

PRACTICAL LEARNING PROGRAM

MANY PATHS TO *Success*

*Meeting the Needs of All Students Through
a Range of Programs and Placements*



How do we serve our students?

Students' needs can be met through a variety of programs, placements and class types within the DDSB. We strive to help every student meet his or her full potential, while fostering the highest level of independence possible for each student. We work with parents/guardians and board staff to determine the placement that best meets the student's needs, whether that is in a regular classroom, or for some students, in a special education class.

We place a strong emphasis on the inclusion of our students with special needs, providing meaningful, individualized integration opportunities for students accessing special education programs.

Special Education Class Placement

Some students require a higher level of support, more intensive intervention and specialized services in order to meet with success. For those students, parents and guardians may be offered an opportunity to explore a Special Education Class placement for their child. In the DDSB, we provide eight class types that meet the needs of students with a specific learning profile and that have clearly defined outcomes of student success.

- Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program
- Developmental Program
- Gifted Program
- Practical Learning Program
- School Support Program
- Structured Learning Class
- Transition to Work Program



Practical Learning Program Details

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

To increase independence by focusing on communication skills, functional literacy and numeracy skills, independent living skills, life management skills and healthy living.

PRACTICAL LEARNING PROGRAM STUDENTS:

- Require support in acquiring functional life skills, social skills and independent living skills
- May have a range of communication skills
- May have a clinical diagnosis of Intellectual Disability, Developmental Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, or a combination of these

STAFFING:

- One Special Education Teacher
- Minimum of two Educational Assistants
- Supported by the Board's multi-disciplinary professional support staff

The Practical Learning Program will support students with:

- **Development of communication skills;**
- **Functional literacy and numeracy skills** (alternative expectations or Ontario Curriculum Expectations with a focus on functional reading, writing and mathematics skills);
- **Independent living skills** (grocery shopping, cooking, community engagement, vocational skills);
- **Life Management Skills** (self-regulation, advocacy, self-awareness);
- **Healthy Living Skills** (physical health and safety, social skills and relationships);
- **Integrated transition planning from year to year, particularly from high school to post secondary pathways.ca**

Practical Learning Program

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Practical Learning Program provides intensive support while teaching and reinforcing essential skills that foster independence in activities of daily living. This program is suited for students who may have intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, and/or autism.

- **Maximum of ten students**

This can be a full-time special education class placement, or a special education class with partial integration.

For more information, please contact the Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) or Special Education Head (Secondary Schools) at your child's school and/or Chief of Speech Language and Hearing Services for the Durham District School Board.

Our Mission

The Durham District School Board is committed to fostering success and independence for each student by providing a range of pathways, programs, opportunities and services. Students with special education strengths and needs are supported in inclusive environments that enable them to develop to their own full potential.

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