

School/College/Work Initiative – Regional Forum Report Windsor-Essex County

Phase 6 Report

August 11, 2003

Contacts

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Background

The School/College/Work Program Development Committee for Windsor was formed in March, 2003 as a subcommittee of the High School Liaison Advisory Committee. As a result of the new OSS high school curriculum, the High School Liaison Advisory Committee raised concerns about the opportunity to access post-secondary education of certain segments of the high school population. The School/College/Work Program Development Committee for Windsor was formed as a result of these concerns (see membership list attached).

Findings of the School/College/Work Program Development Committee

The school/college/work program development committee has met twice since its formation to outline the profile of students who may need some type of transitional or bridging program to either college or work. The following represents our findings:

a. Student Group Profiles

We have identified three major student groups who will have difficulty making the transition from school to either college or work:

- Group One represents students whose marks may be below the college admission average (s) despite working at their potential; may be in high school longer than the average period of time; may be an adult; may have been in and out of school through out their high school career; and may have accessed a variety of school

options like ILC courses. These students may require academic upgrading to be eligible.

- Group Two consists of students who have not earned a high school diploma; students who will have taken the majority of their courses at the essentials and/or workplace level. These students would not be eligible for college admission in most programs; they may need academic upgrading or workplace skills.
- Group Three represents students who have earned an Ontario Secondary School Certificate with a minimum of fourteen credits: seven compulsory credits and seven electives; or a certificate of accomplishment. These students may be high need students with an identified learning disability and plan and/or need workplace readiness training.

The committee felt that all three groups could benefit from at least one course that would help students to develop skills in order plan for their future. Consequently, any program designed to meet the needs of these students should have a component that involves self-exploration, job and career research, and life planning. The committee also felt that one program may not meet the needs of all three groups of students.

b. Existing Provincial College Programs

- In the category of preparatory programs, the Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities identified eleven programs. Seven of these programs were academic upgrading programs for students interested in attending highly competitive programs at the college such as Technology of Health Sciences.
- One program called Building Bridges at Cambrian College is designed for developing potential in students with developmental disabilities.
- Three of these programs are college vocation programs. Generally, the curriculum included courses in life skills, communication skills, mathematics, fitness, and work placement.
- Currently there are no college vocational programs in either the Windsor-Essex or Chatham-Kent regions.

Recommendations

1. Develop a program called Future Links that bridges the school/college/work continuum.

2. Use our partnerships with industry to develop an effective general vocational program. Employ the methods of Developing A Curriculum (DACUM) to build a program based on the advice of educators and industry experts.

School/College/Work Program Development Committee Membership

St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology:

Julie Longo, Director of Innovation to be replaced by
Dan White, Director of Innovation
Laiman Ng, Liaison Coordinator
Tina Di Simone, Chair of Applied Arts and General Studies
Crystal Kotow-Sullivan, Faculty, Applied Arts and General Studies
Gayle Cross, Counsellor, Student Services
Gord Crompton, Counsellor, Student Services

Greater Essex County District School Board

Chere Tulet, Head of Guidance, Western Secondary School
Mary Lynn Biggley, Vice-Principal, Elementary School

Windsor-Essex County Separate School Board

Violette Armaly, Head of Guidance, St. Joseph High School
Mike Chalut, Head of Guidance, Holy Names High School

Lambton Kent District School Board

Nancy Cumming, Head of Guidance, John McGregor Secondary School

Quarterly Report

Project Name: Future Links

Period From April 1, 2003 to August 11, 2003

Expenditures

Advisory Committee Meetings

- March 3, 2003
- April 24, 2003 \$85.48 refreshments
- May 30, 2003 \$85.48 refreshments

Total \$170.96

