



Higher Education  
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# Returning to High School in Ontario: Adult Students, Postsecondary Plans and Program Supports – Appendix

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## Table of Contents

Appendix A: Study Overview for Adult High School Staff	2
Appendix B: Informed Consent for Surveys	3
Appendix C: Informed Consent for Interviews	4
Appendix D: Guiding Questions for Follow-Up Interviews	5
Appendix E: Summary of Student Information	6

## Appendix A: Study Overview for Adult High School Staff

Thanks for being a part of CESBA's research project *Postsecondary Education Plans of Ontario Adult High School Students*. The project involves both a survey and individual interviews. If possible, I would like to visit one or two of your sites or classes in order to deliver the pen and paper survey to a total of 30-40 adult students in your school board. The students would ideally be working on their last few credits, or have their diploma and have returned to a high school program to upgrade, or for other reasons.

I will explain the survey to the students and be available to answer their potential questions. The survey itself will take about 20 minutes or less to complete. Students will be informed of their rights as research participants, and be asked to sign a consent form. Neither individual students nor their program will be identified.

The survey will ask students about their reasons for being in a high school program, their plans related to postsecondary education, if they have any, and insights they have about ways to support adult learners in high school programs. It also contains some general demographic questions.

After the survey is completed, I will ask if one or two students are interested in participating in a follow-up interview to take place immediately afterwards. The students may feel more comfortable participating with a friend or fellow student so two are welcome to participate together.

The interview will cover the same topics as the survey, but in a much more conversational and open-ended way. To acknowledge the time required for the interview, interview participants will be given a gift card.

The survey will be ready the second week of May. Would it be possible to visit your program the week of May 14th, 22nd or 28th? I can also visit in June if that is a convenient time.

Thanks again for helping us out. We plan to share results of the study at December's CESBA conference.

## Appendix B: Informed Consent for Surveys

This survey is designed to find out some information about your current high school program, your reasons for being in the program, your plans related to postsecondary education, and your insights about ways to support adult learners. The survey was developed by CESBA<sup>1</sup>, an education organization for adult school board programs, and CCI Research. By completing the survey you are helping us to better understand adult learners in high school programs, and helping us find ways to support students while in these programs. The results of the survey will appear in a report. Results will also be shared at conferences and in articles for school board educators.

All information collected will remain completely anonymous. You will not be personally identified in the reporting of study results. In addition, your program will not be identified. The survey will take about 20 minutes or less to complete.

You may decline to answer any questions, and you are free to withdraw your participation at any time.

We ask that you sign below to indicate your agreement to participate in this survey. Your signature indicates that you have read this form, that you understand what you are being asked to do, and that you have decided to participate in the survey.

If you have any questions or concerns about your participation, please contact the CESBA Executive Director or the Research Coordinator, Christine Pinsent-Johnson, at 613-652-1595.

Thank you for your participation.

Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> CESBA is the Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators.

## Appendix C: Informed Consent for Interviews

This interview is designed to find out some information about your current high school program, your reasons for being in the program, your plans related to postsecondary education, and your insights about ways to support adult learners. The interview will cover the same topics as those in the survey you completed, but in a more open and conversational way. By participating in the interview you are helping us to gain even greater insights into adult learners in high school programs.

With your permission, I would like to record the interview. You will not be personally identified. In addition, your program will not be identified. You will be given a pseudonym. The interview will take about 30-40 minutes to complete. Quotations from the interview could appear in reports and presentations.

You may decline to answer any questions, and you are free to withdraw your participation at any time.

We ask that you sign below to indicate your agreement to participate in this interview. Your signature indicates that you have read this form, that you understand what you are being asked to do, and that you have decided to participate in the interview.

If you have any questions or concerns about your participation, please contact the CESBA Executive Director or the Research Coordinator, Christine Pinsent-Johnson, at 613-652-1595.

Thank you for your participation.

Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix D: Guiding Questions for Follow-Up Interviews

### Demographic information

Opening question: Could you tell me a little bit about yourself?

Prompts: Name, age, current living and employment arrangements

### Current Studies

Opening question: Could you tell me about what made you decide to register in a high school program?

Prompts: Courses, expected completion, reasons for returning, general information about challenges and accomplishments, similarities and differences with past high school experiences

### Next Steps

Opening question: Do you have plans for what you want to do once you complete this course or program?

Prompts: Plans for postsecondary, general discussion about influencing factors, and discussion about career choices and influences

### Program Supports

Opening question: What sorts of supports have been helpful to you? How do teachers and guidance counsellors help you in the program?

Prompts: General discussion about being an adult learner (may flow out of comparison between current and past high school experiences), general discussion about the nature of program supports available and desired

### Other

Opening question: Was there anything in the survey that did not connect to your experiences as an adult learner?

## Appendix E: Summary of Student Information

	Count	Proportion
<b>Gender</b>	<b>474</b>	
Female	292	61.6%
Male	182	38.4%
<b>Age</b>	<b>475</b>	
18-20	75	15.8%
21-24	144	30.3%
25-34	142	29.9%
35-44	62	13.1%
45+	52	10.6%
<b>First Language</b>	<b>463</b>	
English	283	61.1%
Other	164	35.4%
French	16	3.5%
<b>Country of Birth</b>	<b>467</b>	
Canada	251	53.7%
Aboriginal and Born in Canada	53 of 251	21.1%
Aboriginal and Born In Canada in Respondent Group	53 of 467	11.3%
Born in Other Country	216	46.3%
Less than 5 years in Canada (combined categories from survey)	124 of 216	57.4%
In Canada 6-20 years	71 of 216	32.9%
In Canada 20 years or more	20 of 216	9.3%
<b>Current Highest Education Credential</b>	<b>475</b>	
No high school diploma	248	52.2%
High school diploma	227	47.8%
Diploma from Ontario and/or Canada	101 of 227	44.5%
Diploma from another country	126 of 227	55.5%
<b>Education Beyond High School</b>	<b>220</b>	
College or trades certification or diploma	73	33.2%
Undergraduate degree	24	10.9%
Graduate degree	14	6.4%
Other	16	7.3%
<b>Income (combined categories from survey)</b>		
Less than \$1,000 per month	204	45.5%



	Count	Proportion
\$1,000 - \$1,500 per month	100	22.3%
\$1,500 - \$3,000 per month	67	14.9%
More than \$3,000 per month	17	3.8%
Don't know	60	13.4%
<b>Income Sources</b>		
All government assistance	193	42.1%
OW	118	25.7%
EI	20	4.4%
WSIB	4	0.9%
ODSP	23	5.0%
Social Assistance	28	6.1%
Employment	153	33.3%
Other (pensions, savings, trust funds, family, spousal, OSAP)	91	19.8%
Child benefits/support	56	12.2%
Don't know	36	7.8%
<b>Employment Status</b>		
Working 20 hours per week or more	122	26.3%
Working less than 20 hours per week	48	10.3%
Unemployed – not working but looking for work	173	37.3%
Unemployed – not working and not currently looking for work	121	26.1%
<b>Living situation (select all)</b>		
Live with parents or guardians	166	35.5%
Live with partner or spouse	133	28.5%
Live with children	125	26.8%
Live alone	51	10.9%
Live with friends or roommates	46	9.9%
Live with grandparents or other extended family	20	4.3%
<b>Family responsibilities</b>		
Care for children under 16	159 of 472	33.7%
Care for other family members (siblings, parents, grandparents)	160 of 465	34.4%



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