

ONTARIO YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (OYAP)

Exemptions under the *Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act, 2021* (BOSTA)

OYAP **participants**, including OYAP apprentices (i.e., participants with registered training agreements), are exempt from the following requirements (Ontario Regulation 877/21):

- Minimum age
- Practise of compulsory trade
- Ratios
- Appearing on the Skilled Trades Ontario (STO) public register

These exemptions end when the student is no longer in OYAP (i.e., has withdrawn from or completed OYAP) and continues to have a registered training agreement.

Please refer to the *Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act, 2021* and regulations at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca.

Questions and Answers

Q Sometimes the employer/sponsor is unaware of the exemption for the practise of compulsory trades. How can I make the employer/sponsor aware?

A School boards that deliver OYAP have created an OYAP Placement Card that includes the exemption regulation. Please contact the chair of your regional OYAP recruiters' group for access to the card.

Q Do the exemptions apply when the student is working at the placement outside of the specified co-op days or hours (e.g. after school, weekends) but still during the specified co-op period?

A It depends on whether the student has a registered training agreement (RTA) or not:

- OYAP **participants** (i.e., they do not have an RTA): the exemptions only apply while they are working at the specified placement site for the dates and hours indicated on the Work Education Agreement (WEA). This means they cannot perform compulsory aspects of the trade outside of those dates/hours or with an employer other than the one indicated on the WEA form. This requirement is indicated on the OYAP Placement Card.
- OYAP **apprentices** (i.e. they have an RTA): the exemptions apply at any time they are working with the sponsor specified on the RTA during the specified co-op period.

Q Are OYAP participants exempt from minimum working age regulations?

A No. Regulations made under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) set out the minimum working age for certain industries. OYAP participants are not exempt from these regulations.

[Minimum age for work | ontario.ca](#)