


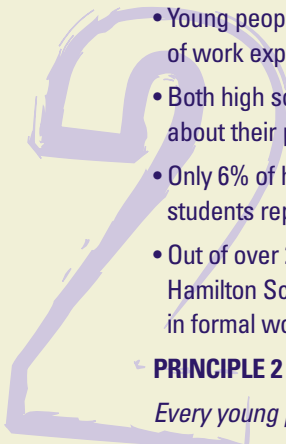
ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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- Survey participants overwhelmingly identified the lack of access to reliable and accurate information on local employment services and programs as the single most significant barrier to youth employment in our community.
 - The need to target parents in the promotion of employment programs and services was also highlighted.
 - Young people expressed the need for more effective and innovative strategies to target and communicate with specific age groups.
 - All stakeholders identified the need for more promotion of community employment programs and services within our schools.

PRINCIPLE 1

Every young person needs access to better information on local employment services and programs available to them.

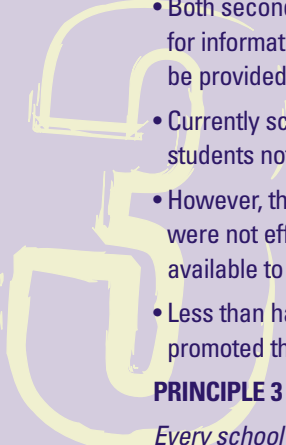
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

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- Young people, service providers and employers, identified the lack of work experience as one of the main barriers to employment.
 - Both high school and post-secondary students were asked about their participation in school-to-work transition programs.
 - Only 6% of high school and 8% of post-secondary students reported participation.
 - Out of over 28,000 secondary school students enrolled in the two Hamilton School Boards, only about 4,000 were able to participate in formal work experience programs last year.

PRINCIPLE 2

Every young person needs access to opportunities for work experience

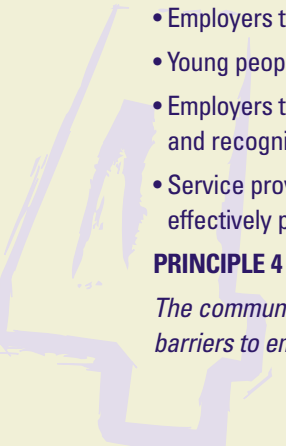
CONNECT SCHOOLS TO EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

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- Both secondary and post-secondary students expressed the need for information on employment programs and opportunities to be provided in schools.
 - Currently schools in Ontario are mandated to provide exit information to students not pursuing post-secondary education.
 - However, the consensus from both summit days was that schools were not effectively promoting the full range of career options available to young people.
 - Less than half of service providers surveyed indicated that they promoted their programs in schools.

PRINCIPLE 3

Every school needs to connect and partner effectively with community employment programs and services.

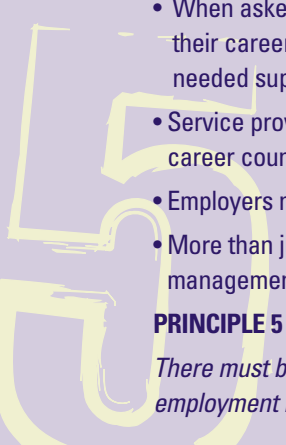
ENGAGE EMPLOYERS

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- Employers told us that youth need to understand employers' expectations.
 - Young people expressed the need for "youth friendly employers".
 - Employers that accept limited experience, offer flexible hours, and recognize the need for young people to complete their education.
 - Service providers need to reach out to local employers to effectively promote the value of youth as potential employees.

PRINCIPLE 4

The community must engage employers as full partners in overcoming the barriers to employment that young people face.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS

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- When asked what they felt was their biggest challenge to achieving their career goals, many youth felt that they lacked direction and needed support in defining their career path.
 - Service providers stressed the need to expose young people to career counseling and 'real world' training.
 - Employers need young people who are employment ready.
 - More than just job skills, they need to acquire life skills. (i.e. time management, communication and organizational skills)

PRINCIPLE 5

There must be a collaboration between all stakeholders to provide employment readiness training to our young people.