

Information on Specialized or Gifted Programs Available to K-12 Students living in the Halton Region

Note: This is not an exhaustive list and the information provided may be subject to change.

Grades that apply in this school year, 2025-26 for the following school year, 2026-27	Program	Description	Application details
Grade 9 & 10	International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program	IB is an academically rigorous program leading to expanded opportunities for admission into highly sought-after programs at university. The IB Diploma Program takes place in the last 2 years of high school - Grades 11 & 12.	For more information: https://www.hdsb.ca/academics-resources/secondary-programs-pathways-tools/international-baccalaureate-ib-program/
Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 in four specific schools in HDSB	Advanced Placement (AP)	Advanced Placement (AP) exams allow high school students who excel on these exams the opportunity to gain university credits* while still in high school. These exams are written in May and are usually 2-3 hours in length. AP is designed by a U.S. education association called the College Board, is catered for highly motivated and academically inclined students who have a strong foundation in fundamental numeracy and literacy knowledge and skills. Students taking AP courses have the opportunity to learn first year university material while still in high school. Students taking AP courses in HDSB will be assessed and evaluated on the Ontario Curriculum; the AP curriculum is built into the course as an enhancement to the Ontario Curriculum.	Four schools in HDSB offer AP courses to their students. Note: Students in grade 9,10, and 11 may be required to take AP courses depending on the school. For more information, please visit the school's website: https://www.hdsb.ca/academics-resources/secondary-programs-pathways-tools/advanced-placement-ap/

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Grade 8	I-STEM	I-STEM is an innovative, regional program for secondary students (Grade 9-12) in Halton and beyond. Students in this four-year program develop innovation skills related to engineering design and design thinking, entrepreneurial thinking skills and global competencies. Students learn to be prepared for technological change and disruption, globalization and shifting demographics.	For more information: https://www.hdsb.ca/academics-resources/secondary-programs-pathways-tools/i-stem/
Grade 4	CCAT7-Abilities Screening Test	Many schools use these test results to identify students that would qualify for gifted programs. This test is also used to identify students “at risk”.	Assessment Date varies by School or School District. Typically, the CCAT7 is administered to Grade 4 students (typically between mid October and November 30). https://www.hdsb.ca/academics-resources/special-ed-ucation-programs-placements/