

DIVERSIFICATION OF PATHWAYS IN THE QUEBEC EDUCATION SYSTEM

Lifelong learning –
Exploring different learning options

July 10, 2014



Education in Quebec

Under Canada's Constitution, Quebec has exclusive responsibility for education within the province.

Quebec's population is over eight million people.

Enrolment is approximately 1.8 million people.



The Quebec education system

There are four educational levels:

- ✓ primary (GEY);
- ✓ secondary (GEY-GEA-VT);
- ✓ college (pre-university and technical);
- ✓ university.

The Quebec education system

In General Education for Youth (GEY), attendance is compulsory from the age of 6 to 16 years. The rules from moving from one level to the next are established on the basis of age and school success. GEY leads to a secondary school diploma (SSD) or a certificate of qualification (TCST-PTC) [training certificate for semiskilled trades-prework training certificate].

General Education for Adults (GEA) is available at the secondary level and is accessible from the age of 16, at which the compulsory attendance requirement ends. GEA can lead to an SSD, a certificate (TCST-PTC) or prerequisites for other types of training.

Vocational Training (VT), which leads to skilled trades, is available at the secondary level. Technical Training (TT), which prepares learners to enter technical or technological occupations, is provided at the college level.

Technical and Vocational Training (TVT) is available to young people and adults.

Ministerial responsibilities

The Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sports (MELS) is responsible for GEY, GEA and VT at the secondary level.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Science (MESRS) is responsible for college education, including TT. It is also responsible for university education.

The various education sectors are governed by educational systems or regulations that are specific to them, and by different statutes, such as the Education Act.

GEY in Secondary Cycle 2

Beginning in Cycle 2 of secondary school, students are offered a variety of educational paths under the Quebec Education Program:

1. a general education path;
2. an applied general education path;
3. a work-oriented training path (PTC, TCST).

GEY: the General Education path and the Applied General Education path

- These Secondary Cycle 2 programs enable students to continue their education in compulsory and optional subjects, leading to a secondary school diploma (SSD), to vocational training or to college-level education.
- The compulsory and optional subjects cover six areas of learning: (1) Languages; (2) Mathematics, Science and Technology; (3) Social Sciences; (4) Arts Education; (5) Personal Development; and (6) Career Development (GE optional).

The difference between the two General Education paths in GEY

- The Science and Technology programs are different, even though they address similar skills: Science and Technology in GE and Applied Technology and Science in Applied GE.
- The Personal Orientation Project program (POP) is optional in the GE path but compulsory in the Applied GE path.
- The POP, Exploration of Vocational Training, and Entrepreneurship Awareness programs in the vocational development field are specific to the Applied General Education path, but also available to students in the General Education path.

GE and Applied GE gateways

- The General and Applied General Education paths are reversible; students may change from one to the other at the end of the 3rd and 4th years of secondary school.
- **A concurrent program option** enables young people to enrol in a GE program even if they have not successfully completed the 4th or 5th year secondary requirements. They would nevertheless have to complete the missing units during their time in the VT path.

Concurrent option pilot projects at the 3rd year secondary level give young people aged 15 years in GEY who have completed their 2nd year secondary units access to 47 vocational programs that would normally require the 3rd year secondary units to enrol in VT.

Students who have completed these units in three core subject areas of 3rd year secondary may be admitted to vocational training under the concurrent program option.

Work-Oriented Training path

Objectives:

The purpose of the Work-Oriented Training path is to provide young people with learning difficulties who are at high risk of dropping out with an opportunity to continue their education and obtain a **certificate of qualification** that prepares them for the job market.

This path offers two different streams:

1. **Pre-work Training**
(e.g., general assistant in a grocery store);
2. **Training for a Semi-skilled Trade**
(e.g., butcher helper, mechanical assistant).

Work-Oriented Training path: Pre-work and Semi-skilled Trades Training

Gateway

From the PTC to the TCST

In the third year of Work-Oriented Training, students may take 375 hours of training in a semi-skilled trade during the time prescribed for job market preparation, if the conditions for admission are met.

Provisional gateway

From TCST to a number of vocational diplomas

Students aged at least 16 must have obtained their TCST and successfully completed general education in Cycle 1 of secondary school, in addition to having enrolled in the 3rd year of secondary in GEA.

General Education Adult Sector (GEA)

GEA focuses on voluntary lifelong learning.

In order to meet the needs and vocational objectives of adults, GEA provides flexible and diversified services, including:

- various educational methods and locations;
- full-time and part-time opportunities during the day or evening;
- open-ended registration and withdrawal throughout the year;
- achievement records.

General Education Adult Sector

Educational services for the GEA educational system:

- educational services (*teaching services* and training assistance services); public education services and complementary services.

Teaching services (10):

1. Educational support
2. Literacy
3. Pre-secondary
4. Secondary Cycle 1
5. Secondary Cycle 2
6. Social integration
7. Socio-vocational integration
8. Francization
9. Preparation for vocational training
10. Preparation for postsecondary studies

Overview of Technical and Vocational Training (TVT)

- ✓ Programs of study:
 - 131 leading to a diploma of vocational studies (DVS);
 - 25 leading to the attestation of vocational specialization (AVS);
 - 110 leading to a college diploma (DCS).
- ✓ Programs of study developed around a skills-based approach and a training-work balance.
- ✓ Enrolment in 2012-2013: 125,666 in VT and 110,366 in TT (DCS and ACS).
- ✓ Graduates in 2013: 39,460 DVS and 10,491 ACS awarded.

31,969 DCS in TT.

Four conditions for admission to VT

1. Applicants must have a high-school diploma and meet the conditions for admission to the VT program, i.e., completion of Secondary 3, 4 or 5 prerequisites.
2. Be 16 years of age on September 30 of the school year in which the VT is to be begin and comply with the conditions for admission to the program of study.
3. Be 18 years of age and have completed the functional prerequisites for admission to the program (successful completion of the General Development Test [GDT]).
4. Be enrolled concurrently in GE and VT programs.

Diverse paths to accessing VT

Approximately 1.2 million students are enrolled in the school boards, over 125,000 of whom are in VT (77% are over 20 years of age and the average age is 28).

Various educational paths and measures have been introduced in recent years to facilitate access by young people to VT:

- ✓ A specific educational project leading to vocational training
- ✓ An optional GEY course in exploring vocational training
- ✓ The ability to take GE and VT programs concurrently, with pilot projects under way at the Secondary 3 level
- ✓ A provisional gateway for TCST holders to work towards some vocational diplomas
- ✓ Financial assistance for school boards to encourage young people under 20 years of age to have access to VT, including funding of VT-exploration activities

Path from the DVS to a college degree (DCS)

- Holders of some vocational degrees (DVS) may choose to follow one of the 31 training options designated by the minister.

This gateway path promotes the most direct transition possible between a number of programs of study leading to a vocational diploma (DVS), and others leading to a college diploma (DCS).

This is a fast-track pathway. Prior learning is given official recognition, and the paths include any training gaps to be filled to successfully complete the chosen program of technical studies.

Entering the labour market

Long-term entry into the labour force is the primary goal of the Quebec TPT system.

Approximately nine months after receiving their diploma, just over three-quarters of those with a vocational diploma have a job, and 88% of these are working full-time.

Approximately 10 months after graduating, two-thirds of those with a college diploma in technical training have a job, with 84% working full-time.

Thirty percent of those with a college diploma are continuing their education, compared to only 10% of those with a vocational diploma.

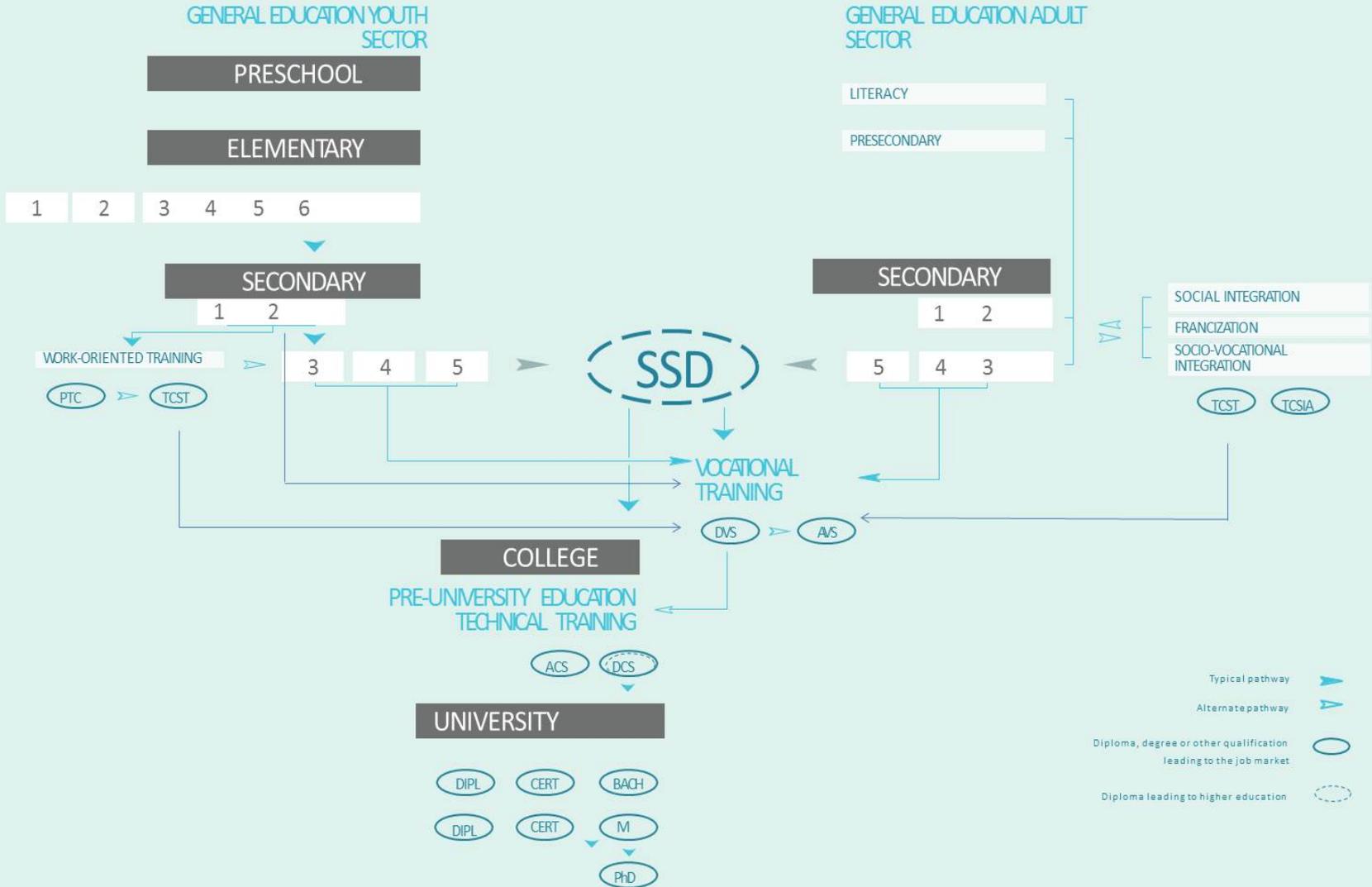
Source: *La relance au secondaire en formation professionnelle – 2011* and *La relance au collégial en formation technique – 2011*.

Employer satisfaction

At approximately five-year intervals, the ministry conducts a survey of employers who hire TPT program graduates.

The most recent surveys show that 93% of employers who hire people with a DVS or an AVS, and 94% of employers who hire people with a college diploma (DCS), are satisfied with the performance of their recruits after 12 months of work.

The Quebec education system



Thank you