

Section 12: Schools as Community Hubs

Facilities Partnerships

Sharing facilities can be beneficial to our students and the community. By sharing space, we can work together to improve services, programs and supports for our students as well as maximize the use of public infrastructure through increased flexibility and use. The purpose of a facility partnership is to encourage school boards to work with their community partners to share facilities which benefits boards, students and the community. Facility Partnerships also optimize the use of public assets owned by school boards. Facility partnerships provide a potential opportunity to reduce facility costs and/or improve educational opportunities for students.

Offering space in schools to partners can also strengthen the role of schools in communities, provide a place for programs and facilitate the coordination of, and improve access to, services for students and the wider community. Before entering a facility partnership, there is a need to determine the expectations for the partnering organization and how it aligns with HWDSB’s strategic directions. Partnerships must be appropriate for the school setting and not compromise the student achievement strategy.

Facility partnerships operate on a cost-recovery basis. The fees charged to partners should cover the operations and capital cost, including administrative costs and property taxes (if applicable), to the board for the space occupied by the partner. Additional costs to perform minor renovations to protect student safety, provide appropriate washrooms, and otherwise make the space suitable for use by facility partners will be at the expense of the partner.

Identification of Potential Spaces

The information used to identify facilities that may be suitable for facility partnerships with respect to new construction and unused space in schools will be established through the [Use of Board Facilities Policy](#).

Planning and Accommodation staff have identified the following sites as having spaces available for potential Facility Partnerships.

Current Schools or Proposed Future Schools Available for Potential Facility Partnership

Elementary Schools	Secondary Schools	Proposed Future Elem Schools
Buchanan Park	Glendale	Waterdown Site
Hillcrest	Orchard Park	Binbrook Site
Prince of Wales	Sir Allan MacNab	Summit Park Site
Rosedale	Sir Winston Churchill	Nash Site
W.H. Ballard	Waterdown	Winona Site
Westview		
Westwood		

Section 12: Schools as Community Hubs**Programs in HWDSB Schools**

HWDSB has a variety of programs throughout the Board to assist parents with childcare, early learning and creating seamless days for young students. Programs include:

Parenting and Family Literacy Centre – Is school-based programs for parents and their children, aged birth to six years of age that operate during the school day. The parent/caregiver stays with the child at all times.

These programs help to prepare children for school and encourage families to be part of their children’s learning by:

- Helping children build essential literacy and numeracy skills through stories, music, reading and playing
- Encouraging families to engage in their children’s learning
- Offering a book-lending library in different languages, so parents can read to their children in their first language
- Helping parents and children feel comfortable and familiar with school staff and school routines
- Giving families the chance to spend time with other families
- Linking families with appropriate community resources for special needs, health and other related services
- Expanding the network of services already available to families in Hamilton by collaborating with their local Ontario Early Years Centres, early learning and child care centres and other programs for families with young children

Ontario Early Years Centres - Is a place for parents and caregivers of children up to the age of six to get information about their children’s development and services to support that development.

Each Centre provides the following free services to parents and guardians:

- Early learning and literacy programs for parents and their children
- Programs to support parents and caregivers in all aspects of early child development
- Programs on pregnancy and parenting
- Links to other early years programs in the community

Childcare Centres

Since 2012, HWDSB has received multiple funding grants for the creation or retrofit of existing childcare spaces within schools. The Ministry of Education’s early learning initiatives have created easier access to better child care facilities. Since 2013, 12 spaces have received, or are in the process of receiving, additional space or a retrofit of existing space. Through capital priority submissions HWDSB has received funding for four full- day new childcare centres at Franklin Road, New Greenville, Summit Park and Tiffany Hills.

HWDSB provides spaces within schools for not for profit childcare services for outside organizations. The type of care ranges from before and after care and all day daycare. Appendix I indicates the locations of all community programs listed above as well as shared site recreation centre locations.

Section 12: Schools as Community Hubs**Community Use of Schools (Rentals)**

Schools are integral partners in their communities. Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board believes in strengthening bonds between communities and schools through community use of our facilities to improve student achievement, create healthier neighbourhoods, and encourage life-long learning. HWDSB is committed to providing the community with equitable access to Board facilities. It is our intent to ensure equity among agencies and provide first access to facilities for agencies with a focus on student achievement and skill building.

The following user categories establish the order of priority in which Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board facilities are made available:

- Schools and school-related activities always have priority for use of their respective facilities
- Partnerships and agreements with Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
- Community Not-For-Profit Youth Groups: Not-for-profit groups and organizations that serve the needs of youth and that provide programming that is low cost or free for participation. Preference will be given to groups and organizations that provide programs and opportunities focused on supporting student achievement, skill building, and that are neighbourhood-based.
- Community Not-For-Profit Adult Groups: Not-for-profit groups and organizations that serve the needs of adults and that provide programming that is low cost or free for participation. Preference will be given to groups and organizations that provide programs and opportunities focused on supporting student achievement, skill building, and that are neighbourhood-based.
- Registered Non-Profit Groups: Registered non-profit groups and organizations that serve the broader community and charge fees or collect donations for participation in programs and opportunities. Fees are charged to participants that are more than covering the cost of permitting HWDSB facilities and incidental costs.
- For Profit Groups: Use of HWDSB facilities by youth and adult for profit groups and organizations that are commercial or business in nature and are located in and outside of the Hamilton-Wentworth district.

In each user category, preference for use of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board facilities is given to groups and organizations whose activities, events, programs, and opportunities are:

- Supporting or contributing to student achievement and skill building
- Neighbourhood or community-based and where users are part of the neighbourhoods in which the facility is located to help develop relationships and support neighbourhood community-building
- Using Board space to provide low or no cost opportunities to participants
- Sponsored or funded by the Government of Ontario

HWDSB receives funds through the MOE for community use of schools programs to offset rental fees charged to the community. Community use of schools funding provides assistance to boards to increase affordable access for not-for-profit groups to both indoor and outdoor school spaces at reduced rates outside of regular school hours. In addition to community use of schools funds, HWDSB receives funds through the priority school initiative. Through the Priority Schools Initiative, the Ontario Ministry of Education has provided support to selected school boards in order that not-for-profit groups will have free after-hours access to designated school facilities in communities that need it most. Free use of school space will allow local not-for-profit organizations to offer affordable or no-cost programming at these schools. HWDSB receives Priority Schools funding to offset the costs at 21 elementary schools and 4 secondary schools.

Section 12: Schools as Community Hubs

HWDSB strives to ensure that schools are accessible for community use. Since 2009, HWDSB's community use of school hour totals have tripled to over 412,000 hours in 2013/2014. Since 2013/14 HWDSB has averaged over 400,000 hours of rental and community use of schools per year. The increase in school usage illustrates HWDSB's committee to making the schools available for community use and that schools are being used as community HUBS throughout the City of Hamilton. See the chart below for the breakdown of community use of schools hours which includes use at priority schools.

Year	Hours of Use	Increase in Hours	% Change
2009/10	111,314	-	-
2010/11	131,106	19,792	18%
2011/12	252,731	121,625	93%
2012/13	339,628	86,897	34%
2013/14	412,491	72,863	21%
2014/15	423,982	11,491	3%
2015/16	401,895	-22,187	-5%

Rental Rates

In 2016/2107 the community use of school rates changed its model from previous years. School boards are required to provide space to community partners on a cost recovery basis. To calculate a cost recovery model, staff used a cost accounting tool that calculates the cost per square foot to operate our facilities and applies this cost to the area rented to determine a rate per hour. Both direct and indirect facility costs are combined with variable data such as operating hours and facility inventory data to establish a cost recovery rate per space type. The data used in the tool is found in the Board's audited annual financial statements, making the data valid, consistent and transparent.

For more information on rental rates and facility availability please see the [Rental Webpage](#).