

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.

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 travelers.

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.