



# **Personal Support Worker (PSW) Certificate Program**

Jan 2026



# Land Acknowledgement

We begin by acknowledging the land and our responsibility to care for and respect all that provides us with life. This land upon which HDSB is situated is on the ancestral, treaty and title lands of the Anishinaabek Ojibwe Michizaagiig Nation, now known as the Mississaugas of the Credit. Michizaagiig territory in the past and present continues to host both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

The HDSB is committed to continuous knowledge building with respect to actions that address and resolve the ongoing impacts of colonialism. We do this by learning and understanding the true history, treaty obligations, duties and responsibilities and Indigenous Rights while actively maintaining mutually beneficial relationships and collectively respecting and caring for the land.



You can become a **Personal Support Worker** through the **Halton District School Board**

GET MY  
**PSW.ca**  
Ontario School Boards



[www.hdsb.ca](http://www.hdsb.ca)

# Who is a Personal Support Worker (PSW)?

A [healthcare professional](#) who assists people with daily living activities like bathing, dressing, feeding and medication reminders, especially those who are elderly, recovering from illness, or have disabilities.

PSWs provide both personal care and emotional support.



# Why become a Personal Support Worker (PSW)?

## An estimated need of 150,000 PSWs in Ontario

Research shows that over the next three years there will be an estimated need of 150,000 PSWs to support the healthcare sector across the province of Ontario.

## The field offers stable employment, diverse work environments

Career opportunities in fields such as:

- Long-Term Care Facilities
- Home Health Care Agencies
- Retirement Homes/Residences
- Hospices
- Group Homes
- Adult and Child Daycare Centres
- Family Service Centres



# Why become a Personal Support Worker (PSW)?

## People-centered career

As a PSW, you help improve people's quality of life while working in a rewarding, people-centered career for those who enjoy helping others.

## PSW offers opportunities for continued growth within healthcare

Many Ontario colleges offer bridge programs that recognize your foundational care experience in PSW and you can gain faster entry into nursing or other health-related diplomas.

### Soft Skills:

- Patient
- Dependable
- Organized
- Communication
- Empathy
- Compassion

### Hard Skills:

- Health care knowledge
- Physical mobility
- Various trainings (First/Aid, CPR/AED, GPA, Food Handling, WHMIS, Dementia, etc.)



# Career Growth in Healthcare



Personal Support Worker (PSW)

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Registered  
Practical  
Nurse (RPN)



Registered  
Nurse



Early Childhood  
Education (ECA /  
Child care)



Medical Office  
Administration



Health  
Administration



# School Board PSW Certificate Programs

Personal Support Worker (PSW) programs offered through Ontario school boards and Indigenous Education Authorities, (IEA), **meet all provincial requirements** set out by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) PSW Program Standard, (2022), and the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC).

All programs **must undergo a rigorous quality assurance process** every three years to ensure consistency and must provide a minimum of 660 hours of training, (330 hrs theoretical learning and 330 hrs practical learning).

 [Become a personal support worker \(PSW\) through your local school board.](#) Click to Play video.



 Click to play the video



# Become a PSW through HDSB



## Qualified Instructors

Qualified instructors (Registered nurse) deliver both classroom theory and practical training through clinical placements in long-term care and community health settings.

## Professionally recognized program

HDSB PSW is approved by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) PSW Program Standard, (2022), and the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC)

## Affordable tuition

Costs half of a college offered PSW program (\$300 + \$2500) in less time. February 2026 cohort has \$2000 reduction

## Earn secondary school credits

With HDSB PSW Certificate program students can earn up to six (6) elective secondary school credits which can contribute toward a high school diploma or improve overall averages, which can support post-secondary applications.

## Hands on placement experience

The February 2026 cohort will complete their placement in March at Extendicare Long-Term Care Home – Burloak (5959 New Street, Burlington)

## Strong employment outcomes

Graduates earn a provincially recognized PSW certificate - a pathway to stable employment across Ontario's healthcare sector

# Eligibility

## ✓ 18 years of age or older

Students must be 18 years of age or older by the first day of classes.

## ✓ A high school diploma is not required to enter the program

Eligible students must provide proof of education equivalent to at least 24 Ontario high school credits.

## ✓ Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7

For students whose first language is not English, or who have taken/currently take LINC/ESL classes, verification of Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) 7 is required in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

## ✓ Proof of identification documents

- **Proof of citizenship**, PR card, Canadian birth certificate, Canadian passport, Status card, or Refugee status documentation.
- **Proof of residency**, such as a utility bill, bank/mortgage statement, or signed rental/purchase/lease agreement.
- **Photo identification purposes only**, driver's license, passport, or health card

# Application Requirements:

1. Completed application form
2. Proof of age
3. Proof of Citizenship
4. Proof of Residency (address proof)
5. Copy of your high school transcript
6. Proof of CLB level (completion of Level 7 required)
7. Interview with Instructor (in person)
8. Literacy Assessment (in person)
9. Police Reference Check (with VSS)
10. Completion of medical form
11. Proof of Immunization - min 2 COVID-19 shots

# HDSB Program Details - Winter 2026

19-week program beginning February 2, 2026

**Program delivery:** in-person attendance is mandatory

**Location:** Bateman Community Centre

**Address:** 5151 New Street, Burlington

Three components:

★ **Theory/Instruction - Total of 330 hours (Feb - Apr)**

- Continuing education healthcare tech course credits
- Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 3:15 pm

★ **Clinical Practicum - Total of 110 hours (May)**

- Extendicare Long-Term Care Home – Burloak (5959 New Street, Burlington)
- Clinical practicum occurs over 2 shifts 6 am - 3 pm & 3 pm to 11 pm

★ **Clinical Placement - Total of 220 hours (May - Jun)**

- Extendicare, Burlington or other placements around Burlington
- May be compensated dependent on funding received from the Ministry of Long Term Care



**Extendicare**

**Helping people  
live better**

# Program Calendar Winter 2026

Week	Date	Details	Week	Date	Details
1	Feb 2 - 6	Program Orientation & In-class learning	12	Apr 27 - 29	In-class learning
2	Feb 9 - 13	In-class learning		Apr 30 - May 1	Clinical orientation & pre-practicum training
3	Feb 17 - 20	In-class learning	13	May 4 - 8	Clinical Practicum
4	Feb 23 - 27	In-class learning	14	May 11 - 15	Clinical Practicum
5	Mar 2 - 6	In-class learning	15	May 19 - 22	Pre-placement preparation (in-class)
6	Mar 9 - 13	In-class learning	16	May 25 - 29	Co-op placement
7	Mar 23 - 27	In-class learning	17	Jun 1-5	Co-op placement
8	Mar 30 - Apr 2	In-class learning	18	Jun 8-12	Co-op placement
9	Apr 7 - Apr 10	In-class learning	19	Jun 15-19	Co-op placement
10	Apr 13 - 17	In-class learning	20	Jun 22-26	Program Consolidation, Examination, Reporting
11	Apr 20 - 24	In-class learning			

# PSW Certification

Students who successfully complete all components of the program (theory, clinical practicum, and placement) and PSW Certification exam with a score of 70% will earn

1. **PSW certification recognized by the Long Term Care Association of Ontario** and enter the workplace
2. Voluntary registering with the new [Health and Supportive Care Providers Regulatory Oversight Authority \(HSCPOA\)](#). HSCPOA is trying to get PSWs *become registered* in Ontario
3. **Healthcare-focused secondary school credits** earned through technical courses, clinical practicums, and co-op placements, supporting high school graduation or improve overall averages supporting post-secondary applications.



HSCPOA has established an online **Public Register** where PSWs can be listed once they meet registration requirements. This registry allows employers, the public, and care recipients to verify that a PSW has met education/experience standards and committed to ethical care.

# Program Fees

1. Application fee: **\$300 non-refundable** (through school cash online)

2. Materials fee: **\$500**

(\*\*\*Note: right now only winter 2026 cohort with Ministry program incentive of **\$2000**)  
covers trainings, textbook, 1 uniform, PPE



# Application Process & Timelines

Application	Interviews & literacy assessment	Conditional Acceptance	Fee Payment & Final Acceptance	Once accepted
Mon Dec 15 - Fri Jan 16	Jan 19 - Jan 23	Jan 26 - Jan 30	Jan 26 - Jan 30	Before placements
<b>Review admission requirements</b> ( <b>age</b> , <b>ID</b> , <b>language</b> , and <b>education credentials</b> )	<b>HDSB will review your completed application and fee payment</b>	Selected students will then be sent a conditional acceptance with a link to complete <b>onboarding and orientation</b>	<b>Student fee: \$500</b> (after a \$2,000 reduction on the \$2,500 program cost for eligible applicants accepted by February 2026)	Upon acceptance, promptly submit a <b>Vulnerable Sector Check and medical clearance</b> (Mental and physical health and fitness, TB test, up-to-date vaccinations, and flu shot when available)
Submit the PSW Certificate Program Registration Form and supporting documents to <b>psw@hdsb.ca</b>	Selected candidates will be emailed to schedule a <b>literacy assessment</b> and in-person interview; <b>bring all paper documents</b>	Email pending documents Complete <b>medical form</b> including functional abilities form and immunizations. Provide <b>CRC/VSS</b> or confirm application prior to program start	<b>Payment: \$500 due upon acceptance via School Cash Online;</b> late payment may forfeit your spot.	
Pay the <b>non-refundable \$300 application fee</b> via School Cash Online. <a href="#">School Cash online</a>	<b>Applicants without an OSSD or with education outside Ontario</b> will book a <b>Guidance intake appointment</b> .			

# Meet the team

- Eleanor McIntosh (she/her) - Superintendent of Education | Gary Allan LC (Cont. Ed)
- Meena Sahi - Principal, Gary Allan LC
- Amy Mathew - Program Supervisor
- Denise Spring - Guidance Counsellor, Gary Allan LC
- Michelle Grady - HDSB PSW Instructor

Any questions, please email us at **[psw@hdsb.ca](mailto:psw@hdsb.ca)**



**More information**

# Earn a high school diploma

As part of the PSW Certificate program at the HDSB, students can **earn up to six (6) elective secondary school credits** (healthcare tech course credits - TOJ4C, TPJ3C, TPJ4C) and they will be added to your high school transcript.

Successfully completed credits can contribute toward a **high school diploma or improve overall averages**, which can support post-secondary applications.

# After PSW

After a PSW (Personal Support Worker) certification in Canada, the most common and direct path is to study for nursing. Other options include health-related diplomas in fields like Early Childhood Education, Health Administration, or specific healthcare support roles, leveraging your foundational care experience.

## Nursing Pathways (Most Common)

- **PSW to Practical Nurse (RPN):** Many Ontario colleges offer bridge programs (like the [Nursing Transformation Initiative](#)) that recognize PSW experience, allowing you to complete a Practical Nursing diploma faster, leading to RPN licensure.
- **PSW to Registered Nurse (RN):** You can bridge from PSW to RPN and then pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN), or sometimes directly enter BScN programs with sufficient prerequisites and bridging credits, offering a broader scope of practice.

## Other Health & Related Fields

- **Early Childhood Education:** Programs for Early Childhood Assistants (ECA) or Childcare Support are available, building on caregiving skills.
- **Health Sciences/Administration:** Explore diplomas in areas like Health Administration, Medical Office Administration, or specialized health support roles.

