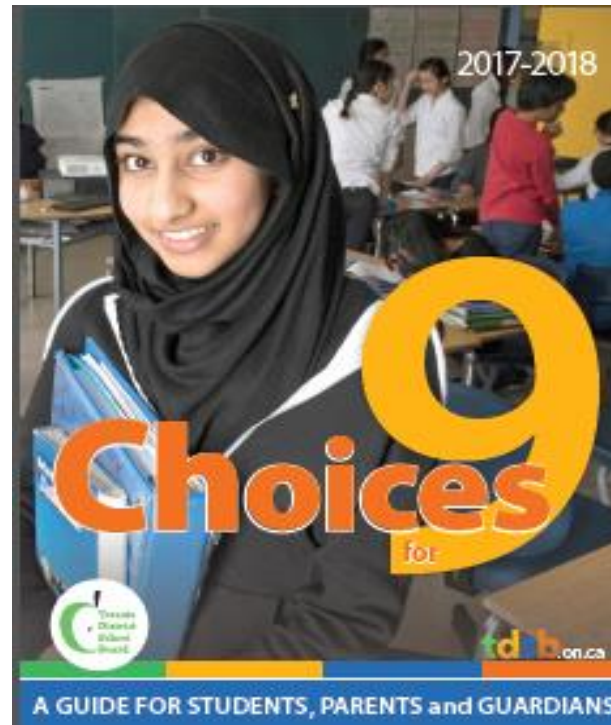


# Information Session for Students, Parents and Guardians



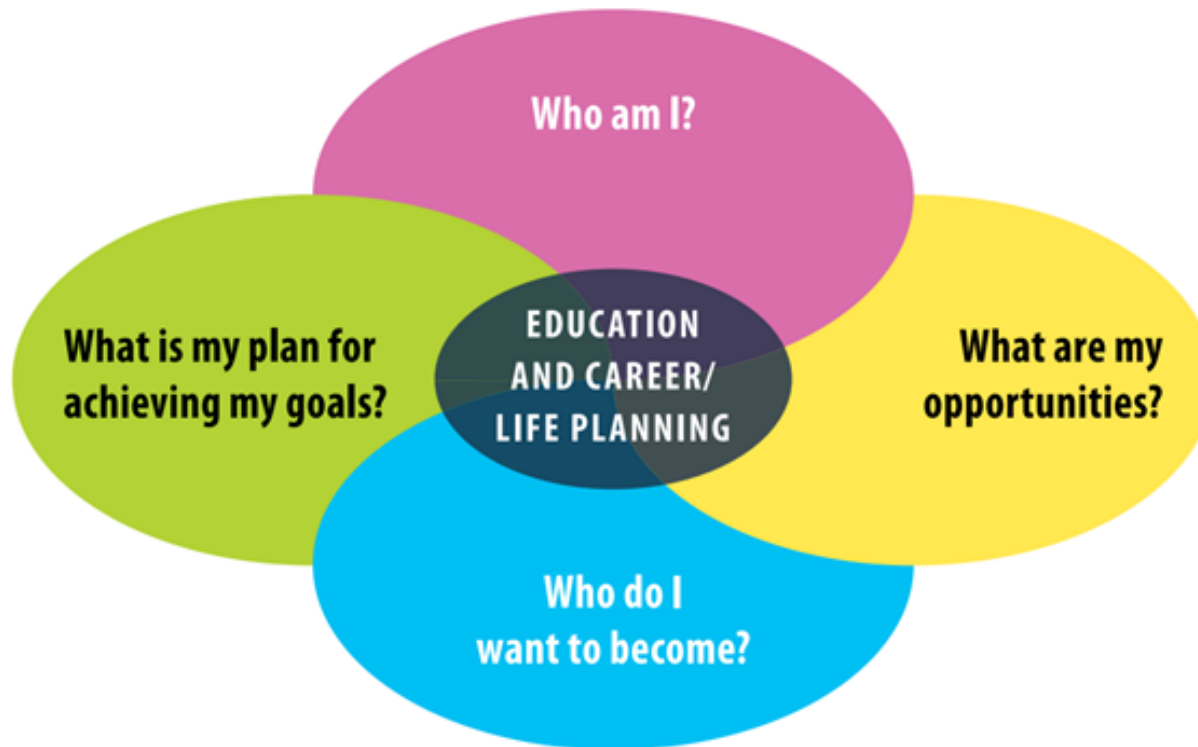
## Transition from Grade 8 to 9 Choices for Nine 2017 - 2018



## Goals for the Evening

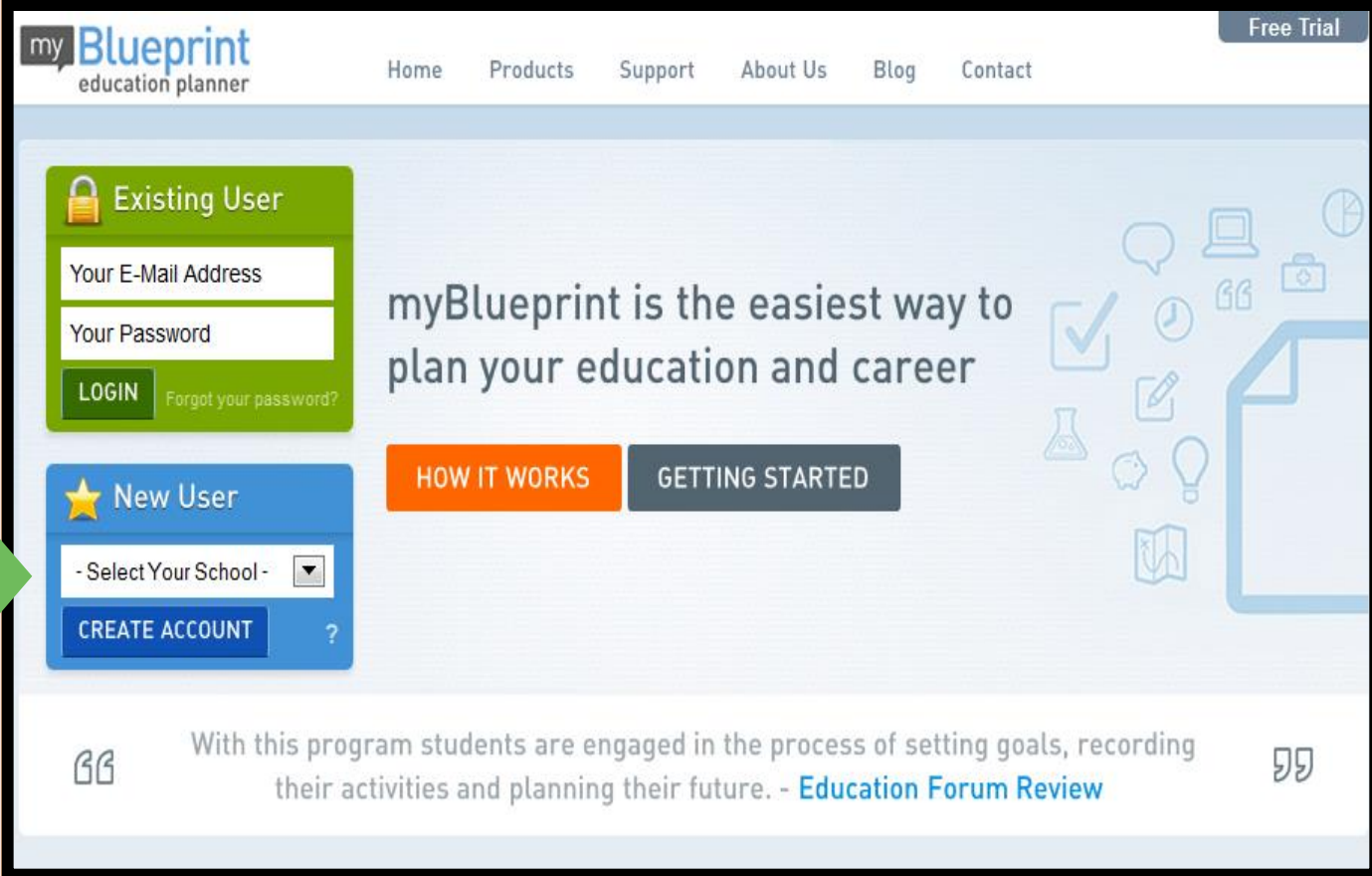
- To inform students, parents and guardians about high school choices in order to make a smooth and successful transition from Grade 8 to 9
- To assist students, parents and guardians in making informed choices about courses, programs and schools
- To raise student, parent and guardian awareness of the various program pathways available throughout the Toronto District School Board

# *Creating Pathways to Success, 2013*



# Accessing myBlueprint.ca/tdsb

Online educational & career planning tool for students and parents



The screenshot shows the myBlueprint.ca/tdsb website interface. At the top left is the logo "myBlueprint education planner". To the right of the logo are navigation links: Home, Products, Support, About Us, Blog, and Contact. In the top right corner, there is a "Free Trial" button. The main content area is divided into two primary sections: "Existing User" and "New User".

The "Existing User" section is highlighted with a green background and contains a lock icon, the text "Existing User", a text input field for "Your E-Mail Address", another text input field for "Your Password", a green "LOGIN" button, and a link for "Forgot your password?".

The "New User" section is highlighted with a blue background and contains a star icon, the text "New User", a dropdown menu labeled "- Select Your School -", and a blue "CREATE ACCOUNT" button with a question mark icon.

A green arrow points to the "New User" section. In the center of the page, there is a large text block: "myBlueprint is the easiest way to plan your education and career". Below this text are two buttons: "HOW IT WORKS" (orange) and "GETTING STARTED" (dark grey). To the right of the text are several icons representing education and career planning, such as a laptop, a clock, a lightbulb, a graduation cap, and a document.

At the bottom of the page, there is a testimonial quote: "With this program students are engaged in the process of setting goals, recording their activities and planning their future. - Education Forum Review".

[www.myBlueprint.ca/tdsb](http://www.myBlueprint.ca/tdsb)

# What Can Families Do to Help Students Make the Best Choices?

- Access and investigate *myBlueprint* career planning tool
- Attend Secondary Information Evenings/Open Houses
- Encourage continued participation in extracurricular activities
- Choose courses of interest
- Discuss future plans
- Stay involved and connected with the school

# Considerations When Choosing a High School

- The range of subjects and programs offered in each grade
- Semestered and non-semestered schedules
- “Composite” schools and “Alternative” schools
- The size of the school – big or small settings
- The range of extracurricular activities, clubs and sports offered
- The supports available for English Language Learners and students with special education needs

# The Year Ahead: Educational Planning and Course Selection Process

- Planning for the coming year is a process
- That process begins now and will continue until Course Selection Sheets are due in late February

[www.tdsb.on.ca/GoingtoHighSchool](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/GoingtoHighSchool)

# Find Your School



Toronto District School Board

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Latest News for: Oct 05, 2016

October is Somali Heritage Month

October is Women's History Month

October is Islamic Heritage Month

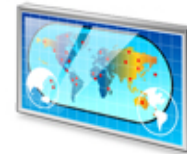
Click on "Find your School"



# Find Your School

Find your school by selecting how you want to search.

**1** **By Address** »  
Fill in your address in the search box.



**2** **By School Name** »  
Browse by Alphabetical school listing.



## Information Evenings/Open Houses at the High Schools

- Program and school specific information is shared
- Dates and times of High School Information Evenings are listed in the *Choices for Nine* brochure and posted on the TDSB website

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/GoingtoHighSchool/OpenHousesandInformationNights.aspx>

# Information Evenings at Specialized Schools

Specialized Schools and Programs include, but are not limited to: Arts, Entrepreneurship, International Baccalaureate, Science & Technology

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/innovation/highschoolspecializedprograms.aspx>

- . To investigate specialized schools or programs, check school websites and/or contact the specific school for admission requirements
- . Optional attendance guidelines and specific admission requirements will apply – check deadline dates for application

# Making Course Choices

- Ultimately, students and families make the final course choices
- Grade 8 teachers or counsellors are there to offer their best suggestions about course choices based on evidence of a student's achievement, learning style, interests, and learning goals

# What Course Type Choices Do Students Make in Grades 9 and 10?

- Applied
  - Academic
  - Locally Developed
  - Open
- 
- Students can mix course types based on their achievement, interests, and skills. For example, a student may take applied English and French courses and academic Math

# Academic and Applied Course Types

## Academic Courses

Focus on theory and abstract problems

## Applied Courses

Focus on practical applications and concrete examples

*These courses include:*

English, French, Geography, History, Math, and Science

# Open Course Types

## Open Courses

Optional courses that prepare students for further study and enriches the learning

*These courses include (but not limited to):*  
Art, Music, Health and Physical Education

# Locally Developed Course Types

## **Locally Developed**

Compulsory courses for students provides more flexibility and support in learning

*Courses that may be developed locally include:*

English, French, History, Math, and Science



# What Are the Graduation Requirements?

## Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

- Total of 30 course credits
  - 18 compulsory courses
  - 12 elective courses
- 40 Hours Community Involvement
  - Begins in summer after Grade 8
- Ontario Literacy Requirement
  - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

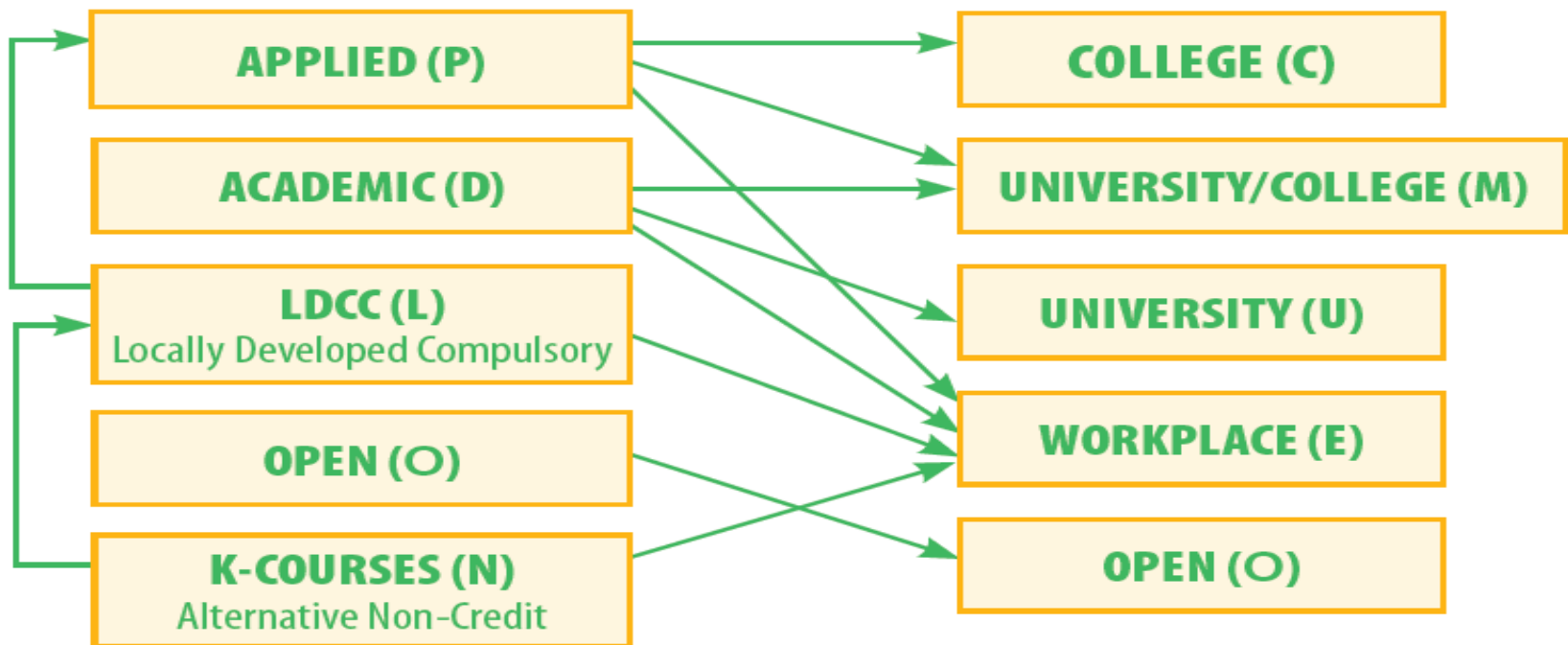
*Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12:  
Policy & Program Requirements, 2011*

# Understanding the 'Destinations'

## FIND YOUR DESTINATION COURSES

### Grade 9/10

### Grade 11/12



# How do Course Types Fit with Pathways

- All students can be successful in high school and there are many pathways to success
- Pathways are designed to keep options opened and students can revise plans just like climbing a wall, where every step is varied



## Undecided?

If you are unsure about choosing a course, keep as many options open as possible and set a goal for success

Students should speak with their parents/guardians, Guidance Counsellor and Grade 8 teachers to determine the appropriate course selection for grade 9

# What Course Type Choices Do Students Have in Grades 11 and 12?

- Students choose courses depending on their destination after high school:
  - Workplace
  - College
  - University
  - Mixed (University/College Preparation)
  - Open

## What Happens if My Child Does Not Pass a Course?

- Students may repeat the course in summer school – research suggests this is the most effective way to “catch-up” and move on to the next grade level
- Students may be recommended for “Credit Recovery” – research suggests this is the next-best way to “catch-up”
- Students may repeat the course in the next semester or year – research suggests this is the least effective way for students to “catch-up” and move on to the next grade level

# What Kinds of Programs Are Available to High School Students?

- See **Choices for Nine** for a full list of specialized schools and programs
- Many home schools also offer these additional learning opportunities:
  - Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM)
  - Cooperative Education (co-op)
  - Technological Education Programs
  - Centres of Innovation for Skills and Technologies
  - Dual Credit Programs
  - Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/innovation/highschoolspecializedprograms.aspx>

# Optional Attendance

- Students are encouraged to attend the high school within the catchment area of their residential address (home school)
- Use an *Optional Attendance Application Form (PR545)* when applying to a school other than your home school
- Forms will be available at the elementary schools in January
- Specific information regarding *Optional Attendance Procedures* will be communicated to students and families in early January

[www.tdsb.on.ca/FindyourSchool/OptionalAttendance](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/FindyourSchool/OptionalAttendance)



## Specific Dates

- **February 3, 2017** Optional Attendance applications due to secondary schools – delivered by student/parent/guardian
- **February 17, 2017** Secondary schools will inform Optional Attendance applicants by this date
- **February 24, 2017** completed via myBlueprint and returned to elementary teacher/counsellor
- **March 3, 2017** All course selection sheets due to secondary schools – delivered by Elementary Counsellor

**Note:**

- Only ONE course selection per student is submitted for ONE secondary school by the elementary school counsellor

# Questions?

