

What is De-streaming?

- De-streaming is an educational approach that supports the achievement of equitable outcomes for every learner. This means that students will not select from Academic or Applied streams when choosing their courses in Grade 9.*
- Students will learn together in de-streamed classes in particular subject areas while selecting Academic or Open courses in other subject areas. Locally Developed courses will be available for some students at the five regional sites for this program in the HDSB.
- With high expectations for every student, teachers of de-streamed classes will employ high impact culturally-relevant and responsive, and differentiated teaching and assessment practices to support every learner in their classroom.

*Note that Locally Developed and Community Pathway Programming will be available at regional school sites.



Why is de-streaming good for every student?

- De-streaming offers an opportunity to address systemic discrimination and barriers. Research indicates that there is an overrepresentation of particular groups based on race, socio-economic status and learning needs in the Applied pathway. These groups include Indigenous, Black and racialized students as well as those from lower socio-economic households, multilingual learners and students with Individual Education Plans.
- De-streaming keeps pathway options open for every student and supports student readiness to engage in decision-making that has lifelong impacts on post-secondary and career planning.
- Students and families have indicated that course selection and pathway planning beginning in Grade 8 is too early. De-streaming in Grade 9 offers students one more year to mature, identify strengths and areas for improvement, as well as careers that are of greatest interest.
- Every student benefits from learning in classrooms with students of varied strengths, abilities and interests, in which educators have high and appropriate expectations for each student and a clear understanding that every student can be successful.



HDSB Guide to De-streaming for Students & Families

What Types of Grade 9 Courses Exist?

(O)

Open (O) courses are appropriate for every student and are designed to broaden students' knowledge and skills in subjects that reflect their interests and prepare them for active and rewarding participation in society. They are designed to keep student options open regarding post-secondary opportunities (e.g., college, workplace, university, apprenticeship). Grade 9 Open Courses include: Visual Art (AVI1O) and Exploring Technologies (TIJ1O).

(D)

Academic (D) courses focus on the essential concepts of the discipline plus additional related concepts. Academic courses develop students' knowledge and skills by emphasizing theoretical, abstract applications of the essential concepts while incorporating practical applications, as appropriate. Grade 9 Academic courses include French (FSF 1D, FIF 1D).

(W)

De-streamed (W) courses equip every student with the knowledge, skills and work ethic to be successful in Academic or Applied courses in Grade 10. These courses will follow the new De-streamed curriculum expectations. Grade 9 De-Streamed courses include Math (MTH1W), Science (SNC1W), English (ENL1W) and Geography (CGC1W).



**Note: Grade 9 Applied (P) courses have been discontinued by the Ontario Ministry of Education. Locally Developed (credit-granting) and Community Pathway (non-credit granting) courses are also available at regional school sites.*

What supports will exist for my child?

- Classroom teachers are the primary source of support and work in partnership with students and their families to differentiate instruction and assessment to meet the needs of every student.
- Classroom teachers collaborate with student support services, including Special Education teachers for students with Individual Education Plans, English as a Second Language teachers for multilingual learners, Student Success teachers, Educational Assistants and Guidance Counsellors to ensure all students have access to the resources and supports they need to be successful.
- Families, as vital partners in supporting their students' success, are encouraged to connect with the school when needed.
- Additional support, such as subject-specific extra help, is available and families can contact their schools directly for details.

Additional Resources

Ministry of Education:

[Grade 9 Math: A Guide for Parents](#)
[Grade 9 Science: A Guide for Parents](#)
[Grade 9 English: A Guide for Parents](#)
[Grade 9 Geography: A Guide for Parents](#)

Halton District School Board:

HDSB De-streaming Page (Visit hdsb.ca, search: De-streaming)
[HDSB De-streaming FAQs](#)