

**Diploma Plus (DP)** schools chart a new path to success for young people who have not reached their potential in a traditional secondary school setting. Diploma Plus combines high expectations for every student, a competency-based approach, a small personalized learning environment, and opportunities to make connections between classroom learning and the world outside the school walls. Diploma Plus students gain strong academic and life skills, valuable work experience, and college experience that prepare them for the transition to post-secondary education and careers. Diploma Plus schools create and support a positive and innovative learning environment, providing four essential elements that support student success. The following Four Essentials and their corresponding quality elements, are fully implemented in all Diploma Plus schools: Performance-Based System; Supportive School Culture; Future Focus; and Effective Supports.

### ***Future Focus***

Diploma Plus schools intentionally support a focus on students' futures through awareness, exposure, and preparation opportunities, providing transitional experiences for students in all Diploma Plus phases. This involves a multi-year sequence of career and college exploration activities and opportunities that are embedded in advisories, classroom activities, and out-of-school time. These opportunities include developmentally appropriate and progressively intensive experiences and activities in relation to college and careers in the Foundation and Presentation phases, in addition to intensive preparation experiences in the Plus Phase. The following experiences and opportunities are provided at all Diploma Plus schools.

This self-assessment is part of an integrated set of tools designed to help Diploma Plus school leadership, design teams, and Student Achievement Support teams determine progress, document success, prioritize activities, and plan for improvements as they implement schools activities to promote and ensure youth success. Diploma Plus staff and Student Achievement Support (SAS) teams should review the ***Diploma Plus Four Essentials Narrative*** prior to conducting this assessment. The left hand column in this assessment lists indicators or goals that are drawn from the ***Four Diploma Plus Essentials Framework***. Teams may wish to add a specific goal or indicator in the blank row. Teams then identify progress towards meeting these goals. They then prioritize areas of focus for inclusion in the ***Diploma Plus Work Plan***.

### **Instructions:**

- Have each team member individually complete the progress section of the self-assessment. For each indicator or statement, each team member should rate the team's progress in addressing each of the DP Essentials using the following scale:  
  
○ = Not on our radar screen   ◐ = Just started   ◑ = Pretty far along in implementation or practice   ● = Fully integrated in system
- Each person should then briefly note the evidence used to determine progress for each indicator.
- Post all team member responses on a large, wall-sized version of the self assessment and discuss the group's responses, especially where there are wide differences of opinion on progress.
- Next, have each team member complete the priority section of the self-assessment in the context of a discreet time frame (e.g. the next 12 months). It is helpful to limit the number of high priority activities and to force the identification of lows in each section.
- Again post all team member responses on the wall chart and discuss. Identify priority actions for inclusion in the ***Diploma Plus Workplan***.

Post Secondary Education & Preparation			
<i>Diploma Plus Schools provide, in all phases, post-secondary awareness, exploration, and preparation opportunities for their students.</i>			
Indicators / Goals	Progress	Evidence	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students in every DP phase are involved in activities to foster post-secondary education awareness, exploration, and experiences.</li> </ul>	○ ◐ ◑ ●		▬ ■■
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior to graduation, every student has taken an on-campus college course for credit.</li> </ul>	○ ◐ ◑ ●		▬ ■■
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	○ ◐ ◑ ●		▬ ■■

**Self-Assessment Legend**

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**Priority:** ▬ = Low priority ■■ = Medium priority ■■■ = High priority

<b>Career Preparation</b> <i>Diploma Plus Schools provide career awareness, exploration, and workplace experiences in all three phases of the Diploma Plus experience.</i>			
Indicators / Goals	Progress	Evidence	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students in every DP phase are involved in activities to foster career awareness, exploration, and experiences.</li> </ul>	○ ◎ ● ●		■ ■ ■
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior to graduation, every student has completed a high quality internship and other work-related experiences in a field or fields of his or her interest.</li> </ul>	○ ◎ ● ●		■ ■ ■
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The entire faculty is using personal and/or career technical education competencies to regularly evaluate students' classroom work.</li> </ul>	○ ◎ ● ●		■ ■ ■
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	○ ◎ ● ●		■ ■ ■

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Civic Engagement			
<i>Diploma Plus Schools also prepare youth to become responsible and engaged participants in their community.</i>			
Indicators / Goals	Progress	Evidence	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students in every DP phase are involved in activities to foster civic awareness and exploration and provide experiences in civic engagement activities.</li> </ul>	○ ◐ ● ●		■ ■ ■
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior to graduation, every student has developed and participated in a community action project.</li> </ul>	○ ◐ ● ●		■ ■ ■
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	○ ◐ ● ●		■ ■ ■

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