



EFFECTIVE PRACTICES FOR SKILLED TRADES AND APPRENTICESHIPS

The program/strategy/initiative must have been in operation for a minimum of one year

School Board: Avon Maitland District School Board

Contact Person and Email Address: Mark Roth mark.roth@ed.amdsb.ca

Name of Program/Initiative/Strategy: Pathways Programming, Technical Studies, Cooperative Education, Experiential Learning, SHSM, OYAP, Guidance and Careers Studies

Hyperlinks to Documents or Website(s) Describing this Program/Initiative/Strategy:

Please click links to TakeTECH, FunTECH and Pathways

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O35-UrcS3xA>

FuntechR11 March2019

Pathways

Description of Program/Initiative/Strategy (max 200 words)

The focus is on practices that excite, engage and increase student confidence, achievement and well-being. Programs that have increased attendance and pathway decision-making are of particular interest. In the brief description please provide answers to the following questions: Where the program/initiative/strategy is delivered (school/board locations)? Who is responsible for delivering and monitoring the program/initiative/strategy? Who is the target audience? Are there any community partnerships involved? Are there any staffing or budget implications? Are there any special resources required? What are your indicators of success, etc.?

The Pathway Team started several effective initiatives in past year programming. Initially, we did a TakeTECH tour of 30 elementary schools in 10 days as part of the K-12 Experiential Learning initiative. This interactive tour featured Jamie McMillan from KickAss Careers and utilized green screen and video presentation.

We have embedded a hands-on FunTECH AMDSB program that targets all grade 6 students in a 3-hour skilled trade workshop of their choice. These FunTECH workshops are delivered at the secondary school that students will be entering in their future years. They are delivered through a partnership model with the Technical Training Group, a not-for-profit organization that delivers local skill trade programs. These programs engaged local industry partners, county and city economic development resources, parents and teachers in an extremely positive hands-on technical studies experience.

FunTECH is incorporated into the OYAP business plan and is supported through EL and SHSM programming too. More resources both in staffing and finances are needed to make the successful program sustainable. It has strong potential to engage new teachers and faculties of Tech Ed into their teacher training, but this needs to be encouraged with Faculties of Education. Student attendance and teacher support and engagement are overwhelmingly strong. AMDSB presented the model at CODE conference in fall of 2018 and at OCPA in spring 2019. Huge provincial interest in this new model/idea that could be replicated to all boards.

What has been the impact on Student Learning Student Retention and Pathway Decision Making? (max 200 words)

It has been very evident that the absence of any technical studies at the elementary level has been greatly missed. We are seeing what the removal of technical studies has done to the skilled trades and the disservice we are doing to our students and communities.

The two listed initiatives have ignited students, parents and teachers interest to find their "Passion and Pursue their Pathway". The need for education to accurately promote future careers in skilled trades as the first choice for students is a necessity has been poorly done and lacks educational understanding.

We cannot expect a system that has gone through University on mass to be passionate and understanding of the skilled trades and the world in which demands more and more skilled workers to operate our societies. Data shows extreme student disengagement starting by grade 6 and what is needed is technical studies to start at grade 7. This will permit students to make better choices and be capable of exiting an education system with skills and desires to work when they leave grade 12 since they are sentenced to attend until age 18.

Please consider "balanced intelligence" along with "academic intelligence" in the public education system. "The future of Canada's education must be Skilled" as stated by Dr Jon Callegher. Please search out Jon Callegher, Ph.D. at Job Talks.org and consider him in discussions with the Ontario School Boards Association.

Please submit to jnyman@opsba.org by **July 31, 2019**, including any relevant supporting documents.