

Community Living Ontario Passport Mentoring Initiative

The Passport Mentoring Initiative is an “in-school” opportunity to expose students, who have a developmental disability at the secondary school level, to post-school experiences and options. It is intended to enhance their capacity to make informed post-school decisions prior to leaving school, and is available to students between the ages of 14 and 21. This is achieved through adult mentors, who have a developmental disability and Mentor Coordinators in concert with school personnel, parents, and community and support providers.

Experienced adult mentors work with the Mentor Coordinators to provide direct exposure to career shadowing, interaction in meaningful community activities, volunteer options and the exploration of alternate post-school opportunities. Additional in-school support includes exposure to and training in social interaction, relationship building, post-school transition adjustments, decision-making approaches and exploration. Mentoring approaches are individualized for each student.

Mentors are individuals who have:

- A developmental disability
 - Active participation in their community (either through daily activities, volunteering, recreation/leisure or work activities)
 - An identity through a self-advocacy group.
- A range of functional, relevant and experiential abilities.

Characteristics of a mentor include:

- Adult person who has a developmental disability
- People who have “been there”.
- People who can offer support and bring valuable experiences
- People who are eager to listen and interact with those students seeking future options.

Students are typically people who:

- Have a developmental disability from regular and self-contained secondary school classes
- Are between the ages of 14 and 21 years of age
- Seek active participation within chosen options in their communities following school.
- Would benefit from leadership/mentoring for transition into community participation activities.

Contact Developmental Services Ontario when 17 or older.

<http://www.dsontario.ca/>

For more information, contact Patsy Pillay (ppillay@communitylivingontario.ca) or call 416-407-3223.