

Ministry of Education

School Business Support Branch
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Ministère de l'Éducation

Direction du soutien aux activités
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2017: SB31

MEMORANDUM TO: Senior Business Officials

FROM: Cheri Hayward
Director
School Business Support Branch

DATE: **October 12, 2017**

SUBJECT: **Centralized Framework Pilot for Active School Travel**

On September 5, 2017, the Ministry of Education announced investment into new and expanded well-being programs for students across the province. One of the initiatives includes active transportation to create more physical activity opportunities for students.

The ministry is pleased to announce that \$3.5M over three years will be provided to Green Communities Canada (GCC) to pilot a provincial centralized framework for active school travel (AST) to expand AST programs in Ontario. This initiative reinforces the government's commitment to advance the goal of children and youth having access to 60 minutes of activity connected to their school day.

GCC will be responsible for leading this initiative, which comprises two main components:

1. Provincial centralized support

After years of testing and refining the school travel planning (STP) process and tools, GCC indicated one of the lessons learned is that funding for provincial coordination and support is required for greater sustainability. As a result, this pilot will include the establishment of a provincial AST secretariat to provide centralized coordination and support for local delivery of AST programs.

Functions of the AST secretariat will include facilitator and partner training, knowledge exchange, and development of tools and templates. The AST secretariat will also serve as the hub for provincial-level partnerships, evaluation, research, and communications.

2. Community Capacity Fund (CCF) for local programs

Application-based funding that will be provided to communities with demonstrated partnerships. GCC will be responsible for the program design, determining eligibility criteria, evaluation and selection of applicants, and oversight of selected communities.

Further updates on this initiative will be communicated to school boards, consortia, and their communities when the project is ready to be launched.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Sandy Chan, Manager, Transportation and Cooperative Services Unit, at (416) 325-2464 or sandy.chan@ontario.ca.

Original signed by

Cheri Hayward
Director
School Business Support Branch

cc: Transportation Managers