Acronyms etc. you may need to know: **DSO** – Developmental Services Ontario (http://www.dsontario.ca/) The DSO South East Region: regional.access@kos.net 1-855-237-6737 1-613-547-1555 The DSO Eastern Region: admin@dsoer.ca 1-855-376-3737 Passport Mentoring – 1-800-217-0376 mentoring@communitylivingontario.ca SSAH – Special Services at Home **OSSLT –** Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test **OSSLC –** Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course ADSS – Application for Development Services and Supports GPS –Guiding the Process to Success

Notes: (Things I should do next or soon. Questions I should ask.)

The Thresholds Committee consists of representatives from the following:	
	10
Brockville and District Association for Involvement	Community (613-345-4092)
Career Services of Brockville	(613-342-5775)
Catholic District School Board of Easte	ern Ontario (613-283-5007 #205)
Community Living North Grenville	(613-258-7177)
Developmental Services of Leeds and Grenville (613-345-1290)	
Gananoque and District Association for Community Living (613-382-7702)	
Upper Canada District School Board	(613-342-0371)
Watch for the rest of this set:	
Grade Grade	Grade
8 9	
Grade Ages	
12 18 to 21	



Thresholds is a Leeds and Grenville program that provides assistance to schools, students and their families before, during and after the transition from the school system to adult life in the community. Five agencies and both school boards have representatives who meet regularly as the Thresholds Committee.

It is very important for the transition process to begin as early as Grade 8, a milestone year as students get ready to move from elementary schools to high schools. Throughout the high school years, the transition process is reviewed regularly and builds to the move from high school to various options in adulthood. Our experience with families has shown us that parents would appreciate some guidelines; one mother said, "I would like to see a specific roadmap for parents because there are already too many variables in our lives that that we are not sure about...I just want to know what we need to do to make this as smooth as possible..."

The Thresholds Committee has prepared a set of six Transition Roadmaps to assist and empower parents to advocate on behalf of their children. There is one for each of Grades 8 to 12 and one for ages 18-21. Each roadmap provides useful information and prompts about school events and meetings. We hope that you find these roadmaps helpful as you navigate with your child from year to year on the school journey. If you require any other assistance, feel free to contact a member of the Thresholds Committee from the list on the back page.

> Develop some new hobbies!



DID YOU KNOW? At the age of 16 you can submit an application through **DSO**. The sooner this is done after 16 the better – to prepare for supports when your child is out of school.

You will need any testing results done by the school – just ask them for copies of everything and keep them handy!

The **DSO** office will help you complete a **Support Intensity Scale** (SIS).

Ask your agency about **SSAH** and **Passports** funding– to see if they would apply to your child, and what you might need to do. Also ask about **Passport Mentoring** to explore an area of interest.

DID YOU KNOW? Between the ages of 16 and 18, you can help your child apply for summer work at **Career Services** in Brockville (if you live in that area.) In other communities, look for businesses that would be a good fit for your child, and ask them about providing them an opportunity.

> DID YOU KNOW? If you move, some funding is portable, and some is not – and services will vary when changing communities. If you are changing schools or school boards, programs, services, and supports (EA) will be different – but essential equipment would travel within the province.

Begin to prepare your child for life beyond school and the world of work. Explore lots of options.

DID YOU KNOW?

Co-op work placements can start in grade **10**. Ask the school how this can be arranged for your child. Is your child ready for this? Can you help transport your child? Will your child need support at the worksite?

If you have not connected with a community agency yet, look into

options soon.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your child's day will be completely different once they stop attending school. They may go from being busy all day every day in a social environment, to having little to do at home. Preparing well in advance is the key!