

## **Exemplary Environmental Leadership/Sustainability Program – Ontario Public School Boards Association**

**School Board** → Limestone District School Board

**Contact Person and Email Address** → Dan Hendry, Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator, hendryd@limestone.on.ca

**Name of Program/Initiative** → Limestone's Kingston Transit Promotion and Orientation Project

**Hyperlinks to Documents or website(s) describing this Program/Initiative** →

- **Administrative Procedure 112 Environmental Education** → <http://limestone.on.ca/board/documents/procedures/AP-112.pdf>
- **LDSB Sustainability Homepage** → <http://limestone.on.ca/board/Sustainability/Home%20Page>
- **2012 – 2013 Annual Sustainability Report** → <http://limestone.on.ca/board/Sustainability/Documents/2012-13%20Annual%20Sustainability%20Report.pdf>

**Description of Program/Initiative** →

The Kingston Transit Promotion and Orientation Project is offered to seven secondary schools within Limestone District School Board. Through a partnership with the City of Kingston, the project ensures students in Grade 9 in the City of Kingston are familiarized with buses, transportation planning tools and feel comfortable on how the public transit system works. LDSB works with Kingston Transit to register Grade 9s and issue their free annual transit pass. Students are also taken on a mini trip on a chartered City bus so they can learn firsthand about public transportation giving them an authentic experience. The purpose of this project is to teach students about the environmental and economic benefits of using public transportation, and to help address and eliminate any barriers that might prevent students from using public transit - an important life skill. The project was organized and implemented by Dan Hendry, the Board's Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator. Minimal financial resources are required for the implementation of the program. Human resources are required to organize site visits.

**What has been the Impact on Student Learning?**-->

This project has been measured qualitatively and quantitatively, there has been significant positive feedback from staff, students and the community. The impact can also be measured, through usage. Below is an excerpt from the City of Kingston

- A quote from a newspaper article: "Alyssa also remarked that for her, receiving the free pass will mean increased freedom. It's awesome because now I can go downtown and to the mall and stuff and not have to ask my parents for a ride," she said.

- Excerpt from Last Council Report: Ridership In 2012, the ridership for the Grade 9 students accounted for slightly more than 23,000 trips. This increased to 63,606 trips (an increase of 176%) in the second year (2013) when Grade 10 students were included in the program. Unfortunately, there is no way to determine how these trips were attributed to each grade. In comparison, for the same eight-month period, there were 60,285 trips in 2012 and 58,280 trips in 2013 taken by monthly Youth riders who were not part of the pilot program. The average number of trips taken by Grade 9 and 10 students in 2013 represents 42.44 trips per student (63,606 trips divided by 1,499 passes) compared to 26.42 average trips for monthly Youth pass holders (58,280 trips divided by 2,206 pass holders) not included in the program. This indicates that the Grade 9 and 10 students use the system significantly more than other monthly Youth Pass holders. Ridership patterns for the Grade 9 and 10 students indicate that the majority of usage is related to traveling to/from school. Usage patterns show that Grade 9 ridership in Year 1(2012) of the program was concentrated around the start and end times of school days, with approximately 65% of all trips occurring on weekdays between 7–9am and 2–4pm. The remaining 35% of trips were spread across evenings and weekends with no distinguishable pattern of usage.