



**BEAUSOLEIL EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

**SECONDARY/HIGH SCHOOL  
*COURSE SELECTIONS***

This guide gives you some valuable information to helping your child choose courses wisely. If you work together with your teen, you can develop a plan to guide your teen's educational pursuits.

There are so many courses to choose from. Some lead directly to work, others to university, or college while still others could lead to apprenticeships.

For some university and college courses, you need to take certain courses to be admitted to those programs. By keeping focused on a goal and discussing it with your child, you will be helping them achieve courses to match their interest and ability as well as plan for the future.

This exercise will ensure that you meet the requirements of your child's future. Teachers, Guidance Counsellors and the BEA Student Services Counsellor can also help.

## How to find out what your Teen is interested in/ Plan

- Discuss your teen's abilities and interests for after Grade 12 graduation
- Ask about the kinds of careers they find interesting
- Review the courses needed to get them there
- Attend career information sessions when /where possible
- Consult with the guidance counselor at school or BEA staff
- Talk with other parent's and students about their plans and careers
- Ask for role model presentations
- Research on websites
- Read newspapers/Career Pages

## Course Selection Forms

Around February each year, students and parents choose courses for the next school year or semesters. These are entered on Course Selection Forms. The form is signed by the parent (if the student is under 18), indicating their approval.

# The Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

All students who graduate receive an OSSD.

All students who graduate receive the same diploma regardless of what they study. Each of the schools provide a book describing the course options for each grade. Some students take extra courses or extend their year to explore more school subjects or to improve their grades.

The secondary school system is based on earning thirty (30) credits. Students earn one credit for each subject they successfully complete (50% +).

18 Compulsory Credits:

- 4 English
- 3 Mathematics
- 2 Science
- 1 French/Ojibway
- 1 Canadian History
- 1 Geography
- 1 Arts
- 1 Health & Phys Ed
- .5 Civics
- .5 Careers

As well as 3 others from English, Business, Phys.Ed/Arts or Technology.

12 Optional Credits- available courses are different at each school

They also need to do Community Service and pass the Literacy Test prior to being granted a diploma for Secondary School.

## Community Service

Each student is required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service before graduation.

The forty hours can be earned anytime during secondary school but must be done prior to graduation.

Making arrangements for this volunteering is the responsibility of the students and the parents.

The guidance counselor can describe how to submit hours for approval.

## Literacy Test

Each student must demonstrate that they have the literacy skills expected by the end of Grade 9.

The standard way to demonstrate this is through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

In Grade 10, the students have the first opportunity to write this test. Students who do not pass are allowed to re-write 3 x before the end of Grade 12. The test has two sections: Reading and Writing and only need to repeat the section they failed.

They are run in October of every year in all schools.

## Different Types of Secondary School Courses

Some students may find it hard deciding which courses to take. It is important to choose courses that keep their options open.

The different types of courses are:

- Academic
- Applied
- University Preparation
- College Preparation
- Workplace Preparation
- Transfer
- Open
- Essential

**Academic:**

Prepare students for Grade 11/12 University Prep courses.

**Applied:**

Prepare students to enter some University/College courses in Grade 11/12. These lead to community college or apprenticeship programs and prepare students to go directly to work after high school.

**Essential/Locally Developed:**

Schools may offer special courses for English, math and Science for Grades 9/10 for students who have difficulty in these areas.

**Pre-Requisite Courses:**

Some students must first complete a course in the same subject or a related subject in a lower grade before they can be admitted in a course. This is called a pre-requisite.

**Open:**

Open courses teach courses about general skills such as art, phys. Ed and drama.

**Co-op:**

In these programs, students spend all or part of their day in a workplace that is related to their career goals. Students earn credits while they have a real-life work experience.

**Apprenticeships:**

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) offers apprenticeships or workplace training for students in Grade 11 & 12 who are 16 year of age or older and who have at least 16 credits. These students earn further credits, to complete their high school diploma while starting their apprenticeship.