Supporting Adult Learners in Ontario

Pauline McNaughton
Director
Student Achievement
Ministry of Education

Ontario

EDU funded Adult and Continuing Education Programs

For adults who want to earn high school credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or need academic credits to enter postsecondary education or apprenticeship training.

Adult Credit Programs offered by school boards and ILC
- Adult Day School
- Continuing Education Credit (day, after school, night, weekend)
- Summer School
- Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)
- Independent Learning Centre

High School Equivalency through ILC (Independent Learning Centre)
General education development (GED) certificate: For adults who need to take the GED test as proof of high school level of knowledge.

Flexible Adult Credit Delivery Options

- ✓ Continuous Intake
- ✓ Semesters / Quadmesters
- ✓ Up to 6 terms per school year (September – August)

- **Classroom based**
- **Blended Learning**
- **Hybrid Learning**
- **eLearning**
- **Self-Study/ Correspondence**
- **Co-operative Education**
- **Independent Learning Centre (ILC)**

https://www.ontario.ca/page/adult-learning

Pre Employment / Pre Apprenticeship within Adult Credit

- **Personal Support Worker (PSW)**
- **Hairstyling**
- **Culinary Arts**
- **Custodial Services**
- **Childcare Assistant**
- **Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program**

Adult Learners (2017-2018)

- 2017-18 approximately **64,000 adults** (aged 18 and over), participated in Adult, Alternative & Continuing Education programs
- Approximately **50%** were between **18-25 years of age**
- In 2017-18, **$69.5M*** was provided to school boards to support Adult & Continuing Education programs (*includes after-school, night, and weekend credit programs for adolescent learners)
- **$2.15M** was provided to recognize prior learning for mature students (PLAR)

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students (PLAR)

- PLAR is a process whereby the knowledge and skills adults acquired, in both formal and informal ways outside secondary school, are recognized for credit.
- This is a formal evaluation process, conducted by the principal, by which adults 18 years of age (or older), and out of school for a year can earn up to 26 of 30 credits required for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

PLAR

Case Study: *Katina*

- 42 year old Russian Immigrant
- Former teacher from Chechnya without documentation
- Documentation reflecting her work experience in Ontario since 2007.
- After achieving Level 4 in grade 11 *English for Presentation and Speaking Purposes*, and *English Second Language ,Level 3* - Katina was placed into grade 9/10 courses.
- From 2015-2019 - she completed an additional 15 courses - out of the 30 required for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

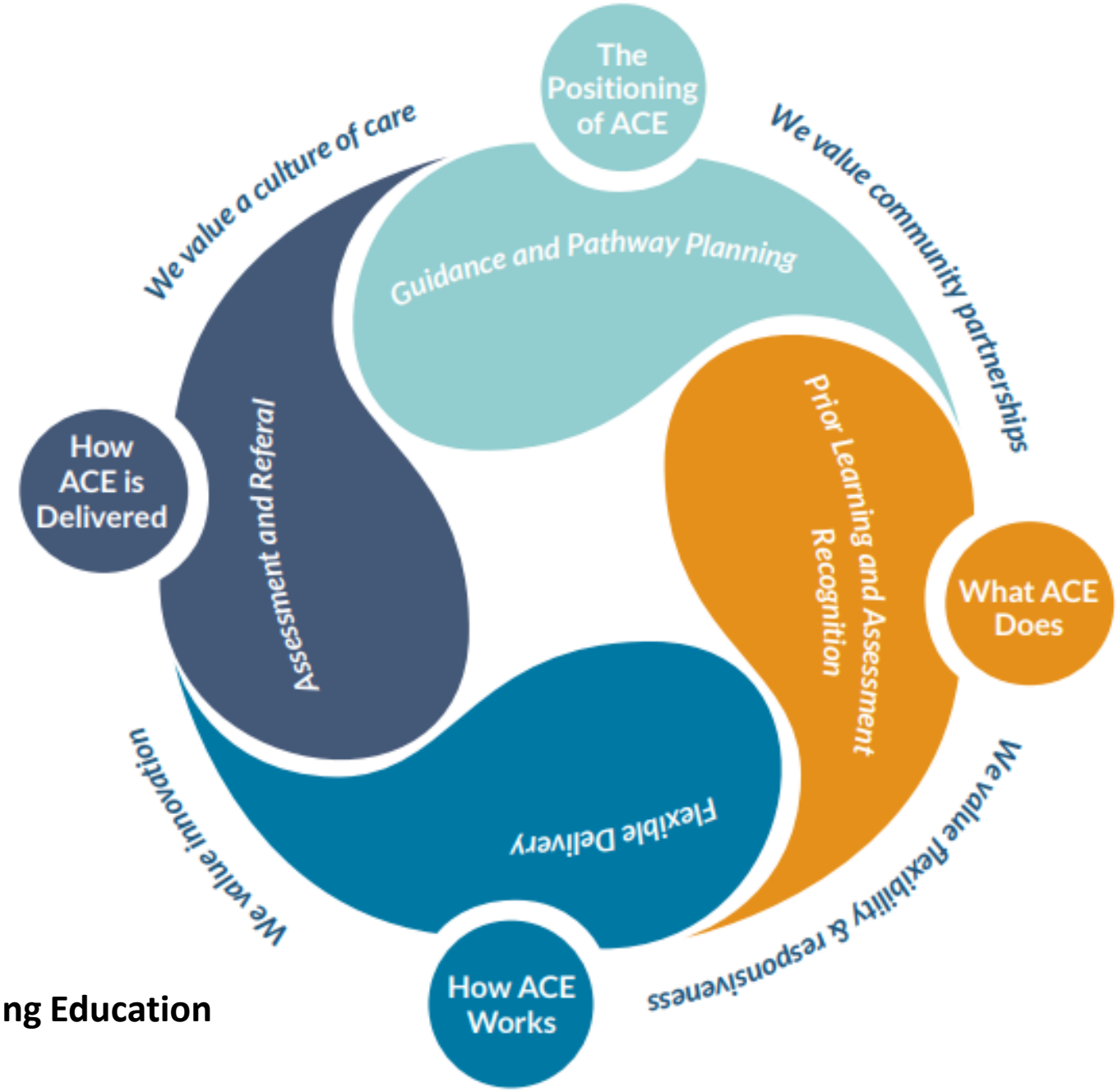
❖ **With proper PLAR implementation she could have finished 2-3 years earlier.**

Katina's Current Pathway		Potential PLAR Pathway	
Courses	**Time**	**Courses**	**Time**
• Grade 11 credit based ESL • English Presentation / Speaking Skills	220 hours	• **Subject Based Assessments** (English, Geography, History, math, Science) to potentially grant 16 grade(s) 9/10 credits	Up to 110 hours
• Grades 9/10 English, math, literacy, tech • Grades 11/12 English, math, literacy, ESL, and business	1,540 hours	• **Senior Equivalency Application** to potentially grant up to 10 grade(s) 11/12 credits	Up to 10 hours
• Grade 10 science, • Grade 11 math • Grade 12 literacy	330 hours	• 4 grade 11/12 credits	440 hours
• STILL OUTSTANDING: 7 compulsory and 6 elective credits	1,430 hours	• **Ontario Secondary School Diploma**	
Current Pathway TOTAL	**3,520 hours**	**PLAR Pathway TOTAL**	**550 hours**

Adult Education Strategy 2015-2019

Source: Eastern Regional Partnership for Adult Education

https://www.eosdn.on.ca/initiatives/adult-education-strategy



ACE = Adult and Continuing Education

Dual Credit

School College Work Initiative

Dual credit programs allow eligible students in high school to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards:

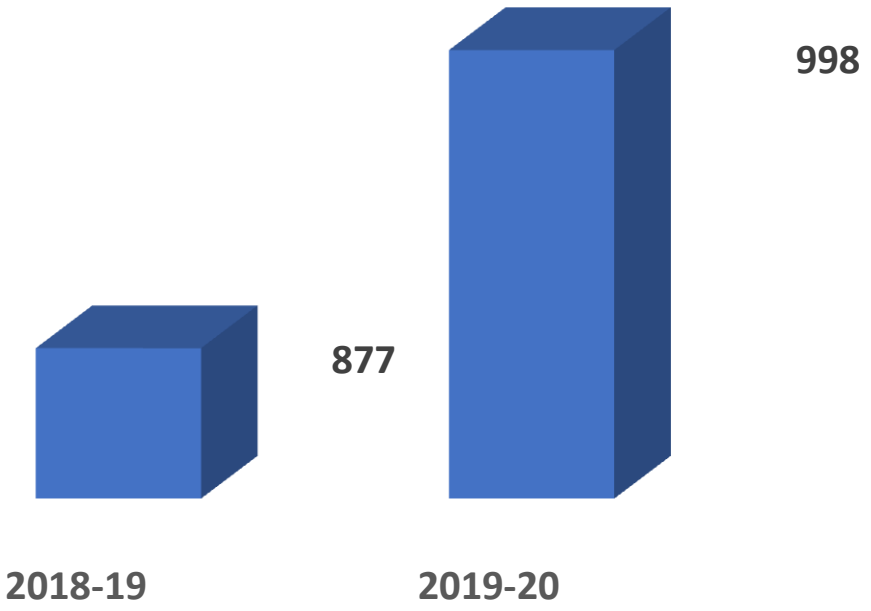
- their Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- a postsecondary certificate, diploma, degree or a Certificate of Apprenticeship

Benefits of dual credit programs

Participating in dual credit programs helps students to:

- complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- make a successful transition to college or an apprenticeship program
- increase their awareness of the various college and apprenticeship pathways available to them
- gain greater insight into education and career planning decisions.

Enrolment in Adult Dual Credits



Student Eligibility

Adults 21+ who need the additional support in order to achieve their goal of earning their OSSD and making a successful transition to postsecondary education (college or apprenticeship).

After Adult Dual Credits

Adults have access to one-on-one and group support from a college advisor, and funding to cover OCAS/OUAC application fees.

Options for Youth Under Age 18

Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) for students age 14-17 with serious attendance issues, where other strategies ineffective. Students excused by Board SAL Committee to participate in credit course or volunteering, counselling, employment, etc.

Part-time on Compassionate Grounds – 16-17 year olds, with principal's approval for up to 1 year.

Alternative education programs – school boards may offer programs that offer alternative timetables, locations, content (e.g. focus on teen parents).

Youth Eligibility for Adult Credit: Mandatory School Age

18th birthday	Last compulsory day
July 1 – August 31, 2019	June 30, 2019
September 1 – December 31,2019	June 30, 2019
January 1 – June 30, 2020	Day before birthday

A student must turn 18 on or before December 31st in a given school year (I.e. September – June)