



Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 12 students,

Your child's school has chosen to take part in an important program called Life After High School, designed to help all Grade 12 students graduating this year find out how to apply, afford, and get into a college or university program of interest. The program includes students who may not intend to go to college or university since learning about options and how to apply could prove useful in future years. Life After High School provides support to make it easier for your child to apply, both for a post-secondary program and for financial aid.

Life After High School involves up to three workshop sessions per child held at school. In Fall 2016, the workshop sessions can be completed over two class periods, while in Spring 2017, the workshop session is approximately one hour. In the fall, program facilitators give students the opportunity to explore college, university and apprenticeship options based on their preferred courses and grades, and to identify one or more programs of interest. Students will also develop a post high-school budget and learn how much financial aid is likely available. They do this using a specially-designed, secure website with a private login. Students then go through the process of applying for their chosen programs. The application fee is paid by the Life After High School program for up to five Ontario college programs or up to three Ontario university programs. The spring workshop introduces students to the application process for financial aid from the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).

The Social Research and Demonstration Corporation ([www.srdc.org](http://www.srdc.org)) – a Canadian non-profit research organization – has been contracted to deliver Life After High School for the 2016-17 school year. This work is funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development working in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

Grade 12 students will be informed of their workshop dates. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to contact SRDC's Life After High School team at [info@lifeafterhighschool.ca](mailto:info@lifeafterhighschool.ca) or 1-855-707-0363 (toll free).

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The Life After High School program helps students estimate their OSAP funding based on information such as family income, wages from summer jobs, and certain kinds of savings. In the fall workshop, students enter approximate values for some of this information into their own private budget calculator. **Any information they enter is kept confidential** and used only to provide an estimate - for their own personal use - of their student budget. Students then complete an application and the program collects their account number to pay the fee up to five Ontario college programs or up to three Ontario university programs. The spring workshop provides help with the OSAP application form. Students open their own personal account and initiate an application with their own information. **Your child will need your help** to complete the remainder of the information required and to submit the application in order to learn about his or her actual OSAP eligibility, should he or she decide to enroll in post secondary education in the following school year. Your child needs a Social Insurance Number to register with OSAP; if he or she does not have a Social Insurance Number yet, it would help if he or she applied for one by March 2017, before the start of the spring workshop.