

# Now That We Have Done All This Work, What Next?

Your child's knowledge of his/her interests, strengths, skills, and weaknesses will be very helpful in making the transition from Middle Years to high school. This knowledge and previous experience in school courses should be the basis for your child's selection of high school courses. A few subject areas in high school are compulsory for graduation, while a number of other courses are optional. The courses your child takes in high school are like building blocks—often one course is preparation for another course at the next level. The courses completed in high school determine the range of options available to students after they graduate. If your local high school does not offer the programming you want for your child, you can apply for your child to attend another public high school that offers programming better suited to his/her career aspirations. Students may also take courses through distance learning, or develop their own courses, based on their interests and approved by the school (Student-Initiated Projects—SIPs). For more information about a particular high school program, consult with your local school personnel or visit the Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth—Kindergarten to Senior 4 website (see Appendix—Career Planning Resources).

## What will my child do after high school?

Children should not wait until high school graduation to begin career planning. Making choices about post-secondary education and/or training requires a lot of time, effort, and careful planning by children and their parents. The opportunities after leaving high school are like selecting from several gateways that lead to the future. For example, students can pursue technical vocational training, university, apprenticeship, college, self-employment, work, military service, or private vocational school training. Today's labour market provides different opportunities for different students.

Children need to consider what they would like to do and the lifestyle they want to live before beginning the journey. With parental guidance, children can evaluate their options according to their passions. Taking post-secondary education and training or getting a job is not a career goal, but rather a pathway

to reach a career goal. As the High Five message "focus on the journey" suggests, children should enjoy the destination but keep in mind that the journey toward new destinations will continue. For more information about post-secondary options, see the Manitoba Advanced Education and Training website (see Appendix—Career Planning Resources) or the Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth companion document *Focus on the Future: Your Grad Planner*.

