.

During *Accessful* activities your teen will gain a better understanding of their employment readiness. Activities will include:

1. Completion of a survey
 2. In-School Programming related to employment readiness and self-advocacy
 3. Opportunities to attend job fairs to meet potential employers
- A nominal transportation fee may be 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.*

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. (Date to be established.)

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 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 Friday, February 21, 2020**. School personnel will be collecting permission forms and will ensure safe and confidential storage of student information.

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

Sonya White
Accessful In-School Facilitator

* 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.