



## **Seventh Fire Alternative Education Program**

Our Alternative Education Program offers a unique approach to achieving your high school OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) or OSSC (Ontario Secondary School Certificate) for students in Grades 9 - 12.

We understand that the traditional methods may not work for everyone, which is why our Alternative Education program takes a holistic approach to students' progress by creating an individualized plan that considers all aspects of the students' mental, social, emotional, and academic needs. This personalized approach allows students to learn at their own pace and in ways that resonate with their individual learning styles. Whether you prefer in-person learning, the flexibility of online/at-home learning, the hands-on experience of working through Co-op/OYAP, or the immersive nature of land-based learning, our program ensures that you can succeed academically while exploring diverse and innovative educational pathways.

### **Land-Based Learning**

At Seventh Fire Alternative Education, land-based learning runs throughout the school year for in-person learners and is seamlessly woven into the curriculum to enrich students' journeys across various subjects, such as science, social studies, art, and physical education, and effectively meet provincial standards. Students engage in activities to understand systems and biodiversity while delving into the history and current cultural traditions associated with the environment. Moreover, experiential learning is emphasized in the program to enhance thinking and problem-solving abilities, encouraging a grasp of sustainable practices and environmental conservation. We strive to work together with community partners who bring resources and expertise from their respective fields, such as guest speakers and outings, to deepen the students' learning and ties to the environment. This land-based learning initiative doesn't just fulfill curriculum requirements, it also helps students value their roots, strengthen their hands-on abilities, and foster a lasting regard for nature.

### **Seventh Fire Alternative Program Pathways:**

#### **Independent Study At-Home Learning Program**

Students have the option to take credit courses at home while striving to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students interested in joining the Independent Study At-Home Learning Program **must undergo a credit evaluation** session to establish which courses are the best fit for them.

#### **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)**

Students participating in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) can delve into apprenticeship trades as early as Grade 11 and/or Grade 12. This will pave the way



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to apprenticeship and certification as a journeyperson while also fulfilling requirements towards an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

#### **Co-operative Education**

Students participating in the Co-operative Education Program can earn credits by participating in both classroom and placement components. Engaging in Co-operative Education entails a collaborative effort among the student, the employer, the school, and the parent/guardian.

Co-operative Education is a program within the curriculum that incorporates the community as a learning environment for students preparing for college, future careers in the workforce, higher education institutions, and/or apprenticeships.

Teachers in Co-operative Education carry out evaluations during hands-on learning sessions where students are assessed by both the educator and the supervisor at their placement site.

#### **Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)**

PLAR is a formal evaluation process that allows students 18 years and older to earn credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Student learning can be acquired through life experiences and/or previous employment. Students are challenged through tests, assignments, and knowledge demonstrations to meet the curriculum expectations and prove they have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills without attending school.

For international students and students from other provinces, an equivalency process of assessing students' prior knowledge, learning skills, as well as transcripts, is required to grant credits.

#### **Supervised Alternative Learning Program (SAL)**

This program supports students between 14-18 years of age to remain engaged and stay connected to their school community. Through a variety of programs and activities, barriers to the student's learning are addressed to then help create a plan for the student to effectively work towards their academic goals. Students must be referred to SAL by the school administration. The intake process must be finalized by the SAL committee. Once admitted to SAL, students will have timetables created on an individual basis, which may include work experience, credit recovery, counselling, community involvement and/or teacher-directed instruction.

#### **Advantages of SAL**

SAL is a transitional program that can provide an educational option for challenging students.



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The focus is on students who have significant difficulty learning within the context of a regular classroom for a variety of reasons:

- chronic absences from school
- disengaged from school
- difficulties coping with the traditional structured classroom
- mental health issues (anxiety, depression, school phobia)
- may benefit from a practical, short-term employment experience
- may benefit from different life experiences to help gain personal awareness and knowledge, and to develop skills for problem-solving, decision-making, and goal setting
- need to earn certificates to gain employment.