

| <b>Grade 12 Diploma (OSSD) - "Gold Choice Option"</b>      |   |   |
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|  | <b>What is This?</b>  | <b>Why is This Good?</b>  |
| <b>Ontario<br/>Secondary School<br/>Diploma<br/>(OSSD)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known as a grade 12 diploma, high school diploma, Ontario Secondary School Diploma or OSSD for short. This will give you the most post secondary education &amp; training options if you choose to further your education</li> <li>• 30 credits are required in English, Mathematics, Science and other subject areas along with 40 hours of community service and a literacy test</li> <li>• If you don't have a diploma already, read on. Options in the <i>Getting a Grade 12 Diploma</i> box below can help you get an OSSD sooner than you think</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is always worth getting your OSSD if possible, you will not regret this. Employers and educational institutions prefer this diploma the most for proof of grade 12 completion</li> <li>• An OSSD will satisfy employer grade 12 diploma requirements and allows you to have the most educational options (ie. College, university or trade school)</li> <li>• No transcript, no problem. Dropped out of high school in the last five years? Contact the school. Dropped out of school more than five years ago, contact the school board</li> </ul> |

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|   | <i>Q: "I'm over 18 and have not been to school for at least a year, how do I get my diploma?"</i><br><i>A: A combination of one or more of these three options will help</i>  |   |
|   | <b>What is This?</b>  | <b>Why is This Good?</b>  |
| <b>Option 1<br/><u>Prior Learning<br/>Assessment</u><br/><u>(PLAR)</u></b><br><br><a href="http://www.ilc.org/school/prior_learning.php">http://www.ilc.org/school/prior_learning.php</a> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Education may grant up to 12 maturity credits or 10 Prior Learning Assessment &amp; Recognition credits for mature students to get your OSSD</li> <li>• If you took a training program , for example hairdresser, electrician or mechanic, you may be granted credits for this which means you don't have to take as many courses to graduate</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maybe you left school years ago due to a pregnancy, family reasons or started working. Because you now have work and life experience, you may be eligible for credits</li> <li>• A PLAR assessment can be completed at the ILC or at a local school in the city (ie. St Albert's Adult Learning Centre) earning you credits towards your OSSD</li> </ul> |

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| <p>Option 2<br/> <a href="http://www.ilc.org">Independent Learning Centre (ILC)</a><br/> <a href="http://www.ilc.org">http://www.ilc.org</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Independent Learning Centre is a Ministry of Education approved high school, in other words, a high school without the building</li> <li>• Allows you to complete the required courses you need to earn your OSSD</li> <li>• There is a small fee for each course and it is easy to register</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers courses which can be completed without going to a physical school so you can get your OSSD. This means, you have the choice to do courses online, by mail or a combination of both</li> <li>• You can start anytime and work at your own pace. You also have access to a teacher by phone or e-mail. A great option if you are working, have transportation issues or young children at home</li> </ul> |
| <p>Option 3<br/> <b>Adult Education Centre</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you prefer to take your courses required for your OSSD in a classroom setting, you may enjoy an adult credit program</li> <li>• A number of locations are available with local school boards across the city. You can complete credits in English or French</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great if you have your own way of getting there or access to public transportation</li> <li>• In person teacher support is provided along with flexible schedules. Daycare may be available at some locations</li> </ul>   |

| <b>Grade 12 Equivalency - “Silver Choice Option”</b>           |  |   |
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|  | <b>What is This?</b>   | <b>Why is This Good?</b>  |
| <p><b>Academic &amp; Career Entrance Certificate (ACE)</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is recognized as equivalent to Grade 12 for the purpose of admissions to all Ontario Colleges in pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship and post-secondary programs</li> <li>• ACE is offered at Collège Boréal and Cambrian College in the city and may be recognized by employers for hiring and promotion purposes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This can be a perfect option if you are interested in going to college and don’t have an OSSD or are missing some courses to be accepted into a college program</li> <li>• Because students complete the ACE at the college, it is a good stepping stone to introduce you to the college environment and experience</li> </ul> |

**Resource Sheet #7 - Grade 12 and High School – Diploma, Equivalency or Certificate - Which One is Right for You?**

| <b>Grade 12 Equivalency – “Silver Choice Option”</b> |  |  |
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|  | <b>What is This?</b>   | <b>Why is This Good?</b>   |
| <b>General Educational Development (GED)</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An option if you did not graduate from high school, are 18 and over and have been out of school for more than one year. <u>A GED can only be completed through the ILC</u> in either English or French</li> <li>A GED test is seven hours long and can be written in the city about very four months</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A great option if you want a equivalency certificate needed for a job, promotion, or for admission into a post secondary school, training centre or apprenticeship program</li> <li>A suitable choice if you are working, have transportation issues or young children at home</li> </ul> |

| <b>Other – “Bronze Choice Option”</b>              |   |  |
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|  | <i>It is important to note these options are not a grade 12 diploma or a grade 12 equivalency</i>   |  |
|  | <b>What is This?</b>  | <b>Why is This Good?</b>   |
| <b>Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Granted to students who leave high school before earning their OSSD as long as 14 credits are completed</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good verification for recognizing your secondary school achievement if you are looking at working, taking a vocational program or short term training</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Certificate of Accomplishment</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Granted to students who leave high school and completed less than 14 credits</li> </ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognizes your achievement and completion of some secondary school courses</li> <li>Good if you are interested in only working or taking short courses and not going to college or taking an apprenticeship</li> </ul> |

Note: This table is intended to provide general information and options. Your employment counselor or caseworker can help guide you to provide more information and direction based on your employment and educational goals or you have special circumstances (ie. Went to a high school in a different province). Financial assistance may be provided for eligible school related costs including transportation and childcare