

ONTARIO'S ANNUAL EDUCATION PLAN

A Curriculum Guide for

Grade 7 and 8 using Career Cruising

by

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Introduction

It is not uncommon to hear a Grade 8 student say they want to be a doctor, but in the next sentence say they don't want to go to university for 7 or 8 years nor do they like being around sick people. For students to think realistically about their career plans, they must have a foundation of self-awareness, career awareness and career exploration activities to build from (Arrington, 2000).

Choices into Action, a policy document from the Ontario Ministry of Education (1999) describes the purpose and importance of Ontario's guidance and career education program. A comprehensive guidance and career education program, as outlined in *Choices into Action*, can provide the student with the attitudes, knowledge and skills needed to begin a successful journey toward future success. The goals of the guidance and career education program in *Choices into Action* (CIA) are as follows:

Students will understand the concepts related to lifelong learning, interpersonal relationships, and career planning. They will develop learning skills, social skills, a sense of social responsibility, and the ability to formulate and pursue educational and career goals. Finally, they will apply this learning to their lives and work in the school and the community (CIA, 1999, p. 6).

This program guide has been developed to provide Grade 7 and 8 students with necessary career and education exploration activities. The activities in the guide have been developed using *Career Cruising*, a web-based guidance and career education resource. The Ministry of Education in Ontario purchases a provincial license to this program providing access for all publicly-funded schools in the province. The website and the portfolio development system within the program provide schools and school districts with the tools they