

# Encouraging Active Schools

2015 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AT SCHOOL SURVEY



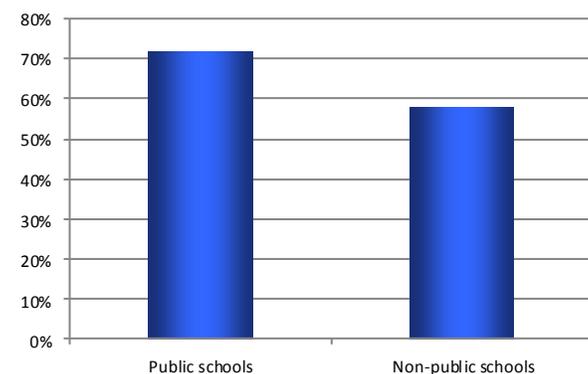
## Networking, partnerships, and shared use of resources within the community

The Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute conducted the 2015 Opportunities for Physical Activity at School Survey and asked school administrators about networking and partnerships with other groups in the community with respect to facility development, shared use agreements for facilities and resources, and community access to school facilities. This bulletin summarizes the findings for this topic in relation to school and community characteristics.

### Community consultation

The majority (70%) of schools administrators report that their school board consults with local community groups or municipal recreation departments to ensure that the community needs are met when building or renovating school facilities. There are no significant regional, school, or community related differences in this regard, with one exception; a greater proportion of public schools indicate that they consult with local community and municipal recreation groups when building or renovating school facilities compared to non-public schools.

**FIGURE 1**  
Community consultation for development of schools facilities by school type



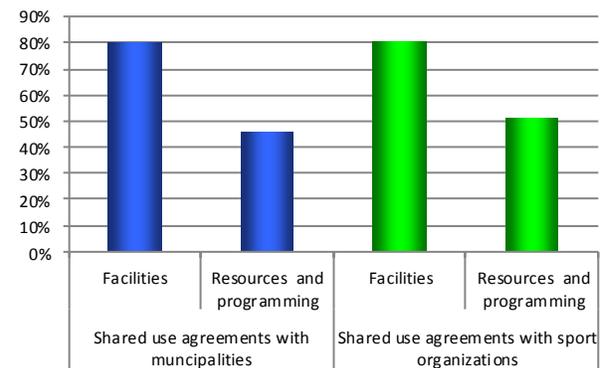
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### Agreements to share facilities

Four out of five (80%) schools administrators say that their schools or school boards have agreements with a *municipality* regarding the shared use of school or municipal facilities, whereas 46% of schools indicate that they have agreements with municipalities regarding the sharing of programming and resources (such as instructors, officials, and equipment). A greater proportion of schools located in the Atlantic report agreements with *municipalities* regarding shared programming and resources, compared to the national average.

Similarly, 81% of schools administrators say that their schools or school boards have agreements with *sport organizations* or *physical activity clubs* regarding the use of school facilities, and 51% of schools have agreements for shared programming or resources. Compared to the national average, relatively more schools located in the Atlantic have shared agreements with *sport organizations* or *physical activity clubs* for facilities, programming and resources. On the contrary, relatively fewer schools in Quebec say that they have shared use agreements for facilities with sport or physical activity organizations.

**FIGURE 2**  
Shared use agreements for facilities and programming/resources



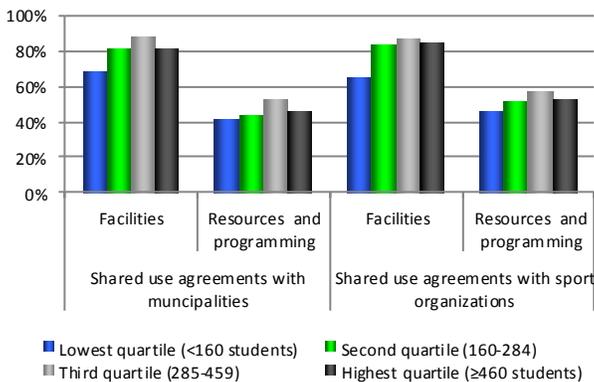
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### School and community characteristics

School administrators in the smallest populated schools (lowest quartile, <160 students) are least likely to indicate that they have agreements with municipalities, sport or physical activity organizations regarding the shared use of facilities. Compared to the average, comprehensive schools (kindergarten to grade 12) are least likely to say that they have shared facility agreements with municipalities. A greater proportion of middle schools have shared school facility agreements with local sport or physical activity organizations compared to the average. Relatively more public schools have agreements with municipalities for facilities and resources compared to non-public schools. Public schools are also more likely to have shared facility agreements with local sport or physical activity organizations. A greater proportion of schools located in small communities (1,000 to 4,999 residents) share programming and resources (such as instructors, officials, and equipment) with sport and physical activity organizations compared to those located in the largest communities.

FIGURE 3

Shared use agreements by student population size



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### Access and fees for community use of school facilities

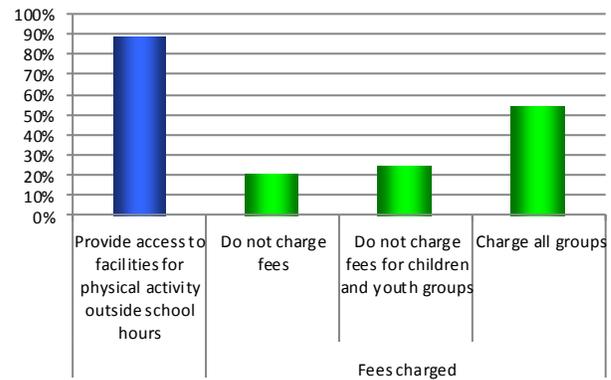
The majority (89%) of schools administrators say that groups or individuals in the community have access to school facilities outside of school hours for the purposes of physical activity or sport. Compared to the national average, a greater proportion of schools in the Atlantic provide this type of access, whereas relatively fewer schools in Quebec grant access.

Among the 89% of schools that provide community access to facilities, 20% of schools do *not* charge a fee to any group, 24% do *not* charge a fee to groups focusing on physical activity of children and youth, and 54% charge a fee to *all* user groups. Compared to the Canadian average, a greater proportion of schools in the Atlantic do *not* charge user fees to groups focusing on children and youth, whereas relatively fewer schools in Ontario report this.

Conversely, relatively fewer schools in the Atlantic and West, yet relatively more schools in Ontario charge a fee to *all* groups using school facilities outside of school hours when compared to the national average.

FIGURE 4

Access and fees for community use of school facilities



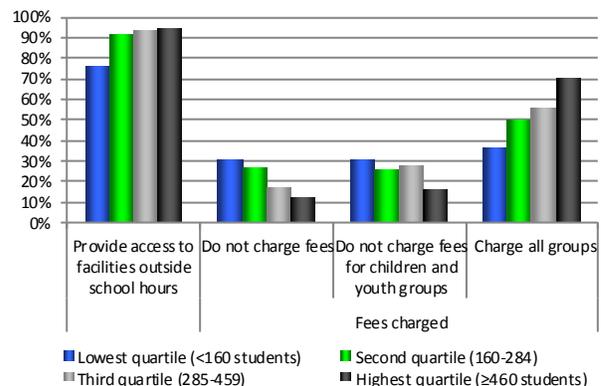
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### School characteristics

The smallest populated schools (representing the lowest quartile of student population size, < 160 students) are least likely to grant groups or individuals in the community access to school facilities outside of school hours for the purposes of physical activity or sport. Despite being less likely to grant access, smaller schools are generally more likely *not* to charge for use to certain groups. For example, smaller populated schools (lowest and second quartile, <285 students) are more likely than large schools to report that they either do *not* charge a fee for use of facilities to any group, or do *not* charge a fee for groups focusing on children and youth. Conversely, the proportion of schools indicating that they charge a fee to *all* groups using school facilities generally increases with increasing student population size from 37% of the smallest populated to 70% of the largest populated schools.

FIGURE 5

Access and fees for community use of school facilities by student population size



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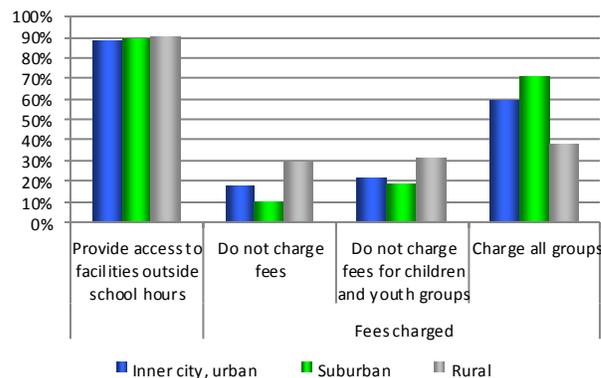
Compared to non-public schools, a greater proportion of public schools provide community access to school facilities outside of school hours. A greater proportion of non-public schools, however, charge *all* groups to use schools facilities for physical activity and sport. Although there are no significant differences in the proportion of schools that provide community access to school facilities by grade level, differences exist with respect to fees levied. Compared to the national average, relatively more comprehensive schools (kindergarten to grade 12) do *not* charge a fee for facility use, whereas secondary schools are more likely and comprehensive school are less likely to charge a fee to *all* users.

### Community characteristics

The proportion of schools that provide access to school facilities does not vary by community size or setting of the school, however, there are differences with respect to the fees associated with use. Relatively more schools in small communities (<5,000 residents) do *not* charge a fee for use of school facilities or do *not* charge a fee to groups focusing on children and youth, whereas schools in the largest communities are more likely to charge a fee to *all* users. Similarly, schools located in rural settings are most likely to say that they do *not* charge a fee for users or for groups targeting children and youth, and therefore, are least likely to say that they charge *all* groups using the facilities. Inner city or urban schools are more likely than suburban schools to *not* charge user fees to any group.

FIGURE 6

Fees for community use of school facilities by school setting



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