

# Ophea's Healthy Schools Certification - Community Partners



Ophea's Healthy Schools Certification (HS Certification) recognizes and celebrates school communities for promoting and enhancing the health and well-being of students, school staff, and the broader community.

## Goals of HS Certification

- to **support** and **increase** the capacity of school communities across Ontario to effectively implement the 6-Step Healthy Schools Process
- to **celebrate** and formally **recognize** an individual school community's achievements related to the 6-Step Healthy Schools Process

## Why Get Certified?

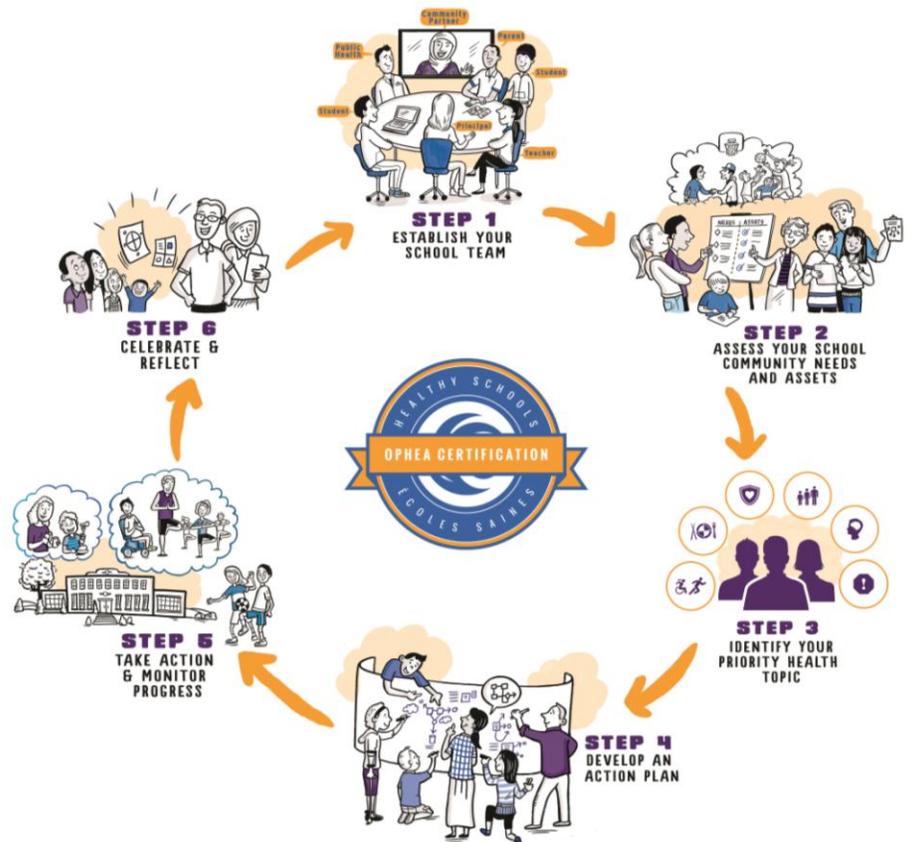
- ✓ To increase student engagement and leadership
- ✓ To strengthen and/or make new community partners
- ✓ To connect the dots between what your school is already doing
- ✓ To implement provincial education policies at the school and board level
- ✓ To guide your school community in addressing a priority health topic through the 6-Step Healthy Schools Process
- ✓ To encourage students, staff, and the broader community to make healthier choices
- ✓ Bragging rights! Everyone will know that you've been formally recognized for being a healthy school!

## How Does My School Get Certified?

By completing the 6-Step Healthy Schools Process over the course of the school year, schools who have registered in the fall will earn points and can apply to be certified in April as a Gold, Silver, or Bronze level Healthy School.

**Certification is based on a school's ability to follow and complete the process and not on the type or number of activities chosen so it's flexible and adaptable for all school communities.**

School certification levels are announced in May of each year and a banner is sent to certified schools celebrating their level.





School teams will choose from six health topics to focus on during the school year.

The 6 choices are:



Physical Activity



Healthy Eating



Personal Safety  
and Injury Prevention



Growth and  
Development



Mental Health



Substance Use, Addictions  
and Related Behaviours

While schools select a priority health topic, they are still encouraged to promote health in all areas.

### What is the Healthy Schools approach?

The Healthy Schools approach engages the whole school community to promote and enhance the health and well-being of children, youth, school staff, and the broader community.

The school community includes:

- Students
- Parents, guardians, and family members
- School staff (e.g., educators, administrators, support staff)
- Community partners (e.g., public health, recreation and sport groups, police and fire services, municipalities, other schools, not-for-profit organizations, local social services and businesses)

The Healthy Schools approach can result in the creation and/or sustainability of a healthy school.

### What is my role in a healthy school as a community partner?

Community partners can play an integral role in supporting the Healthy Schools approach by sharing their time, expertise, services, and resources. A key component of HS Certification is promoting relationships between school communities and their community partners. Schools benefit from the services, resources, and expertise of the unique community partners as they plan and implement activities. Community partners benefit from the connection to the school community and an overall healthier community.

For more information, visit: [ophea.net/HSCertification](https://ophea.net/HSCertification)

For specific questions, email: [healthyschools@ophea.net](mailto:healthyschools@ophea.net)

To see what schools are doing, check out our Twitter hashtag #HSCertES.