

ACCESS Employment

Safe Return to Class Program

Funded by the Ministry of Education, the Safe Return to Class Program provides youth living in Toronto (including Scarborough) and Peel Regions with 20 hours of paid pre-employment training, ongoing mentorship and peer support, and support to obtain a summer job placement while they enroll and complete at least one summer credit course.

Serving communities and individuals who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, including Black and racialized youth, the program will place particular emphasis on youth who have dropped out of school or who are at risk of dropping out.

ACCES Employment, a non-profit community-based organization and leader in employment services for over 35 years, will safely deliver the program using our online platform. Youth will receive one-on-one support, including customized job readiness training with a focus on COVID-19 health and safety, access to inspiring guest speakers and mentors that will help build confidence and motivation, and connections to ACCES employers that are hiring. Based on need, youth may also access additional supports for clothing, transportation, and technology (e.g laptops).

Upon completion of training, the program goal is for each participant to gain safe and paid part-time summer employment. Throughout the summer, youth will continue to be supported and engaged through regular events to expand their professional and social networks, gain insight into career pathways, and develop the confidence to complete their education goals.

Program Components

- 20 hours of paid training (\$15/hour) in the following areas:
 - Job search skills (resumes, interviews, cover letters, planning a job search etc.)
 - Workplace communications (working with others, problem solving etc.)
 - Career self-assessment and planning
 - Digital technology skills
 - Customized training on demand including:
Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), Workplace Violence and Harassment, Service Excellence, Mental Health & Wellness in the Workplace, Managing Your Personal Finances
- Connections to employers that are hiring to help participants secure part-time employment during the summer (up to 20 hours per week for a total of 160 hours)
- Virtual youth meet-ups and guest speakers to build confidence and connections
- Speed Mentoring® and Coaching from industry volunteers to help build confidence and motivation for job search

For more information about the program, please contact **Laura Dowding** at ldowding@acesemployment.ca