

TOOL TIME:

SKILLED TRADES PANEL



OSCA / ACOSO

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THANK YOU TO OUR PANELISTS:

Skills Ontario

Support Ontario Youth

Honour the Work

OYAP/PAJO

OTHER RESOURCES:

- [Skilled Trades Ontario](#)
- [Apprenticesearch.com](#)
- [HIEC](#)
- [Skilled Trades Ontario Brochure](#)
- [BuildForce Construction Sector Predictions](#)
- [Skilled Trades BC Find Your Trade Quiz](#)

WHAT ARE SOME COMMON MYTHS ABOUT APPRENTICESHIP?

- They don't require math and science courses/they aren't STEAM/STEM careers
- They are a fall back option for students who could not get into college, university or another program
- There isn't job progression
- Lack of awareness that there are 144 skilled trades in Ontario



WHAT ARE SOME TIPS FOR MYTH- BUSTING?

- Bring in examples of the textbooks used in apprenticeship programs to see both the level of math/science required, and how high school concepts are used in the real world
- Skilled Trades Ontario list of 144 trades with the number of hours and level of high school needed to complete the program



MYTH BUSTING CONTINUED:

- More opportunities for skilled trades professionals to speak directly to students, parents & teachers
- More career integration into all subjects and grades, beginning K-8
- Have students complete a free quiz/myBlueprint assessments to narrow down skilled trades careers that best align with their strengths, talents, skills, and interests

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU GIVE TO HOMESCHOOLERS? SHOULD THEY ENTER AN ONTARIO SCHOOL AND EARN THE OSSD FIRST?

- Best to enroll in school if they can as co-op placement opportunities and exemptions to legislation allow co-op students to explore skilled trades.
- If that wasn't possible, then a co-op as part of a College program would be a good start, or direct entry into the workforce. This all depends on the trade/sector they may be interested in exploring.
- Another option is pre-apprenticeship after they are 18*.

WHAT IS THE INDUSTRY EXPECTATION FOR PATHWAY IN HIGH SCHOOL?

- There is no single correct answer; it depends on the trade and employer.
- Unions, in most cases, would be looking for a C or M math rather than an E.
- E level courses might limit students in their college pathway (planned or unplanned).
- Unfortunately the answer is not as simple as just 'yes' or 'no.' Compulsory vs non-compulsory trades would also, inherently, have different expectations.

UNION VS NON-UNION? WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS?

- This is a very nuanced question with many factors to consider.
- Students, educators, and parents need to consider geography, opportunities, career ambitions, and what they would like to get from their trades career.

