

# School Active Transportation Charter

Active transportation is any human-powered form of transportation such as walking, cycling, wheeling, rolling, and using mobility devices. School community members who choose active transportation benefit from:

- lifelong habits of physical activity
- improved mental well-being
- heightened independence
- stronger community connections

Reducing personal automobile use around schools by prioritizing active transportation modes, school buses, or public transit, improves air quality around schools. Additionally, the reduction of traffic in school zones creates a safer environment for all users. Normalizing and promoting active and sustainable travel as the preferred choice of transportation reflects the principles of Ontario's Foundation for a Healthy School. Furthermore, it creates a culture where active transportation is the norm.

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To ensure active modes of transportation are safe, convenient, and widely utilized, the WEC Active School Travel Committee recognizes the following principles:

## **Physical & Mental Well-Being**

Utilizing active modes of transportation promotes physical and mental well-being.

## **Equity & Accessibility**

Active modes of transportation are universally affordable, which promote independence and accessibility for all users. These modes provide the community with direct access to schools.

## **Community Safety**

Using active modes of transportation for school travel strengthens one's awareness of their surroundings and feelings of safety and comfort in our neighbourhoods.

## **Learning**

Daily physical activity, including active school travel, prepares students to learn more effectively.

## **Community Cohesion**

Using active modes of transportation together creates a supportive environment that builds strong connections in our school communities.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

Active transportation relies on human power, creating less impact on the environment, and can reduce carbon emissions when practiced by a majority of the community.



# School Active Transportation Charter

The WEC Active School Travel Committee recognizes the importance of ensuring our school communities are accessible for active transportation and the promotion of such modes. Utilizing these modes has personal, environmental, and community-wide benefits. This charter reflects the principles of the Ontario Ministry of Education's Foundations for a Healthy School, as well as Windsor-Essex County Health Unit's strategic plan for a healthy community.

This charter serves to inform a long-term commitment to providing support, resources, and education towards active school transportation. We will work together to encourage safe, healthy, and sustainable routes to school through our commitment to the aforementioned principles and the execution of the below actions.

- Develop and support the implementation of school policies that promote active transportation.
- Incorporate active transportation policies when making municipal and school facility planning decisions.
- Conduct multi-stakeholder active transportation audits and assessments of school travel plans and neighbouring communities for safety and accessibility.
- Advocate for safety enhancements and infrastructure to encourage all modes of active travel.
- Support, promote, and participate in regional and international active travel and road safety events to encourage active transportation.
- Educate school communities about the physical and mental well-being, learning, and environmental benefits of active transportation.
- Complete annual scans of active transportation policies and resources to provide community partners with updated information and best practices.

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Signature

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Organization