

# Education ■ Education System in Ontario

### **Classes might want to learn more about ...**

- ① specific changes to education laws in Ontario in recent years
- ① alternative schools, correspondence courses
- ① separate school system in Ontario (Catholic education)
- ① private schools
- ① how Ontario's education system compares with other provinces
- ① how school boards operate
- ① education funding in Canada/ Ontario
- ① extra-curricular activities
- ① teachers' unions and issues
- ① teachers' preparation time
- ① home schooling
- ① French language programs
- ① school culture in Canada

### **Learners find it useful to ...**

- ◇ paraphrase, repeat to check their understanding of information
- ◇ get involved in child's school by volunteering or attending school events
- ◇ get information about the school system at their child's grade level
- ◇ contact school staff to discuss concerns, questions

## **Suggested Resources**

- 📖 *Ontario Reader 1997*: "Ontario's school system"
- 📖 *Ontario Reader 1998*: "Changes in public education"
- 📰 *A Look at the News (June 1998)* "The Cost of Education"

Ontario Ministry of Education for newsletters on education reform: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/>

blank standardized report cards available from government website:  
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/forms/report/1998/report98.html>

Ontario Public School Board's Association (includes alphabetical listings of the boards across Ontario and their websites): <http://www.opsba.org/who/who.html>

🔑 **name of specific board of education**

## Education ■ Education System in Ontario

### Topic Outcomes

**By the end of this topic, learners will be able to:**

- describe personal educational background
- agree and disagree with current educational policies
- give suggestions and advice about improving the education system
- identify the main idea and supporting details in a text about Ontario's education system
- find specific information in a report card by scanning
- relate a story orally or in writing about a best or worst teacher
- write a brief report about an aspect of Ontario's education system

### Language Focus

**Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:**

- vocabulary (*elementary, secondary, OAC, standardized, curriculum, trustee, school councils, streaming, alternative schools*)
- time expressions with *for, since, ago*
- adjectives: comparatives and superlatives
- adverbs (intensifiers) for strong agreement, disagreement (*absolutely, totally, completely*)
- pronunciation: -ed endings

### Sample Language Tasks

1. Debate an aspect of education reform in Ontario (e.g. standardized testing, school uniforms, streaming).
2. Read a report card to find specific information about student's progress.
3. Interview classmates to complete a chart about education systems in different countries with the headings: country, elementary, middle, secondary, streaming.

### Sample Computer Tasks

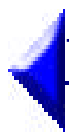
**Computer Levels:** Novice-Advanced

**Computer Skills:** Create Table, Edit Table

**Experienced/Advanced:** Create a table as in Language Task 3. Follow instructions to edit/enhance table. Print and display in class.

**Computer Skills:** Open/Close application, select and navigate through options, mouse skills

**All levels:** Ellis-Master Pronunciation-Speech Acts-**Getting Things Done-Offer Suggestions**  
-**Conversing-Agree and Disagree**



# Education ■ Financial Assistance for Students

### *Classes might want to learn more about ...*

- ① OSAP and other government-sponsored student assistance programs
- ① eligibility requirements for student loans, grants
- ① tuition assistance available from government sources (e.g. Human Resources Development Canada for Employment Insurance recipients)
- ① the consequences of not repaying government student loans
- ① the total cost of a degree or certificate for various programs and schools
- ① savings plans for child's post-secondary education (RESPs)
- ① comparative study of tuition fees and financial assistance available at colleges, universities, private schools
- ① availability of financial assistance in some private institutions or banks

### *Learners find it useful to ...*

- ◇ use a unilingual English dictionary for unfamiliar finance, banking terms
- ◇ use rephrasing and repetition to check understanding of terms before signing financial documents
- ◇ have someone translate a loan document before signing
- ◇ talk to university and college students (or their parents) about financial assistance options
- ◇ access Internet web sites or library directories for information about available scholarships and bursaries

## Suggested Resources

- 📄 Brochures available from Human Resources Development Canada
- 🗣️ Invite a liaison officer from local community college or university to talk about financial assistance options
  - OSAP: <http://osap.gov.on.ca/>
  - Student Awards: <http://www.studentawards.com/>
  - Canada Student Loans Program: [http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/student\\_loans/engraph/index.html](http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/student_loans/engraph/index.html)
  - Canadian Scholarship Trust Plan: <http://www.baynet.net/~cstplan/>
  - SFU Graduate and Post Graduate Awards Database: <http://fas.sfu.ca/projects/GradAwards/>

🔑 **student loan, OSAP**

## Education ■ Financial Assistance for Students

### Topic Outcomes

**By the end of this topic, learners will be able to:**

- ask and answer questions about financial assistance options for students
- ask for assistance and information about eligibility and how to apply for financial assistance
- describe personal education goals
- get specific information about eligibility and application procedures from brochures and forms
- understand financial terms and repayment information on loan documents
- fill out longer application forms for loans or scholarships
- write a short text giving reasons why one should be considered for a scholarship or bursary

### Language Focus

**Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:**

- vocabulary (*bursary, grant, scholarship, OSAP, student loan, negotiate, documents*)
- adjectives to describe personal qualities (*studious, scholarly, bright, brilliant, high achiever, capable, persistent*)
- adverbs as intensifiers (*extremely, quite, very, fairly*)
- complex sentences with *although, because, since*
- linking words (*therefore, however, in addition*)
- sequence markers
- pronunciation: non-final intonation for items in a series

### Sample Language Tasks

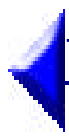
1. Listen to a step-by-step explanation of student loan application procedure. Make notes and retell to a partner.
2. Read brief biographies of students and descriptions of types of financial assistance available. Match the students with the most appropriate form of assistance.
3. Write a paragraph to be included with a scholarship or bursary application. Describe personal strengths, goals and achievements.

### Sample Computer Tasks

**Computer Levels:** Novice-Advanced

**Computer Skills:** Font Style, Size, Color

Open an instructor-made file containing letter of application for bursary or scholarship and identify a language focus item (adjectives, logical connectors). Use font colour, size and style to change appearance.



# Education ■ Post-Secondary Education

### ***Classes might want to learn more about ...***

- ① English proficiency levels required for various programs (minimum TOEFL score)
- ① tuition fees at different post-secondary institutions
- ① admission requirements, exemptions for mature and senior students
- ① financial assistance for students (OSAP, scholarships, bursaries, government assistance programs)
- ① correspondence courses, distance education
- ① cultural differences in teaching styles, level of formality in schools in Canada and other countries
- ① TOEFL, TWE, TSE and other English proficiency tests

### ***Learners find it useful to ...***

- ◇ make an appointment with a school counsellor for advice
- ◇ have degrees, transcripts translated into English and evaluated
- ◇ listen to recorded messages about application deadlines and registering by phone
- ◇ use the Internet to access phone numbers for departments, faculties
- ◇ read fact sheets related to profession/ field
- ◇ contact professional associations for information about certification process
- ◇ practise speed-reading techniques (skimming, scanning)
- ◇ highlight important information in texts

## **Suggested Resources**

*Words We Use*

Brochures, flyers and course calendars from colleges and universities

Application forms and information available from: Ontario College Application Services

For a list of colleges and universities in Ontario, click [Education-Colleges](#) or [Education-Universities](#) in Yahoo Canada and click [Ontario](#)

Access to Professions and Trades: <http://www.equal/opportunity.on.ca/engtxt/more/trades/html>.

specific name of college or university

## Education ■ Post-Secondary Education

### Topic Outcomes

**By the end of this topic, learners will be able to:**

- ask and answer questions about education background
- give and ask for information about college and university courses and programs on the telephone and in person
- relate a story about a personal experience with a college or university
- find telephone numbers for various departments or faculties of a post-secondary institution in directories
- find specific information about admission requirements and application procedures in authentic school calendars
- fill out a registration form for a course
- write a brief report about courses or programs

### Language Focus

**Items to help learners achieve the outcomes:**

- vocabulary (*prerequisite, faculty, deadline, transcript, undergraduate, graduate studies*)
- idioms (*drop out, hit the books, cram for an exam, burn the midnight oil*)
- past tenses
- adjectives: comparatives and superlatives
- definite articles
- linking words
- pronunciation: stress in numbers

### Sample Language Tasks

1. Interview a partner about education background and future goals. Report to class.
2. Read course descriptions in school calendars. Complete chart with information about fees, dates and times, course codes.
3. Write a brief report comparing similar programs offered at different institutions.

### Sample Computer Tasks

**Computer Levels:** All

**Computer Skills:** Internet basics, browsers, search engines, search types, Bookmarks/Favorites, URL, Hyperlink

Browse college and university websites to find information about a selected program.

**Computer Skills:** Open/Close application, select and navigate through options, mouse skills

Ellis-Master Pronunciation-Speech Acts-**Getting Things Done-Ask for Information, Leave and Take Phone Messages**

Ellis-Senior Mastery-**Registering for Classes**