



# POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS

## Fact Sheet No. 3



### What is the Grade 9 Cohort? A re-cap...

This is the seventh successive Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Grade 9 cohort study. A cohort study follows a group (for this study, Grade 9 students) over a period of time (in this case, five years, the time it takes most Ontario students to complete secondary school). This study followed 13 to 15 year olds who started Grade 9 in Fall 2006. They were followed for five years, until Fall 2011.

After removing students who transferred out of the TDSB to other educational institutions, there was a total of **16,365** students in this study. As of October 31, 2011:

- **12,869 (78.6%)** students had graduated;
- **1,193 (7.3%)** were still in the TDSB; and
- **2,303 (14.1%)** had dropped out (that is, according to our records, they had not graduated, were no longer in the TDSB, and had not transferred to another educational institution).

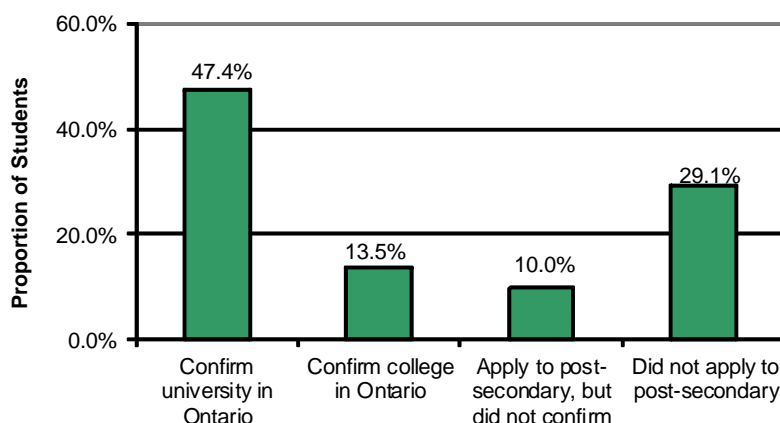
This fact sheet examines students who confirmed an offer of admission to university only; those who confirmed an offer of admission to community college only; those who applied to both university and community college but did not confirm an offer of admission; and students who did not apply.

### What is the Post-secondary application process?

Students applying to post-secondary institutions in Ontario provide applications through the Ontario Universities Applications Centre (OUAC) and the Ontario College Application Centre (OCAS). We matched the 2010 applications with information in our Student Information System (SIS) for the 17-21 year old students in the TDSB as of March 31, 2011.

We looked at post-secondary applications over the 2010 and 2011 applications cycles (that is, Years 4 and 5 of the cohort). However, note that in later years many TDSB students apply to post-secondary institutions as adults.

**Grade 9 Cohorts Fall 2006-2011  
Post-Secondary Confirmations**



In the 'Direct Transition', secondary to post-secondary, 47.4% confirmed an offer of admission from an Ontario university, while 13.5% confirmed an offer from an Ontario college, for a total of 61% of the cohort. An additional 10% applied but did not confirm an offer (many of these students will gain post-secondary entry in future years).

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# What are the Grade 9 Cohort's findings?



In general, since the post-secondary confirmation rate is closely related to the graduation rate, the same predictors for graduation are also predictors of post-secondary access.

Seventy-seven percent (77%) of students who graduated by the end of Year 5 confirmed an offer of admission from an Ontario university or college over the 2010 or 2011 application cycle. Since we know that 3-4% of students go to universities outside Ontario, this puts the proportion of graduates attending post-secondary in the most immediate years after high school to 80-81%. Assuming previous trends, given a few more years, this would go up to about 84%.

**Grade 9 Achievement:** Few students in the Grade 9 Cohort who achieved under 8 credits in Grade 9 confirmed university by the end of five years: 3% of those students with 6 or fewer credits, 13% with 7 credits, 59% with 8 or more credits by the end of Grade 9 confirmed university. Most students who complete 7 credits by the end of Grade 9 will graduate with a high school diploma. The difference between 7 and 8 credits shows the difference between going on to university, and not doing so.

Grade 9 Credit Accumulation	Confirm university in Ontario	Confirm college in Ontario	Apply to post-secondary in Ontario, but no record of acceptance	Did not apply to post-secondary
6 or fewer credits (high risk)	2.7%	8.2%	4.5%	84.6%
7 credits (medium risk)	13.2%	20.6%	11.5%	54.7%
8 or more credits (low risk)	58.6%	13.8%	10.9%	16.8%

**Academic Level:** 72.4% of students in Academic courses confirmed an offer of admission to post-secondary (university and college) while only 34.9% of students enrolled in Applied courses confirmed an offer of admission. Slightly more than three quarters of students taking Locally Developed courses did not apply to post-secondary.

**Gender:** 66.2% of female students confirmed an offer of admission to post-secondary compared to 55.9% of males.

**Age:** Grade 9 Cohort students who are a year older are less likely to confirm an offer of admission to post-secondary when compared to age-appropriate Grade 9 students (33.1% and 62.1% respectively).

Variable	Subgroup	Total	Confirm university in Ontario	Confirm college in Ontario	Apply to post-secondary in Ontario, but no record of acceptance	Did not apply to post-secondary
Academic Level	Academic	11,857	61.9%	10.5%	11.1%	16.5%
	Applied	3,573	11.1%	23.8%	8.0%	57.1%
	Locally Developed	696	1.3%	16.5%	6.0%	76.1%
	No Program	239	2.5%	2.5%	0.8%	94.1%
Gender	Female	7,954	52.8%	13.4%	10.3%	23.5%
	Male	8,411	42.3%	13.6%	9.7%	34.3%
Age	13	109	69.7%	3.7%	11.0%	15.6%
	14	15,540	48.5%	13.6%	10.1%	27.8%
	15	716	19.6%	13.5%	8.2%	58.7%

**Sexual Orientation:** Heterosexual students are more likely to confirm an offer of admission to post-secondary than LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer individuals/communities) and two-spirited students (64.1% and 48.7% respectively).

Variable	Subgroup	Total	Confirm university in Ontario	Confirm college in Ontario	Apply to post-secondary in Ontario, but no record of acceptance	Did not apply to post-secondary
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual	13,055	50.9%	13.2%	10.2%	25.7%
	LGBTQ	288	37.2%	11.5%	12.5%	38.9%

**Racial Groups:** There is a variation in post-secondary application rates within racial groups. Over 70% of Grade 9 Cohort students who identified themselves as East Asian confirmed an offer of admission to university. This is by far the highest compared to other racial groups. Racial groups that had the highest percentage of confirmed admissions to post-secondary (university and college) included: East Asian, South Asian, and South East Asian (81.9%, 76%, 68.3% respectively). Racial groups that had the lowest percentage of confirmed admissions to post-secondary included: Latin and Black (38.7% and 41.4% respectively).

**Region of Birth:** Students born in Eastern Asia, South Asia, and Southern and Western Europe have higher percentages of confirmed admission to post-secondary (78.3%, 74.4%, and 70.5% respectively). Students born in English-speaking Caribbean and South and Central America and Mexico have lower percentages of confirmed admissions to post-secondary (29.7% and 45.6% respectively). 57.9% of students born in Canada confirmed an offer of admission to post-secondary. This is slightly lower than the overall percentage (60.9%).

Variable	Subgroup	Total	Confirm university in Ontario	Confirm college in Ontario	Apply to post-secondary in Ontario, but no record of acceptance	Did not apply to post-secondary
Racial Group	White	4,854	45.3%	12.7%	12.3%	29.7%
	East Asian	2,778	73.2%	8.7%	7.6%	10.4%
	South Asian	2,773	60.3%	15.7%	9.0%	15.0%
	Black	1,718	24.2%	17.2%	11.4%	47.3%
	Mixed	825	37.1%	13.5%	10.9%	38.5%
	Middle Eastern	666	42.6%	19.1%	9.6%	28.7%
	South East Asian	536	47.4%	20.9%	8.4%	23.3%
	Latin	292	22.9%	15.8%	10.3%	51.0%
Region of Birth	Canada	10,985	44.2%	13.7%	10.3%	31.7%
	Eastern Asia	1,496	71.7%	6.6%	8.0%	13.8%
	South Asia	1,374	58.9%	15.5%	9.0%	16.7%
	Western Asia	580	43.1%	16.9%	9.7%	30.3%
	Eastern Europe	532	56.0%	12.2%	9.6%	22.2%
	Central & South America & Mexico	270	23.0%	22.6%	11.5%	43.0%
	English-speaking Caribbean	244	13.9%	15.2%	7.4%	63.5%
	Southeast Asia	213	32.9%	23.0%	13.1%	31.0%
	South and Western Europe	169	60.4%	10.1%	7.7%	21.9%
	Eastern Africa	159	39.0%	11.9%	10.7%	38.4%
	US	109	43.1%	13.8%	13.8%	29.4%

*Note: All categories with less than 100 respondents are not reported.*

**Student Language:** In general, students speaking English (the largest group, accounting for just under half of the students) have confirmed admission to post-secondary results of 10% below the average (50.6% compared with 60.9%). Students speaking Chinese, Bengali, Tamil, Hindi, and Gujarati, have the highest percentages of confirmed admission to post-secondary while students speaking Spanish and Somali have the lowest percentages of confirmed admission to post-secondary.



# What are the Grade 9 Cohort's findings? Continued...



Variable	Subgroup	Total	Confirm university in Ontario	Confirm college in Ontario	Apply to post-secondary in Ontario, but no record of acceptance	Did not apply to post-secondary
Student Language	English	7,825	36.5%	14.1%	11.1%	38.3%
	Chinese	2,284	72.3%	9.3%	7.0%	11.4%
	Tamil	764	69.4%	9.9%	8.6%	12.0%
	Urdu	500	53.2%	16.2%	9.2%	21.4%
	Korean	333	64.6%	7.8%	12.6%	15.0%
	Persian (Farsi)	319	45.8%	17.2%	6.9%	30.1%
	Spanish	317	21.1%	15.8%	9.5%	53.6%
	Vietnamese	301	60.5%	15.9%	7.3%	16.3%
	Somali	269	37.2%	9.7%	16.0%	37.2%
	Punjabi	255	56.1%	16.9%	11.8%	15.3%
	Bengali	255	70.6%	10.6%	9.4%	9.4%
	Gujarati	250	62.0%	16.8%	6.4%	14.8%
	Russian	248	53.6%	15.3%	9.3%	21.8%
	Tagalog (Pilipino)	181	28.7%	24.9%	12.2%	34.3%
	Arabic	176	47.7%	16.5%	13.1%	22.7%
	Hindi	149	66.4%	13.4%	8.7%	11.4%
	Greek	130	47.7%	16.2%	4.6%	31.5%
	French	116	45.7%	5.2%	19.8%	29.3%
Dari	114	33.3%	18.4%	12.3%	36.0%	
Serbian	106	70.8%	5.7%	10.4%	13.2%	

Note: All categories with less than 100 respondents are not reported.

**Parental Presence:** Students with both parents at home are more likely to confirm an offer of admission to post-secondary (68.1%) when compared to students living with one parent or 'other' (49.4% and 50% respectively).

**Parental Education:** If parents have attended university, their child is more likely to confirm an offer of admission to post-secondary (72.6%) compared to students whose parents did not attend university.

**Parental Occupation:** Parents' occupation is used as an indicator of family socio-economic status (SES). When comparing students' post-secondary application results with their family SES, 73.1% of students with parents in a "Professional" occupation confirmed an offer of admission to post-secondary. This percentage decreases as students' SES decreases with 16.4% fewer students of parents with 'non-remunerative' occupations confirming an offer of admission to post-secondary.

Variable	Subgroup	Total	Confirm university in Ontario	Confirm college in Ontario	Apply to post-secondary in Ontario, but no record of acceptance	Did not apply to post-secondary
Parental Presence	Both Parents	11,077	54.6%	13.5%	10.2%	21.7%
	One Parent	2,866	35.6%	13.8%	10.5%	40.2%
	Other	402	28.6%	21.4%	9.7%	40.3%
Parental Education	High School	2,078	36.8%	15.2%	9.1%	38.9%
	College	2,145	43.3%	16.6%	10.0%	30.1%
	University	6,495	63.3%	9.3%	11.8%	15.6%
	Don't Know	3,516	38.2%	18.9%	8.4%	34.5%
Parental Occupation	Professional	2,878	65.3%	7.8%	13.0%	13.8%
	Semi-Professional	3,328	53.7%	12.3%	11.1%	22.9%
	Skilled Clerical	2,752	46.1%	16.6%	9.2%	28.0%
	Unskilled Clerical	1,176	37.6%	19.3%	8.4%	34.7%
	Non-remunerative	339	42.8%	13.9%	10.9%	32.4%