

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Active Transportation</b>
<b>Effective:</b>	<b>September 2014</b>
<b>Cross-Reference:</b>	<b>Volunteer Handbook</b>
<b>Revision Date:</b>	<b>September 2017, September 2019</b>
<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>September 2021</b>
<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>Director of Education</b>

**INTENDED PURPOSE:**

The Halton District School Board promotes the use of Active Transportation for daily trips to and from school. By choosing active transportation modes and /or school buses/public transit, students experience benefits in mental and physical health and well-being and improved safety for all members of the school community.

The Halton District School Board will:

- Support and encourage Active Transportation programs in schools across the Board.
- Encourage the development of School Travel Plans for schools.
- Improve end of trip facilities (e.g., equipment storage and/or bicycle racks) to support Active Transportation.
- Promote regional and international Walk to School day events and other initiatives encouraging Active Transportation throughout the year.
- Consider Active Transportation corridors in facility / planning decisions.
- Advocate for safety enhancements including establishing safe Active Transportation corridors for travel to school and the workplace.
- Encourage collaboration of schools, communities and government agencies to increase safety in the school community.

**PROCEDURES:**

Schools can choose from initiatives that support Active Transportation.

1. **Walking Wednesdays:** One day a week is set aside as the day to walk to school.
2. **iWalk** (International Walk to School Week and Day): An annual event held during the first week of October when schools and their surrounding communities have the opportunity to learn about the positive benefits of using Active Transportation (walking/wheeling) for the trip to/from school.
3. **Walk a Block:** A drop off zone is set-up a block (or more) away from the school to encourage walking. This also helps to decrease traffic congestion at the school grounds.
4. **Walkabout:** A community group including the police, school staff, parents, public health nurse, and appropriate municipal/city employees conduct a tour of the school area looking for safe routes and appropriate infrastructure to support the walk to school.
5. **No Idling at School:** Initiatives are adopted to reduce idling of motor vehicles on/around school property.
6. **Walking School Bus:** Parent volunteers walking a route, picking up children along the way and taking them to school.

## **Planning and promoting Active Transportation:**

### Walk to School Routes / Walking School Buses

Halton District School Board staff will:

1. Obtain 1.6 km scatter map (Planning Department) which identifies clusters of walking students.
2. Plan and implement a walkabout of the proposed routes to assess safety and infrastructure. Possible community stakeholders participants are: Halton Regional Police Service, municipal traffic engineers, interested parents; students, school administrator, teacher and political leaders) Walkabouts may occur with the absence of Halton Regional Police Service, but should not take place without the appropriate municipal Traffic Engineer's presence.
3. Complete the walkabout checklist with recommendations generated from the walkabout assessment and distribute to participants (Walkabout Checklist)
4. Follow-up for completion of the walkabout recommendations
5. Inform the school community of the Active Transportation initiatives.

### Bike Trains

Active transport to school can also be in the form of bike trains. This is a group of bikers making their way along a pre-designated route to the school.

### Walk a Block

HDSB staff will:

1. Coordinate with the municipal Traffic Department to identify a walk-a-block location
2. Inform school community of walk-a-block location

### Walking Wednesdays, iWalk and No Idling Campaign

These initiatives support the aforementioned activities.

## **Active Transportation Charter**

Active Transportation to school and work is defined as human powered transportation such as walking, cycling, wheeling, rolling and using mobility devices. Students and their families and staff who make active transportation a choice, over automobile travel, experience benefits in mental & physical health and well-being, are more prepared to learn and promote community connections.

Reducing automobile use around schools by choosing active transportation modes and/or school buses/ public transit improves air quality around schools for students, staff and the whole community. Supporting safe, active and sustainable travel choices reflects the principles of Ontario's Foundation for a Healthy School.

The Halton District School Board respects the following principles in support of Active Modes of Transportation.

### **Physical & Mental Health**

Physical activity is a skill which must be learned and practiced. Active transportation to school is part of a daily exercise program which helps students develop lifelong habits.

### **Equity**

Active Transportation is universally affordable and promotes independence and safety for all community members.

### **Community Safety & Accessibility**

An environment where active transportation is supported by the school and community partners promotes the safety and accessibility of the community for all travellers.

## **Learning**

Physical activity, including active modes of transportation, especially before school, prepares students for learning and success in school.

## **Community Cohesion & Appreciation**

Walking and wheeling together, appreciating the outdoors, promotes a caring and connected local community.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

Active modes of transportation decrease the environmental impact of schools on the community. Active modes of transportation are key in developing sustainable communities.

To encourage and support active modes of travel, the Halton District School Board will work with individual citizens, parents, community and school groups, businesses and the local municipalities to:

- Support and encourage Active Transportation programs in schools across the Board.
- Encourage the development of School Travel Plans for schools.
- Improve end of trip facilities (e.g., equipment storage and/or bicycle racks) to support Active Transportation.
- Promote regional and international Walk to School day events and other initiatives encouraging Active Transportation throughout the year.
- Consider Active Transportation corridors in facility planning decisions.
- Support research on Active Transportation.
- Advocate for safety enhancements including establishing safe Active Transportation corridors for travel to school and the workplace.
- Encourage cooperation and collaboration of schools, Municipalities, Halton Region, communities and government agencies in creating a walkable community.