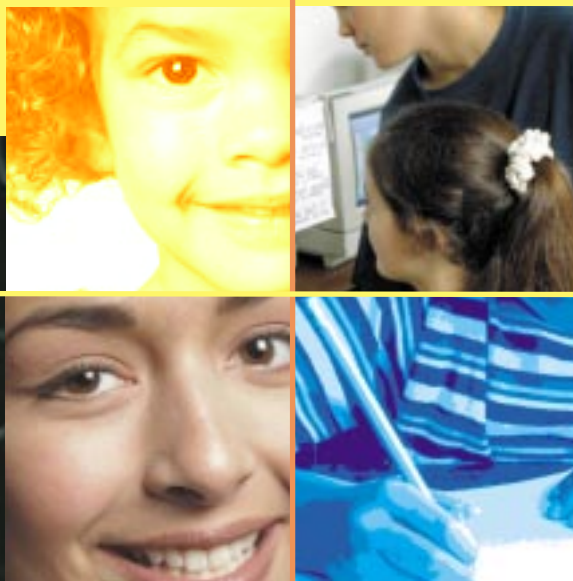


The guidance-oriented school

GUIDE FOR PARENTS



Québec 

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FOREWORD

Dear parents,

Did you know that your children's school is introducing a set of measures to help them know themselves better and learn more about the world of work and the possible occupations? These measures, which will help your children make choices regarding their future, are part of a project called the "guidance-oriented school."

With a genuine concern for your children's future, the school staff are helping students to develop skills and attitudes that will be useful to them now, at school, as well as later on, in their working lives.

The school would like to do more to help your children achieve success in their careers. We believe that the best way to do this is not by telling them what to "do" when they grow up, but by taking into account their dreams, aspirations, tastes and interests in order to suggest career options to explore. The guidance-oriented school does not seek to steer your children towards any one type of training or education; on the contrary, its aim is to ensure that they are aware of the full range of possibilities available in secondary school, CEGEP and university.

To achieve this aim, the school must be able to rely on the collaboration and participation of all concerned: students, school staff, community organizations and you, the **parents**.

Would you like to know more about the guidance-oriented school? Do you want to know what your children do in such a school and what it can do for them? Do you wonder how you can participate in the activities of the guidance-oriented school or obtain more information about career choices? If so, this guide is for you!



WHAT IS A GUIDANCE-ORIENTED SCHOOL?

Many young people drop out of school without adequate preparation for the job market. Many of those who continue their studies lack a precise career goal. The guidance-oriented school offers all young people the opportunity to become more motivated to do well in school, to know themselves better and to discover occupations that they may choose in the future. In other words, it helps them to succeed in school.

The guidance-oriented school is a project that relies on the active participation of all those concerned with your children's educational and career choices: you, above all, but also guidance counsellors, teachers and other members of the school staff. This project also entails collaboration between the school and various socioeconomic organizations.

The guidance-oriented school begins in elementary school and continues through to college.

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The guidance-oriented school



In elementary school, its objectives are to enable your children:

- to discover and identify their tastes, interests and strengths
- to develop self-esteem
- to acquire work habits that will be useful at school right now and in the world of work later on
- to explore various occupations

In secondary school, in addition to these objectives, the guidance-oriented school aims to enable your children:

- to know themselves better and to express who they are
- to explore and define their dream career(s)
- to establish a plan of action for the realization of their dream(s)
- to locate resources that can help them achieve their goals
- to make an enlightened career choice by the end of secondary school

A host of activities and measures will be developed to help your children under-

stand themselves better, develop their identity and make a connection between their schooling and their career aspirations.

First of all, the Québec Education Program calls on teachers to draw attention, in the classroom, to any links that exist between the subject they are teaching and various occupations, so that your children recognize the practical value of school learning.

Next, the school will offer activities such as the following, in which you may also be invited to participate:

- visits to businesses
- presentations on various occupations
- open-house days in vocational education centres or CEGEPs
- trade or training fairs

In addition, beginning in the first year of secondary school and continuing throughout secondary school, your children will create a Personal Education Plan.

WHAT IS A PEP?



The Personal Education Plan (PEP) is a tool used in the guidance-oriented school. It is a document in which your children will be able to write down all sorts of observations and information that will help them to know themselves better as individuals and to explore and define their career aspirations. The PEP is also designed to motivate your children to study and to explore various trades and occupations. The things your children will learn by working on their PEP may prove useful at other points in their lives, because this method will allow them to make choices based on their personality, tastes, interests, aspirations and environment (job market, available resources, etc.).

During the period when your children are working on their PEP, their dreams for the future will change and multiply. Whether fanciful or realistic, each dream in turn will be examined, evaluated and either abandoned or retained.

Ultimately, the PEP can help your children make realistic choices when the time comes for decisions about the future. Thus, by clarifying their personal plans over a number of years they may be able to iden-

tify their first choice of an occupation by the end of secondary school.

It may be that in the course of their life your children will have reasons—new technology at work, for example, or the possibility of promotion, or the desire for change—to reconsider their initial career choice. The PEP can also help them become aware of such a situation.





YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS INVALUABLE!

As parents, your participation in the guidance-oriented school is very important, not only for your children, but also for the school and the community. In everyday life, you already discuss career options with your children. The school offers additional ways to help your children choose a career, and invites you to take part in activities with them and their classmates.

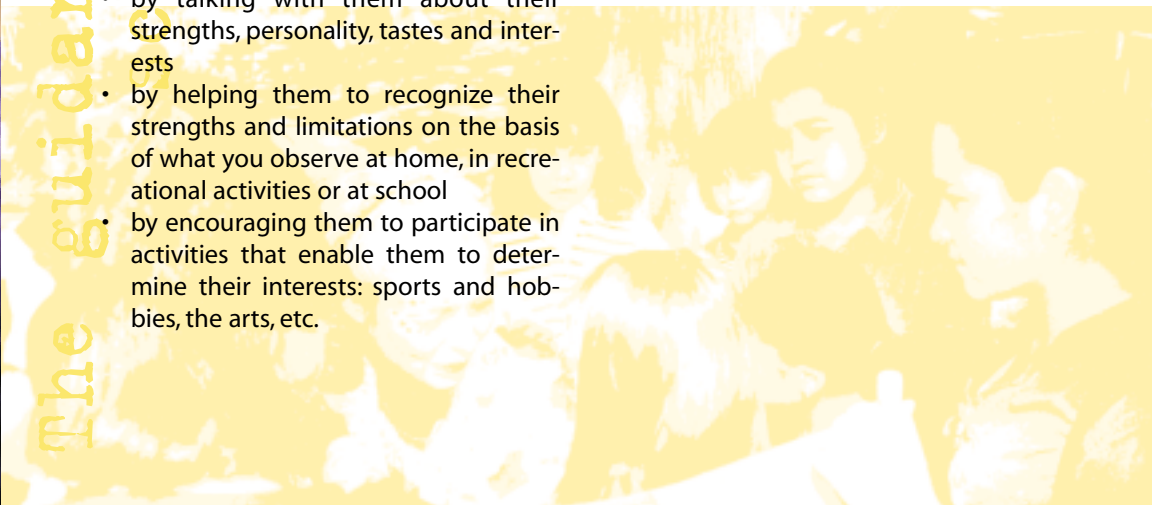
Throughout the development of their career plan you can help your children

To know themselves:

- by encouraging them to dream and to explore their dreams
- by talking with them about their strengths, personality, tastes and interests
- by helping them to recognize their strengths and limitations on the basis of what you observe at home, in recreational activities or at school
- by encouraging them to participate in activities that enable them to determine their interests: sports and hobbies, the arts, etc.

To be better informed:

- by talking to them about your own education, choices and career path
- by suggesting where to look for more information or by helping them do research
- by discussing with them the information they gather and by helping them to see how it relates to their career aspirations
- by arranging meetings with people who work in areas your children want to explore or by going with them to trade fairs



To persevere:

- by attentively following their progress at school and by taking an active interest throughout the development of their PEP
- by providing constant support and encouragement despite their doubts and changing interests or career plans (letting them dream)
- by underlining the connection between success in school and the realization of their career aspirations
-

You can also participate in guidance-oriented school activities:

- by organizing a student visit to your workplace
- by visiting the school to talk to students about your own career path or your present work

- by accompanying students, when possible, on visits to businesses or to trade or training fairs

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IN SUMMARY

The guidance-oriented school is an approach adopted by the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec to enable schools "to take more definite and cohesive measures to better integrate guidance and educational and vocational information into their activities so that they can help each student clarify his or her academic and career goals" (*Reaffirming the Mission of Our Schools, 1997, p. 38*).

All stakeholders have a role to play in the guidance-oriented school:

- your children, as the principal agents of their education and career choices
- teachers, by helping your children develop their identity and by highlighting the connections between school learning and the realities of the world of work
- information and guidance professionals, as experts supporting the teachers, and also assisting you and your children and the school principal
- school technical staff, by helping your children organize their school life or

find educational and vocational information

- school administrators and members of the governing board, who are responsible for the school's educational project and its adoption of a guidance-oriented approach
- you, the parents, who are the most important people in your children's lives in their quest for identity and in their exploration of their talents and aptitudes
- the school board, whose role is to promote the guidance-oriented approach and to help the schools implement it
- the community—workers, employers, organizations—by supporting the school team, for example, by inviting your children to a workplace or by participating in activities at the school

The guidance-oriented school





THE RIGHT INFORMATION CAN HELP YOUR CHILDREN NURTURE THEIR DREAMS AND TURN THEM INTO REALITY

Defining and realizing one's career aspirations involves an ongoing search for information, particularly concerning training and the job market.

The job market in Québec

As you know, the job market changes constantly and rapidly, and all related information has to be updated regularly. If you are not well acquainted with the current job market or if you want more information, you will find the following pages useful. The resources listed—people, services and documentation—can provide you with detailed information about occupations, job prospects, pay and working conditions, the skills employers are looking for and so on.

Québec's education system

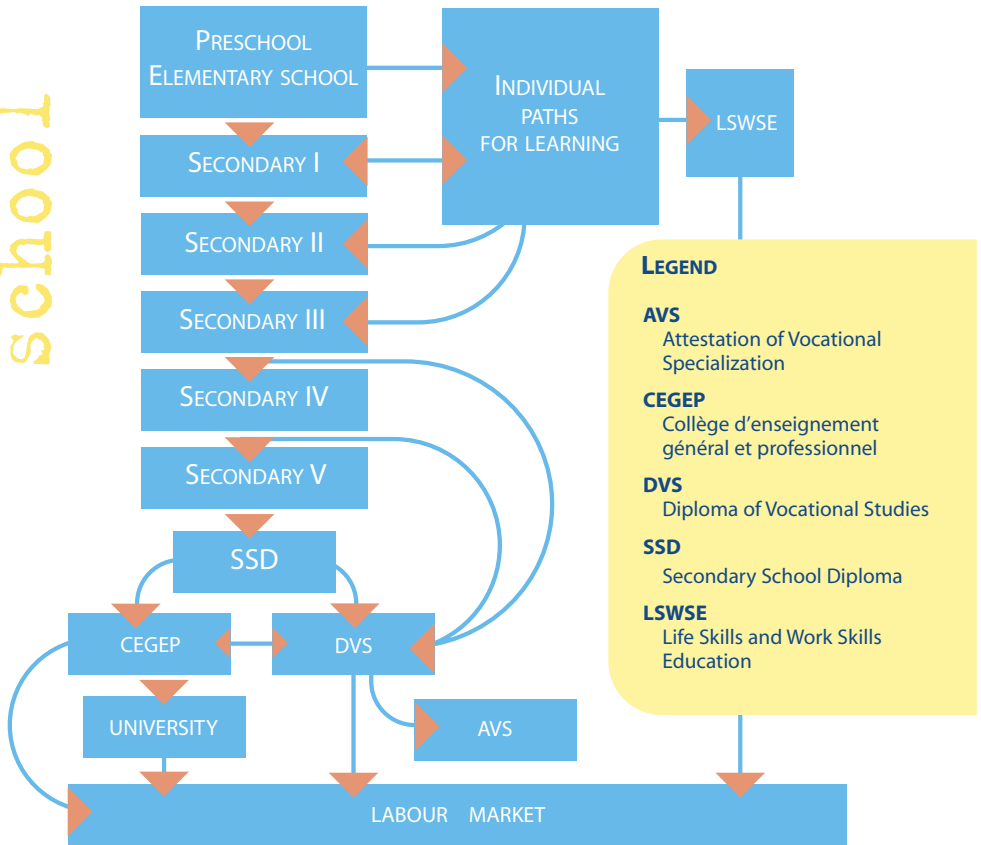
The following diagram shows Québec's education system. It takes into account the major changes in preschool, elementary and secondary education that have been introduced by the education reform.

It should be noted that certain programs lead to a higher level of instruction (for example, from secondary school to college) while others prepare students directly for employment. It is becoming much easier to move from one program to another. This makes it possible to continue training in one's field and improve one's skills, in order to develop professionally.



THE QUÉBEC EDUCATION SYSTEM

The guidance-oriented school







USEFUL RESOURCES

ON THE GUIDANCE-ORIENTED SCHOOL

- The staff members who are responsible for the guidance-oriented school project at your children's school.
- The Guidance-Oriented School: An Evolving Concept, Ministère de l'Éducation, Québec, 2000. The French version of this document (L'école orientante : un concept en évolution) is available in PDF format on the Web site of the Supporting Montréal Schools program:
<<http://www.ecolemontrealaise.qc.ca>>
- *S'orienter malgré l'indécision : à l'usage des étudiants indécis et de leurs parents déboussolés*, Isabelle Falardeau and Roland Roy, Les Éditions Septembre, 1999.
- The Web site of the Supporting Montréal Schools program:
<<http://www.ecolemontrealaise.qc.ca>>

ON PARENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL

- Your child's school. **In elementary schools**, contact the school administration. **In secondary schools**, contact the administrator responsible for the cycle your child is in.
- Fédération des comités de parents de la province de Québec (FCPPQ)
Tel.: 1-800-463-7268 (toll free)
Web site: <<http://www.fcppq.qc.ca>>
- *Guide de fonctionnement des comités*, Fédération des comités de parents de la province de Québec (FCPPQ), Beauport, May 1998.

ON THE JOB MARKET

- Emploi-Québec: (514) 725-7744
Web site: <<http://mess.gouv.qc.ca>>
- Human Resources Development Canada-Québec region
Web site: <<http://www.qc.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca>>
- *Job Futures*, published annually by Human Resources Development Canada
Web site: <<http://jobfutures.ca/doc/jf/index.shtml>>
- *Job Futures-Québec*
Web site: <<http://www.qc.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/job-futures/index.html>>
- *REPÈRES* software available in some Centres locaux d'emploi (CLES; local employment centres) and educational institutions
- *Les carrières d'avenir au Québec*, Les Éditions Ma carrière
- *Le Guide de l'emploi : les entreprises qui recrutent au Québec*, Les Éditions Septembre
- Web sites: <<http://www.monemploi.com>>
<<http://www.idclqc.ca>>
<<http://www.jobboom.com>>

ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec :
Montréal regional office: (514) 873-4630
Montréal regional office: (450) 928-7438
Laval, Laurentides, Lanaudière regional office: (450) 430-3611
Web site: <<http://www.meq.gouv.qc.ca>>
- *Guide Choisir*, Les Éditions Septembre
- *Guide pratique des études collégiales au Québec*, Service régional d'admission du Montréal métropolitain. This document contains a section in English.

- *Guide pratique des études universitaires au Québec*, Service régional d'admission du Montréal métropolitain
- *Vocational Education in School Boards on the Island of Montréal: Take Your Pick*, Jobboom
- Web sites: <<http://www.ecolemontrealaise.qc.ca>>
<<http://www.monemploi.com>>
- *Allô prof!* (information on elementary and secondary school for parents and children): (514) 527-3726
Web site: <http://radio-canada.ca/parentsdaujourdhui/html/education/allo_prof/index.htm>

INFORMATION ON SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- Centre de référence du Grand Montréal Métropolitain: (514) 527-1375

RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANTS

- Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration
Four reception and information centres serving all parts of the Island of Montréal: north, south, east and west. One telephone number: (514) 864-9191
Web site: <<http://www.immq.gouv.qc.ca>>

TO ACCESS THE INTERNET

- Your Centre local d'emploi (CLE–local employment centre)
- The public library of your municipality or district

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