



IGRAD



What is iGrad?



- Partnership between YRDSB and 36okids
- Located in Richmond Hill Home Base
- Created to service Homeless Youth
Continuous intake
- Online learning – Credit granting
- Classroom and teacher support
Monday to Friday, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm,
September - June

How does iGrad Work?

- Takes into account an individual's lived experience
 - Works with youth to remove barriers
 - Holistic Approach
 - Flexible learning environment
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Why is iGrad Necessary?

- **Transient Lifestyle - bouncing from family member to family member, couch surfing, frequent moves**
 - **Inherited trauma, abuse, and neglect**
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How does iGrad Achieve Success?

- Meeting youth where they are at
 - Literally – at the shelter instead of forcing them into the schools
 - Figuratively - realizing that their needs extend beyond the classroom



Homelessness

- Homelessness = a lack of sleep, stress, anxiety, trauma = failure to succeed in school
 - Connections,
 - Stay,
 - Residential,
 - Night Stop,
 - Youth Outreach Workers who go into schools to identify these youth.
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Lack of Food Security

- Lack of nutrition = failure to succeed in school
 - Full service kitchen that serves 3 (2 hot) meals a day,
 - Food Pantry
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Lack of Life Skills & Coping Strategies

- Inability to fit into mainstream society makes success difficult
 - Bounced around Foster homes
 - Violent/Abusive Households
 - Life Skills Workshops
 - One-on-one informal counselling with Social Workers
 - Formal Counselling
 - Case Management by Youth Workers
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Conflict with the Law

- Homeless youth are overrepresented in the law system because of the lack of supports that are provided to them.
 - L.E.G.I.T. (Leadership Engagement Gang Intervention Team), support getting to and from court dates, assistance communicating with lawyers
 - Human Trafficking



Mental Health Issues

- Depression, Bi-polar Disorder, Borderline Disorder
 - Lack of health care (withholding of health cards)
 - Stigma of mental health
 - History of untreated mental health issues
 - Youth turn to self-medicating which leads to addiction issues.
 - MOBYSS Bus (Mobile York South Simcoe),
 - Sexual Health Clinics,
 - Public Health Nurses,
 - Paramedics,
 - Dentist,
 - Chiropractor,
 - Massage Therapists,
 - Nutritionists,
 - Counselling,
 - Anxiety, Parenting, and Self-Care Workshops
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Why iGrad Works



- Meets the youth where they are at
- Independent reporting period
- Looks at Overall Wellness Level and works to improve all areas of their life before dealing with education, and then closely monitors their status throughout the year.
- Makes referrals to appropriate resources to ensure good health of the youth

Why iGrad Works

- **Maximum flexibility in delivering programming**
 - **Ability to connect and build a rapport**
 - **Complete understanding of the youth and their needs**
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iGrad's Focus

- Reengagement in education
 - Not just on academic success and achievement, but the overall success and growth of the individual in the program.
 - Important stepping stone in the life of the youth.
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