



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees
From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education
Date: May 23, 2023
Subject: **Out of Province Travel**
Origin: Paula Sorhaitz, Superintendent of Education

Recommendation

Moved by _____, seconded by _____

“THAT the Durham Catholic District School Board approve out of province travel for a maximum of two staff members to attend the Project Search Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, scheduled July 10-14, 2023.”

Rationale

Project SEARCH is an internationally successful 10-month transition-to-work program for young people with developmental or intellectual disabilities. During their final year of high school, students are fully immersed with a host business, gaining employment skills through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on career training. The attached document provides a brief overview of the program. More information about Project SEARCH in Canada can be found on their website – [direct link](#).

In September 2021, DCDSB signed a Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA), Developmental Disabilities Pilot – Student Transitions, to explore the possibility of running Project SEARCH in our board. To date, extensive research and steps have been taken to understand the goals and structure of the program, and to secure business partners. The Ministry of Education provided an extension for a September 2023 start date. Part of the funding can be used for professional development and training, including attending an annual Project SEARCH Conference.

This year’s conference is taking place from July 10-14, 2023, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two staff members from the Student Services Department, who are leading this project, have expressed an interest in attending. The conference would provide an excellent opportunity for networking and better understanding of how the program runs and the

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resources that are available. All partners (Abilities Centre and The Regional Municipality of Durham) working with DCDSB to facilitate Project SEARCH will be sending staff members to the conference.

TB/PS/dp

Attachment: Project SEARCH Conference Agenda



**16th Annual Project SEARCH
Conference
Hilton Milwaukee City Center
and
Wisconsin Center**

Monday, July 10, 2023

- 9:00 am – 4:00 pm **Statewide Coordinator Networking and Meeting:** By Invitation Only
- 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Conference Registration, Exhibits, and Vendors:** 1st Floor, Wisconsin Center
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Welcome Event:** Hilton Garden, Networking and appetizers *

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

- 8:00 am – 6:00 pm **Conference Registration, Exhibits, and Vendors:** 1st Floor, Wisconsin Center
- 8:00 am – 8:45 am **Breakfast:** For registered Pre-Conference Session and Business Liaison Meeting attendees only**
- 9:00 am – 4:00 pm **Pre-Conference Sessions:** Topics TBD (pre-registration is required; breakfast/lunch included)
- 9:00 am – 4:00 pm **Business Liaison Meeting:** For host business staff only; (private lunch served in meeting)
- 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm **Opening Ceremony, Dinner, and Employment Awards:** 1st Floor Ballroom, Wisconsin Center *

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

- 8:00 am – 5:00 pm **Conference Registration, Exhibits, and Vendors:** 1st Floor, Wisconsin Center
- 8:30am – 10:30 am **Breakfast and General Session:** Project SEARCH Co-Directors: State of Project SEARCH *
- 10:45 am – 11:45 am **Breakout Sessions: Group 1**
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch ***
- 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm **Breakout Sessions: Group 2**
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm **Breakout Sessions: Group 3**
- 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm **Discover Milwaukee on the way to the Evening Event!** (1.1 miles from the conference hotel) *
- 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Evening Event:** Discovery World: Science and Technology Center

Thursday, July 13, 2023

- 8:00 am – 3:00 pm **Conference Registration, Exhibits, and Vendors:** 1st Floor, Wisconsin Center
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am **Breakfast ***
- 9:15 am – 10:15 am **Breakout Sessions: Group 4**
- 10:30 am – 11:30 am **Breakout Sessions: Group 5**
- 11:45am – 12:45 pm **Lunch ***
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **Breakout Sessions: Group 6**
- 2:15 pm – 3:15 pm **Breakout Sessions: Group 7**
- 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm **Snack & Individual State Meetings:** *State Meeting information available on the app **
- 5:00 pm –? **Explore Milwaukee on your own!**

Friday, July 14, 2023

- 8:45 am – 9:45 am **Breakout Sessions: Group 8**
- 10:00 am – 11:30 am **Brunch / Inspirational Closing Session ***

** Meals/Snacks and evening events included in the general conference registration*

***Meals included in Pre-Conference registration*