



COMPASS
COMMUNITY HEALTH

Pathways
to Education

Pathways to Education Hamilton FACT SHEET

What is Pathways to Education?

The Pathways to Education Program is a proven effective model, first created and implemented in 2001 in Regent Park by the Regent Park Community Health Centre. It was created to reduce poverty and its effects by lowering the high school dropout rate and increasing access to post-secondary education among youth in Canada.

The program has now been replicated through Compass Community Health (Compass) serving the Health Centre's catchment area - namely, the **Bennetto, Keith and Gibson and Landsdale neighbourhoods**. Pathways Hamilton was launched in September 2009 with the first group of students entering Grade Nine. These students are supported throughout high school, and each new Grade Nine group will be invited to join Pathways.

How does Pathways to Education work?

The Pathways to Education Program provides four key supports to ensure that young people will successfully complete high school, continue on to post-secondary programs, and become actively engaged in their career development. These four supports are delivered in a holistic model that ensures an integrated student experience that uniquely meets the needs of each individual participant.

The four supports are:

Academic - Tutoring for youth to work with adult staff and volunteers four times per week.

Social – Goal oriented programming that includes workshops, events, field trips and social interactions with adult staff, volunteers and other youth that builds long term capacity through career and life skills to support success in school and life.

Financial - Immediate financial support such as free bus tickets or lunch vouchers tied to attendance and program participation and a scholarship toward post-secondary education (up to \$2,000 per student in the program).

One-on-One – Each participant works with a Pathways to Education Coach to set success goals, to work towards achieving them and connect teens and parents to community resources. Coaches also advocate on behalf of students, as needed, with teachers, administrators, parents or guardians.

Who is involved in Hamilton Pathways to Education?

In collaboration with Pathways to Education Canada, Compass Community Health facilitates this program in Hamilton. Crucial to the success of the program is collaboration with the community, including: students, parents, teachers and school administrators, volunteer mentors, community groups and businesses, and other stakeholders. A continuous process of feedback and growth is necessary for the program to Continue the trend of improving opportunities for youth.

Where does Pathways to Education Hamilton take place?

Programming for students take place four nights per week at local community spaces that are easily accessible to participating youth. These include: Compass Community Health, Eva Rothwell Centre and Mission Services Hamilton.

Who provides the Academic and Social support for student participants?

Pathways Volunteers are a diverse group from all across Hamilton and surrounding areas. Volunteers complete an application process and training with Compass to prepare them for success in the program. Volunteers are supervised and supported by staff at Compass. Pathways has a terrific team of approximately 80 adults volunteers successful support happen!

How is Pathways to Education Hamilton funded?

Compass works closely with Pathways Canada to secure grants from Pathways Canada. Funding is provided on an annual basis from Pathways Canada. Compass also works to secure additional funds to augment and expand the program experience.

There is no cost for students and families participating in Pathways to Education Hamilton.

What is the future of Hamilton Pathways to Education?

In 2016 Pathways expanded our catchment area to include youth in the Gibson and Landsdale (GALA) community. We began with youth entering Grade 9, and have continued to grow, and now support youth in Grades 9-12. Furthermore, we continue to monitor our catchment area to ensure we are supporting youth in at-risk communities.

When young people graduate, we all benefit. The Pathways to Education Program has proven to be less expensive and more cost-effective than most other programs available to youth. Ultimately, this translates into enormous savings in health care, correctional and social service expenditures.

How can you help?

- Volunteer in our program.
- Connect us to businesses, groups, and organizations to recruit volunteers or partner with us.
- Donate/raise funds for supplies, snacks, and to ensure the program continues in future years.
- Donate space or a unique Mentoring experience to engage students in new ways to learn.

For more information about Pathways to Education Hamilton or to register, contact:

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