

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Education around cycling found in the Ontario curriculum

**From:** Curriculum Branch (MET) <casspb@ontario.ca>

**Sent:** February-01-19 2:42 PM

**To:** Davenport, Alicia <Alicia.Davenport@hamilton.ca>

**Subject:** Education around cycling found in the Ontario curriculum

Dear Alicia Davenport,

Thank you for your email on behalf of the City of Hamilton Council regarding education around cycling found in the Ontario curriculum. I appreciate the work of the Hamilton Cycling Committee and I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister of Education, the Honourable Lisa Thompson.

Students currently have a number of opportunities to learn about active transportation, including cycling, and the benefits that can be gained for themselves and the environment by making it an important part of a healthy, active lifestyle.

The Health and Physical Education curriculum helps children and youth develop an awareness of the benefits of active transportation and the skills they need to travel safely. Students learn:

- safe practices when walking and biking and to wear appropriate protective gear, such as properly fitting helmets, when doing activities like riding, skateboarding, or snowboarding;
- to make safe decisions, including decisions about travel routes and routines;
- to understand how cycling, walking, wheeling, and other active transportation activities can develop fitness, balance, and skills for moving with confidence; and
- to understand the health and environmental benefits of participating in and enjoying active transportation.

Cycling, walking, wheeling, and other active transportation modes are included as examples in the curriculum to show how students can enjoy being physically active while staying safe. Students can also learn about active transportation, especially cycling, in other subjects, such as science and technology, and geography. In Grade 4, for example, students learn how the gear system on a bicycle works. In Grade 9 and later grades, students may study sustainable transportation systems and investigate the impacts of cycling and cycling lanes.

The Government of Ontario invited parents, students, educators and individuals or organizations from across the province to provide feedback on the education system in Ontario.

Since launching the consultations, we have received extensive feedback that will help us make informed changes to our education system and support Ontario's students. Consultations officially closed on December 15, 2018.

The consultation focused on subjects like mental health, health and physical education, and legalization of cannabis; how to improve student performance in the STEM disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; what measures can be taken to improve standardized testing; and what steps schools should take to manage technology, such as cellphone use in the classroom.

We had an unprecedented response across all platforms, which included an open submission form, online survey and telephone town halls held in every region of the province. Submissions shared within the scope of the consultation will help inform policy and program decisions of the Ministry of Education.

The ministry is currently analyzing the feedback received, and an update of the findings will be provided in winter 2019.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
Yael Ginsler  
Director  
Curriculum, Assessment and Student Success Policy Branch  
Ministry of Education