

Acronyms you may need to know:

ADSS – Application for Developmental Services and Supports

SSAH – Special Services at Home

ODSP – Ontario Disability Support Payment

OSSD – Ontario Secondary School Diploma

OSSC – Ontario Secondary School Certificate

K – Alternative Programs – Functional/Life Skills

Notes:

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

The Thresholds Committee consists of representatives from the following:

Grade

12

Brockville and District Association for Community Involvement (613-345-4092)

Career Services of Brockville (613-342-5775)

Catholic District School Board of Eastern 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

8

Grade

9

Grade

10

Grade

11

Ages

18 to 21

TRANSITION

ROADMAP

FOR FAMILIES OF

EXCEPTIONAL

STUDENTS

Navigating a path for our children through school;
- from grade 8
- through high school
- up to the age of 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.

Important Websites

- Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders www.oafccd.com
- Autism Society of Ontario www.autismontario.com
- Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario www.sbhao.on.ca
- The Easter Seal Society, Ontario www.easterseals.org
- Canadian Hearing Society www.chs.ca
- Integration Action for Inclusion www.integration-inclusion.com
- Family Alliance Ontario www.family-alliance.com
- Lanark County Support Services 613-283-2297
dhenderson_lcsc@ripnet.com
- Voice for Hearing Impaired Children www.voicefordeafkids.com
- Down's Syndrome Association www.dsao.ca
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind www.cnib.ca
- Passport Mentoring – 1-800-217-0376
mentoring@communitylivingontario.ca

Have High Expectations for your child – at home, at school, with friends, and in the community!

September, Grade 12

This may be the final year of High School. Think now about what June will look like!

Find or create opportunities for your child to be as independent as possible.

Course Selection – continue to advocate for new options.

Semester 2 Begins in February

Some colleges and universities open programs for people with intellectual disabilities. It's not too late to investigate the options! You'll need to know how/when to apply!

End of year exams – find summer work!

IEP comes home

Work with the school team early to prioritize the essential skills your child will need to focus on this year.

Things you can watch for and ask about throughout the year.

Ask the school team to help create a personal portfolio of photos, accomplishments and other records to support the transition.

Semester 1 Exams – end of January

Watch for Career Events at the School

IPRC meeting

Transition Planning Meeting

June, Grade 12

Graduation Ceremony and Dance

If your child does not plan to return next year – speak with the school to ensure he/she is included in the graduation ceremony – and receives the certificate he/she has earned along with the other graduating students.

DID YOU KNOW?
When your child leaves school, his/her day will be much different. Do what you can to prepare him/her to go to a job placement. Your child may need practice to do one type of work all day – with planned breaks. He/she may need to respond to a different type of bell.

He/she may need to know how to take direction from many supervisors. There may not be a cafeteria. And so on....

DID YOU KNOW?
If your child displays some inappropriate and difficult behaviour while still in school, the school will support them, and must keep them in a school placement until 18. However, once out of school in the world of work, an employer is not obliged to keep an employee. Be sure to keep trying all recommended strategies and pursue all professional advice before your child leaves school to maximize success once they are out of school.

DID YOU KNOW?
Proper self-care, hygiene, attention to personal appearance (hair and clothing) are very important in a workplace. Work with the school to help maximize these skills this year.

Ask your agency about **Passport Mentoring** as a possibility to explore an area of interest.

Volunteer work also builds a variety of skills.

DID YOU KNOW?
Does your child understand personal boundaries? If he/she likes to hug, kiss, touch, or is often too familiar with strangers –it is important to work on understanding personal space at home and at school before graduating to life in the community.

Check with your support agency about what might be set up for after graduation.

DID YOU KNOW?
Time management is an important skill – knowing how to use a clock and a calendar; being on time for work, appointments, social engagements etc. Ask the school to include this in the IEP.