

Skills Exploratory 10-12

This new course, STX, has been produced by the Ministry of Education with consultation from the Industry Training Authority (ITA) and BC educators. The rationale is to expose youth to a variety of in demand trades so they can make a more informed decision if interested in taking an ACE IT program, or to assist in preparation for SSA. Statistics have shown that a low percentage of ACEIT students actually follow through to complete red seal certification. The hope is that with taking a course like STX, youth will be better educated to make the decision about following a career in the trades. It has been said that ACE IT programs should not be used as an exploratory program for students, so the intention is that this course will increase the success rate to a red seal.

There has been a lot of time and resources put into this course already, but the fact of the matter is, if a school district is going to offer a quality experience with trades tools and materials, there are many more costs. The program guide states:

“To deliver STX programs in BC schools, training sites should have adequate facilities, equipment, and resources, and should include:

- a safe facility and healthy working environment
- an appropriate quality and quantity of tools, equipment, supplies, materials, and safety equipment for effective instruction “

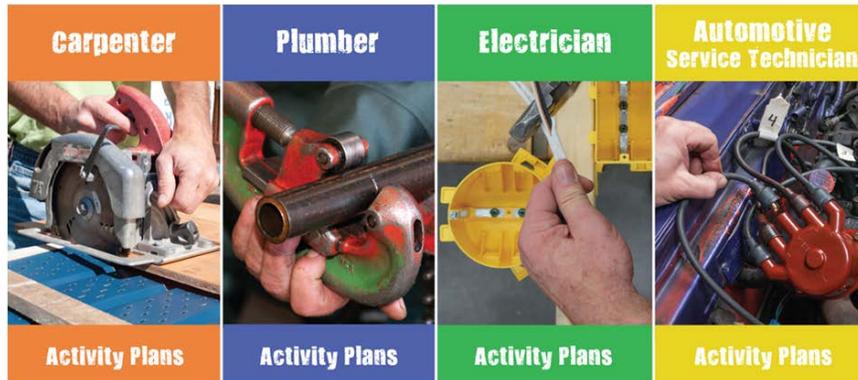
The back of the Program guide lists a lot of tools and equipment that most schools do not have or do not have in the quantities needed to have multiple students working on the labs. In addition, many of the tools listed are not required if a teacher follows the lessons available. For a list of tools and materials required to run the course, and following the instructional resources provided by Open Schools BC, please go to the BC Technology Education web site under resources and Skills Exploratory and open the spread sheet with a list of what is required.

www.bctea.org

Teaching lessons for the four trade areas shown below, Plumbing, Electrical, Carpentry and Auto mechanics are available at this web site.

<http://www.mytrainingbc.ca/SkillsExploration/index.html>

This is a very good resource with lessons for each area and was created by Open Schools BC. Hover over one of the trades and click. You will then open a window with the lesson plans.



The Skills Exploration 10-12 resource project involves the creation of learning resources to support the implementation of the BC Ministry of Education's Skills Exploration 10-12 Program Guide. Skills Exploration 10-12 is now included in the Ministry's Educational Program Guide Order (January 24, 2014). [Learn more...](#)

From The ITA web site, under Educators section the following information is available.

- ACE IT
- SSA
- YES 2 IT
- MAKER DAY
- SKILLS EXPLORATION**

Get started

Contact ITA to learn more about any of our Youth Programs or find out how your school can get involved.

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SKILLS EXPLORATION

The Ministry of Education has partnered with ITA and developed a new course called Skills Exploration 10-12. The course provides hands-on experience for Grade 10 – 12 students interested in trying different trades before enrolling in a high-school apprenticeship program (ACE IT and SSA).

It's a great chance to gain some new skills, explore a variety of trades in demand and get a sense of what trades is right for you.

It is also a great starting point if you are interested in starting your apprenticeship while in high school through the dual-credit ACE IT and SSA programs.

The course codes for Skills Exploration 10-12 are as follows:

- STX 10A, STX 11A, and STX 12A ARE four credit courses.
- STX 10B, STX 11B, and STX 12B are four or two credit course depending on the course length.

Ministry of Education rules apply to course credit for all STX courses.

Read the [Skills Exploration 10-12 Program Guide](#).

To see this better go to the ITA web site to view: <http://www.itabc.ca/youth/educators#skills-exploration> and at this spot you have a link to the Ministry of Education Program Guide for this course. Or it can be accessed through resources on the BCTEA web site.

Explore around the ITA web site for resources. The educator's information is at the bottom of this web page: <http://www.itabc.ca/> Look for "youth in trades"

This new course has a lot of potential, but in order for it to be successful a school or district will need to address the following:

- Support the Technology Education teacher with resources to be able to instruct in the trade areas.

- Identify students and place into the course. Expecting students to choose this course as an elective will probably doom it to failure, as students tend to choose courses they are familiar with. Career departments can easily identify the best students for this program through simple career surveys done to identify potential ACE IT/SSA students.
- Provide the equipment and quality tools so that students can all be engaged and not have to wait for a tool in order to learn.
- Provide the industry trade materials for the students to learn with.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Randy Grey at randy.grey@sd71.bc.ca