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Subject: Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training (FAST)

Background

The Ministry of education has released information about the Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training (FAST) program and it is to be implemented in September 2025 to grade 11 and 12 students. There is a requirement to promote this program, have it "selectable" in myBlueprint as a placeholder course and for the program to appear in school course calendars.

As the demand for skilled workers in the automotive, construction and manufacturing sector is set to grow significantly over the next decade, the government is taking action to ensure the province has the tradespeople needed to build Ontario.

Building on the successful Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Ontario is creating a new stream, called Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training (FAST), that will allow students in Grades 11 and 12 to participate in more apprenticeship learning through additional co-operative education credits while completing high school. Graduates would receive a blue seal on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma to signify their successful completion of the program and recognize them for their dedication to learning in the skilled trades.

Details

The **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)** allows students to earn credits toward the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) by taking a cooperative education course for which the community component is in an apprenticeship trade.

To be eligible for OYAP, students must:

- *be 15 years or older,*
- *have completed 14 credits toward the OSSD and*
- *be enrolled as a part-time or full-time student in a secondary school or continuing education program.*

Students (and their parent(s)/guardian(s), if required) must also complete an OYAP participant application form. Students are considered OYAP participants once the form is submitted. OYAP participants have the opportunity to become apprentices with registered training agreements while attending secondary school. As apprentices, they may have the opportunity to complete Level 1 apprenticeship training offered by an approved training delivery agent. They must also receive trade-specific health and safety training by the placement employer or supervisor.



As an extension of the regular programming, beginning in September 2025, some students may opt to participate in **OYAP-FAST**. The **Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training (FAST)** is an accelerated stream within OYAP that will allow students in Grades 11 and 12 to participate in more apprenticeship learning through additional co-operative education credits while completing their OSSD.

To be eligible for OYAP-FAST, students must:

- *Meet OYAP eligibility requirements (as described in detail above)*
- *Have a signed parent/guardian "consent to participate" form*
- *Earn 8 to 11 cooperative education credits with their placement component in the skilled trades.*
- *Register as an apprentice through a Registered Training Agreement (RTA) by the time they complete their eighth cooperative education credit.*

Students who meet the above completion requirements and all other OSSD requirements will be awarded the OYAP-FAST seal on their OSSD, and OYAP-FAST will be listed in the Specialized Program field of the Ontario Student Transcript (OST). If a student has already been granted an OSSD, it cannot be exchanged for an OSSD with the OYAP-FAST seal.

Additional Context

- 1.3 million people are working in skilled trades-related occupations in Ontario.
- At least one in three workers in Ontario with an apprenticeship certificate as their highest credential is nearing retirement.
- Through Ontario's Skilled Trades Strategy, Ontario has invested over \$1.5 billion in the skilled trades since 2020. This includes investments through Ontario's Skills Development Fund (SDF) that support training programs in the trades, which have aimed to help more than half a million Ontarians.
- Starting with students entering Grade 9 in September 2024, all students will be required to earn a Grade 9 or 10 Technological Education credit as part of their Ontario Secondary School Diploma, to help them consider a future career in the skilled workforce, including the skilled trades.

Recommendations

That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training (FAST)*, for information.