

support every child  
reach every student

# **2017-18 EDUCATION FUNDING ENGAGEMENT**

## **Highly Skilled Workforce**

November 10, 2016

# Highly Skilled Workforce

- In 2015, the Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel were tasked to make recommendations to develop an integrated government strategy that supports a highly skilled workforce that meets the needs of today's economy and anticipates the needs of Ontario's future economy.
- The Expert Panel identified 28 recommendations for the government to consider for implementation beginning in fall 2016 in its report [\*Building the Workforce of Tomorrow: A Shared Responsibility\*](#).
- The Ministry of Education (EDU) will be working on implementing 10 recommendations related to the themes of Experiential Learning and Mentorship, Promotion of Multiple Career Pathways and Skills and Competencies.

# Ministry of Education Priority

## Recommendations in the 2016-17 School Year

**3.1** Expand Ontario's Specialist High Skills Majors Program to 25% of all students in grades 11 and 12 in the next three years

**4.1** Review the Guidance and Career Education curriculum to ensure that it exposes students to a variety of learning pathways and opportunities.

**4.3** Provide professional development opportunities to teachers with a counselling role, to expand their knowledge of current and future labour market trends, skills requirements and emerging careers.

# Highly Skilled Workforce Connections



# Timelines

- Implementation of EDU's recommendations will begin in Fall 2016.
- Planning for SHSM expansion in the 2017-18 school year is underway and will be based on targeting growth in priority sectors across the province.
- Pilots to explore possible new modules of a refreshed career studies course will begin in second semester of the 2016-17 school year.
- EDU will work with schools and school boards to develop professional development opportunities in the 2016-17 school year for educators with a counselling role.
- Implementation planning for EDU's other recommendations is underway.

# Discussion Questions

1. One of the Panel's recommendations focuses on an expansion of SHSM programs from the current footprint of approximately 14% of all grade 11 and grade 12 students to 25% (Recommendation 3.1). How can we allocate funding more efficiently and effectively to work towards this target of increased student participation by the 2019-20 school year? What are the non-financial barriers to and opportunities for growth? How might school boards be encouraged to continue to work with partners in your communities to promote and deliver experiential learning opportunities?
2. How might schools be encouraged to apply for community-connected experiential learning project funding to support deeper understanding and wider implementation (i.e., scaling up) of experiential learning?
3. What opportunities are there within existing funding to support Recommendation 3.2 of the Panel, namely, "Ontario should commit to ensure that every student has at least one experiential learning opportunity by the end of secondary school (in addition to the existing volunteer requirements)"? For example, are there opportunities within the Renewed Mathematics Strategy (RMS) or the Technology and Learning Fund (TLF) to build teacher capacity to understand experiential learning and apply the experiential learning cycle?
4. Could the Continuing Education and Other Programs Grant (or portions of this grant) be more effectively and/or efficiently allocated?
5. What relevant performance measures could be considered to better support accountability for adult learner success?