

# Education and Career/Life Planning Program

Ontario's education and career/life planning program helps students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 to set and achieve their personal goals. The program helps students become competent, successful and contributing members of society.

## What is education and career/life planning?

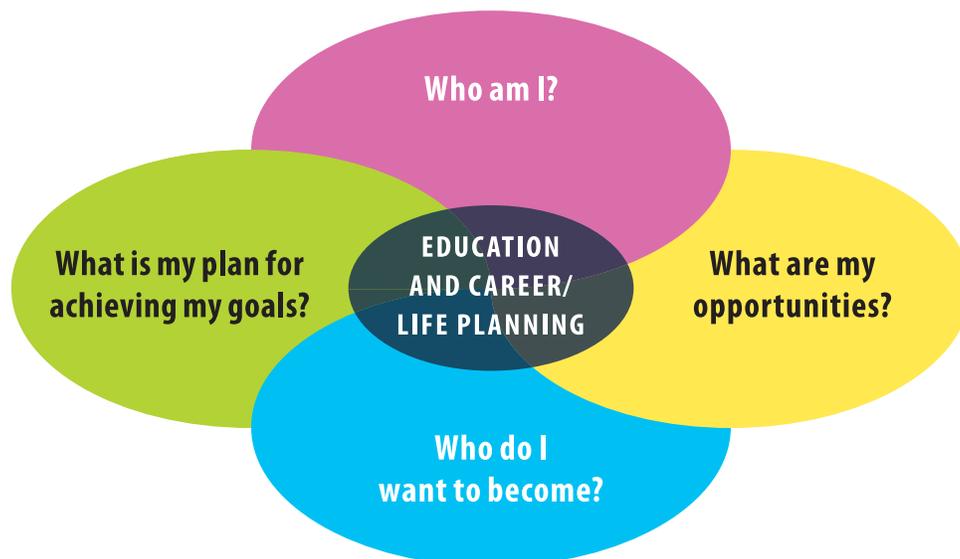
Education and career/life planning helps students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make informed choices for their education, career and life outside school. Students get a chance to learn more about themselves and their opportunities, set goals and make plans to achieve them.

This program helps students choose the courses and activities that support their goals and interests.

Students in all grades participate in the program and are encouraged to discuss their learning with parents and teachers.

## What does the education and career/life planning program teach students?

The program teaches students how to understand themselves better and plan for the future. It does this by helping students to develop answers to four key questions:



Students explore these questions throughout the program to develop answers that are meaningful to them. By doing this, they gain the knowledge and skills that will help them plan and make decisions about their future.

Key Questions	Skills and Knowledge Area
Who am I?	<b>Knowing Yourself</b> Students identify the qualities that describe who they are. These include their interests, strengths, accomplishments and skills.
What are my opportunities?	<b>Exploring Opportunities</b> Students explore the concept of “opportunity” and how the choices they make can open pathways for them. They learn how school- and community-based opportunities help to develop skills and relationships. Students learn about different occupations and fields of work. They also study how local and global trends affect their opportunities, identify the skills and experiences they need, and look at ways to acquire them.
Who do I want to become?	<b>Making Decisions and Setting Goals</b> Students identify the demands, rewards, and other features of the opportunities they have explored. They think about how these connect with their personal qualities. Students use a decision-making process to determine their education and career/life goals.
What is my plan for achieving my goals?	<b>Achieving Goals and Making Transitions</b> Students create a detailed plan of the steps needed to achieve their goals. They identify the resources they will need. They also discover the obstacles and challenges they may face and find solutions that could help to overcome these barriers.

### How will students develop and apply this learning?

Students develop knowledge and skills about education and career/life planning through:

- Classroom activities related to the curriculum
- School-wide activities like career fairs and postsecondary presentations
- Activities in the community like recreational, social, leadership, and volunteer activities, and part-time employment
- Programs which offer “experiential learning,” like job shadowing, cooperative education, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, Specialist High Skills Majors, and Dual Credits.

### How will students record their learning?

- **Kindergarten–Grade 6:** students will have an “All About Me” portfolio. It contains materials, information, and personal reflections compiled by the student, with the support of the teacher.
- **Grades 7–12:** students record their goals and learning in a web-based Individual Pathways Plan (IPP). The IPP becomes the main planning tool for students as they move towards the next step after school. It also gives students a valuable archive of their learning and planning resources.

Students are responsible for building and updating their portfolios and IPPs. Schools must have a clear process in place to help students create their plan. Schools must also help students review and revise their plan at least twice a year.

Students share the learning they record in their portfolio or IPP with a teacher and/or guidance counsellor. They are also encouraged to share their learning with their parent or guardian.

**Read the full *Creating Pathways to Success* policy at [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/cps/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/cps/index.html)**