

## Educational responsibilities

The law requires students to attend school until the age of 18. The school board is responsible for providing education to your teen until he or she turns 18, or completes an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

You will be assigned a contact person at your teen's school, who will stay involved with your teen's alternative learning program. You will continue to receive regular report cards, outlining how your teenager is progressing in the SAL program and the skills he or she has learned.

## SAL and the law

The Education Act, Ontario Regulation 374/10, has many requirements for school boards' Supervised Alternative Learning programs. If a student is working at a job as part of the SAL program, that workplace must meet all provincial laws for health and safety and accessibility.

More specifically, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997, states the employer must inform the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board that the student is working there, through a payroll statement. As long as the student is working there under the SAL program contract, he or she is covered for workplace health and safety insurance by the Ministry of Education. The employer is required by law to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all workers, including the student, and to provide training in the health and safety rules specific to the workplace.

In addition, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1996, says:

- A student must be at least 14 years old to work in sites such as offices, stores, arenas and restaurant-serving areas.
- A student must be at least 15 years old to work in most factories and industrial institutions, such as

commercial kitchens and restaurants, automotive service garages, produce and meat preparation areas, shipping and receiving areas, and warehouses.

- A student must be at least 16 years old to work in the logging industry.
- Students younger than the minimum ages listed may visit these workplaces if the workplaces provide strict supervision, an organized tour and access to safe areas only.
- A student must be at least 16 years old to work on or visit a construction project. Students under 16 years may visit a construction site only when there is no work being performed there.

**For more information about the Supervised Alternative Learning program, please make an appointment with your school principal or vice-principal, or call the school board's Attendance and Counselling Services staff at 705-742-9773, or toll-free for long distance at 1-877-741-4577, ext. 2176. If you prefer, you may e-mail the Board at [kpr\\_info@kprdsb.ca](mailto:kpr_info@kprdsb.ca)**



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# Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)



**A guide for parents  
and guardians**

## What is the SAL Program?

The Ministry of Education recognizes that, at times, some students may not benefit from a formal classroom setting. Since the goal of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board is to help all students meet with success, we are pleased to offer the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) program. SAL provides a supervised educational alternative for students aged 14 to 17. SAL allows students to experience a range of educational choices. These may include working at a full-time job, working part-time while doing schoolwork part-time, or doing schoolwork in an alternative setting.

## What is the purpose of SAL?

The SAL program:

- provides life experiences to help students gain knowledge and skills for problem-solving and decision-making
- increases opportunities for personal growth, self-esteem, independence and self-discipline
- makes students more aware of the realities and opportunities in the world of work
- helps students, parents and guardians determine whether returning to regular school is in the student's best interests.

## Reasons to consider SAL

Some reasons for considering SAL for a student include:

- inability to cope with the traditional, structured schooling
- significant absence from school for various reasons, including health problems
- inability to benefit from regular school attendance.

While participating in the SAL program, the student continues to receive educational services, such as

guidance and counselling. These services are outlined in the alternative program designed for each student. The Board also encourages students to maintain connections with their home school and participate in extra-curricular activities that interest them. We hope most students will be able to return to the regular school environment, and complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

## The SAL process

Before a student can participate in the SAL program, the following steps must be completed:

1. Parents or guardians complete the SAL application form and return it to the school where the student is currently enrolled.
2. A school board counsellor meets with the student, parents/guardians and school staff to gather information and make recommendations.
3. The school board's SAL Committee meets to consider the application and recommendations. The Committee may interview the student, parents/guardians, school board counsellor, or other school representatives.
4. The Committee secretary sends a letter to the student, parents/guardians, principal and counsellor, confirming the Committee's decision and program recommendations.
5. If everyone agrees to the program, the student and parents/guardians sign an Alternative Program Contract.

Students must continue to attend their regular school until the SAL Committee makes its decision. Once students begin the SAL program, they must follow the requirements of the Alternative Program Contract. If they can no longer meet those requirements, or everyone agrees they are able to return to the classroom, the students return to their regular school.

## Activities eligible for SAL

Once approved by the SAL Committee, students may participate in supervised activities such as:

- working full-time or part-time at an approved work site
- completing a life skills course
- continuing schoolwork or other activities that meet the student's needs and interests, as long as they are approved by the Committee
- receiving health, counselling or other supports.

## Parents'/guardians' responsibilities

As the parent or guardian of a SAL student, you are expected to:

- work with the school and school board counsellor to help determine an alternative program that is appropriate for your teen
- inform the SAL committee if your teen does not follow the alternative program contract
- let the school know of any change in your address or phone number
- write a letter to the committee, on behalf of your teen, if you feel the alternative program needs to change.

To contact the committee, you can go through your school board counsellor or principal, or call the KPR School Board at 705-742-9773 or toll-free for long distance at 1-877-741-4577.