



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

(For the purposes of this survey alternative education is defined as any program/approach that supports students who are not successfully engaged in school and require an alternate delivery model)

School Board: Durham District School Board

Contact Person and Email Address: Anne Marie Laginski

Name of Program/Initiative/Strategy: Durham Alternative Secondary School

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

School Website:

http://ddsb.ca/school/dass/Pages/default.aspx?Paged=TRUE&p_SortBehavior=0&p_FileLeafRef=Fair%20Notice%20and%20Process%20Letter%2epdf&p_ID=33&PageFirstRow=7&View=611772fe-1040-484d-b835-042f9dffbe8e

Durham District School Board Pathways to Student Success Document:

<http://ddsb.ca/Programs/Secondary/Pathways/Documents/Pathways.pdf>

Description of Program/Initiative/Strategy

The focus is on programs/initiatives/strategies that increase student engagement, confidence, achievement and well-being. 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 Durham Alternative Secondary School (DASS) is an alternative secondary school for students aged 17 to 20 that offers full-time programs for students 4 sessions per year in nine-week lengths, grades 11 to 12 in College, Open and Workplace levels. The school offers a wide range of Cooperative Education, Dual Credit, Credit Recovery, Interdisciplinary and Equity Studies courses with an emphasis on Skills Canada's "9 Essential Skills" and the global competencies. A variety of social justice and alternative courses such as: Indigenous Studies, Black Studies, Gender Studies, Queer Studies, Men's Studies, Fashion Design, Women's Studies and Hip Hop are also offered. The main school is located in Oshawa and two satellite campuses are located in Pickering and Port Perry. The school has one secondary school principal, two vice-principals and over fifty teaching staff. In addition to the abovementioned student timetable options, DASS also includes the Community-Based Learning program for 14-16 year olds through the Supervised Alternative Learning, the Teen Parent Program program for 16-20 year old youth who are pregnant or parenting a young child and the School Within a College Program Centres for Success. Students are afforded opportunities to receive certifications in: Safe Food Handling, SmartServe, First Aid, Counterfeit Detection and WHMIS. The majority of DASS students are ones who have struggled to stay on track to graduate in a mainstream setting for a variety of personal and systemic reasons. DASS is proud to have strong community partnerships

including but not limited to: Durham College, Pinewood, the John Howard Society, Rose of Durham, GoodLife Fitness and YMCA. In addition to DASS's A variety of support personnel from the DDSB as well as Police Liaison Officers, Durham Mental Health Workers, Child and Youth workers, Public Health Nurses and Trusteed Youth Outreach Workers also provide one-on-one, wrap-around support to DASS students. Student success is indicated in several ways including: attendance, certification achievements, successful cooperative education placements, credit recovery, credit accumulation, successful completion of community involvement hours and the literacy requirement as well as the graduation rate.

What has been the impact on Student Learning?

Durham Alternative Secondary School had 184 graduates and three dual credits at Durham College. Please see below for the results of students who were successful in each of the dual credit courses:
TRR 4T1 = 8/14 successful, HBB4T1 = 4/5 successful, PPJ4T1 = 5/6 successful, PPJ4T1 = 5/6 successful
HBB4T1 = 15/15 successful