

Active and Safe School Travel Charter

Active transportation is any human-powered form of transportation such as walking, cycling, wheeling, rolling, and using mobility devices.

Increasing the use of active transportation reduces personal automobile use around schools. The reduction of traffic in school zones creates a safer environment for all users. Additionally, by prioritizing active transportation modes, school buses, or public transit, air quality around schools is improved. 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.

School community members who are able to choose active transportation for all or part of their travel to and from school benefit from:

- lifelong habits of physical activity,
- sustainable happiness and mental well-being,
- heightened independence, and
- stronger community connections.

To ensure active modes of transportation are safe, convenient, and widely utilized, the Limestone District School Board recognizes the following principles:

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.
- Mental & Physical Well-Being
- Utilizing active modes of transportation promotes physical and mental well-being.

Equity & Accessibility

- Active modes of transportation are generally low or no cost, promoting independence and accessibility for all users. These modes provide the community with direct access to schools.

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.

The Limestone District School Board recognizes that active travel for children and youth is integral to a healthy, happy socially inclusive and sustainable community, and we acknowledge the universal rights of children and youth to have safe environments for active travel to destinations like school. Utilizing active transportation 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 the strategic plan for KFL&A Public Health: Healthy People, Healthy Places, and the Kingston Gets Active mission to “promote, encourage, and support citizens to be physically active on a daily basis.” This charter serves to inform a long-term commitment to providing support, resources, and education towards active school transportation.

The Limestone District School Board will work with community partners to encourage safe, healthy, and sustainable routes to school through our commitment to the aforementioned principles and the following actions:

- Advocate for safety enhancements and infrastructure to encourage all modes of active travel.
- Develop and support the implementation of school policies that promote active transportation.
- Incorporate active transportation policies when making municipal and school facility planning decisions.
- Complete annual scans of active transportation policies and resources to provide community partners with updated information and best practices.
- Conduct multi-stakeholder active transportation audits and assessments of school travel plans and neighbouring communities for safety and accessibility.
- 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.

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