



ONTARIO PUBLIC  
SCHOOL BOARDS'  
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

## **EFFECTIVE PRACTICES FOR SKILLED TRADES AND APPRENTICESHIPS**

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

**School Board: Greater Essex County District School Board**

GECD SB has several programs focusing in all 10 disciplines of technological studies, with Enhanced OYAP Programs in Precision Machining, Auto body, Auto Service, Cook and Hairstyling.

All programs are delivered by qualified teachers who are journeypersons with CofQ(s) and years of trade experience making for valuable and relevant classroom instruction. Teachers and students are supported by a Technology Teacher Consultant with trade experience and an OYAP Teacher Consultant.

We have several community partners and work closely with industry and associations. Some partnerships include Windsor Professional Automotive Repair Association, Carpenters Union Local 494, UHC Community Kitchen and several Manufacturing, Tool and Die, Mold Shops.

Resources are required for OYAP programs to insure students have the skill set and training necessary for industry. We coordinate resources through OYAP, SHSM, Board funds and work with community partners to best provide resources.

Our target audience is students in grades 6–12 in all pathways through programs such as Summer Camps, Build A Dream Industry field trips and Skills Competitions.

Interest in hands on learning and technological studies has increased. The number of students taking part in OYAP programs is growing. As a sign of success, students are gaining employment and being recognized provincially and nationally at skills and robotics competitions.

### **What has been the impact on Student Learning Student Retention and Pathway Decision Making?**

As a result of technological studies and the OYAP programs, students are gaining employment and being retained by their Co-op/OYAP employers.

Data from the MTCU indicates that GECD SB is above the provincial statistics in our OYAP Footprint, the percentage of grade 11 and 12 students enrolled in OYAP. We are also above the provincial statistics for females in underrepresented trades and in the number of OYAP students that have graduated and moved on to obtain a CoA.

Student achievement extends to skills competitions and robotics and our students are being

recognized provincially and nationally for their accomplishments.

Market research for local employment indicates an increase need for careers in the trades. Recognizing this need, we are working with industry and Work Force WindsorEssex, to promote the trades to both students and their parents. This is archived through Pathway Night Presentations, Car Shows, Tech Fairs, St. Clair College Amazing Skills and Grade 8-9 Transition Activities.

GECD SB offers 23 technology based SHSM programs in 12 of our secondary schools. Consistently in all but 2 of the 23 programs, we are above the provincial average in graduation rates.