

# HORIZON 2005

## What's Up After School



Making schools an exciting place to be

The objective of the *What's Up After School* program is to combat sedentary lifestyles and promote educational success by giving secondary school students increased access to a wide range of extracurricular activities. The first year of the program will focus on sports, physical and outdoor activities; the second year will also include cultural, social, community and scientific activities.

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*An important source of enjoyment and an opportunity for teenagers to acquire social skills, extracurricular activities help combat sedentary lifestyles.*

**What's Up  
After School**

## Making schools an exciting place to be



**Sylvain Simard**

Minister of State for  
Education and Employment

### **A Message from the Minister of State for Education and Employment**

*Schools are not just places where young people go to learn – they can also be a stimulating environment providing students with opportunities to take part in a wide range of extracurricular activities that will have a positive influence on their development.*

*The What's Up After School program follows in the wake of the many excellent initiatives that have already been introduced in Québec schools.*

*I firmly believe that with input from partners and parents, the program will create a new impetus for making schools into a stimulating, enriching environment for young people. The program constitutes an essential tool in the drive to ensure educational success for the greatest possible number of students.*



**Richard Legendre**

Minister Responsible  
for Youth, Tourism,  
Recreation and Sport

### **A Message from the Minister Responsible for Youth, Tourism, Recreation and Sport**

*As the Minister Responsible for Youth, Tourism, Recreation and Sport, it gives me great pride to present the What's Up After School program, which has been designed to provide all students with an opportunity to take part in worthwhile extracurricular activities. As they participate in these carefully organized and stimulating physical, sports, social and cultural activities, they will discover many new outlets for their creativity and self-expression.*

*I invite all young people in Québec to take part in the activities organized as part of the What's Up After School program, and to discover their own potential as they do so.*

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## Giving secondary school students a little something extra



The *What's Up After School* program has been designed to help secondary school students:

- lead a less sedentary lifestyle, and take part in a range of physical, sports and outdoor activities
- develop their talents and aptitudes, and increase their self-esteem
- discover new cultural, artistic and scientific horizons
- develop their sense of citizenship and their commitment to their school and community
- increase their sense of belonging to a school community
- continue to develop their competencies, especially in the personal and social area
- take advantage of more opportunities for socialization, a component of the school's mission

Schools are more than just a place for teaching and learning; they can also be a stimulating living environment. Students must be given as many opportunities as possible to socialize and to use their aptitudes and talents. Opportunities can come in many different forms, such as involvement in a basketball team, rock

climbing club, theatre group, science club, music society or community group. Each type of activity gives students a chance to meet other people who share their interests and to work alongside adult participants.

Most secondary schools in Québec already offer extracurricular activities, and roughly one-third of all students take part in them. For many different reasons (school bus schedules, supervision, etc.), the scope of the activities offered tends to vary depending on the school concerned.

The Québec government has made a commitment to transform secondary schools in order to provide a better response to students' actual needs. With the introduction of the *What's Up After School* program, it hopes to increase access to and participation in a wide range of extracurricular activities.





**The Québec government hopes that, between 2003 and 2006, the number of students taking part in extracurricular activities in public schools will increase from roughly 120 000 in 2002 to 240 000 by 2006.**

**To increase access, the program will remove existing barriers to participation, in particular by providing funding for school bus services.**

**Thanks to a wider range of stimulating activities, more young people will enjoy the benefits and educational spin-offs of extracurricular participation.**

## The place of extracurricular activities in school life



Extracurricular activities are part of the complementary services provided by each school, and

- are intended to support students in their educational progress
- provide a key opportunity to enrich the competencies students develop in the classroom

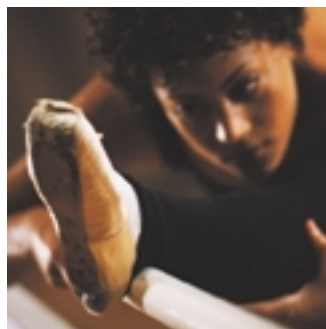
The *Québec Education Program* for secondary education specifies that some competencies will be developed in the classroom and also during other school activities. For example, students who go to fitness classes after school will develop their motor skills, and will also improve their general health and well-being. Students who work for a school radio station or newspaper will develop their communications skills.

## Examples of possible activities



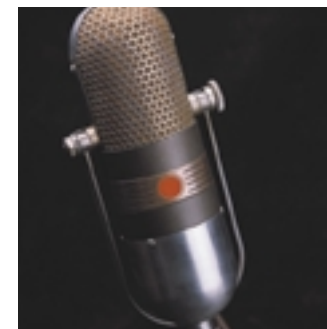
### **Physical, sports and outdoor activities:**

football  
swimming  
soccer  
in-line skating  
skateboarding  
canoeing and camping  
rock climbing  
hockey



### **Cultural (scientific and artistic) activities:**

theatre  
music  
computer science club  
bird watching  
painting  
dance  
astronomy



### **Social or community activities:**

international exchanges  
school credit union  
involvement in a community organization  
micro-businesses or youth coop  
school radio station

## How the program works



Every secondary school, in partnership with at least two community organizations, will establish a three-year plan for extracurricular activities (consistent with its educational project) during the first year of the program. The three-year plan will set out objectives (student participation, range of activities offered, etc.) and will form part of the school's success plan; it will be submitted to the school board concerned.

The school board will ensure that the three-year plans submitted by its schools comply with the objectives of the *What's Up After School* program, and file them with the regional committee for approval.

The committee reports to the Ministère de l'Éducation regional office, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the Secrétariat aux loisirs et aux sports. It will examine each three-year plan, make recommendations to the Ministère de l'Éducation concerning funding for school boards and monitor progress in the region.

Given the fact that the English-language school boards cover extremely wide areas, the three-year plans submitted by their schools will be examined by the Direction des services à la communauté anglophone at the Ministère de l'Éducation, in collaboration with representatives from the Secrétariat aux loisirs et aux sports and the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.



## Program implementation



Photo: Clément Allard

The *What's Up After School* program will be implemented gradually over a three-year period, from the 2003-2004 school year to the 2005-2006 school year. The extracurricular activities concerned will be offered for the first time in September 2003 in individual schools. The first year of operation (2003-2004) will affect students in Secondary Cycle One (Secondary I and II) at roughly 500 schools, and will involve physical, sports and outdoor activities.

In the second year of operation, the program will be extended to cover students at all secondary levels, and social, community, cultural and scientific activities will be added to the initial physical, sports and outdoor activities. By that point, the *What's Up After School* program will affect students at almost 600 secondary schools in Québec.

## Regional priorities



The Ministère de l'Éducation will pay funding to school boards on the recommendation of the regional committees. The school boards will be responsible for allocating money to individual schools. The funding paid to each school board will be based on the number of its students affected by the program and the cost of providing school bus services for those students.

The government intends to fund 80% of the cost of the extracurricular activity programs; the remainder (20%) will be provided by schools and local partners, a measure that will encourage community involvement.

As shown in the following table, the funding for the program will increase gradually from the first year (2003-2004) to the third year (2005-2006).

Year	Contribution by government	Contribution by schools and community	TOTAL
2003-2004	\$15.0 million	\$ 3.75 million	\$18.75 million
2004-2005	\$25.4 million	\$ 6.30 million	\$31.70 million
2005-2006	\$41.4 million	\$10.30 million	\$51.70 million

All expenditure incurred to promote student participation in the activities offered, offset the cost of school bus services and provide student supervision is eligible under the program.

## Steering committee



A steering committee will establish the general rules for involvement by school partners, coordinate the actions of all parties, assess the program on a Québec-wide basis and make adjustments as needed.

The steering committee will be co-chaired by representatives from the Ministère de l'Éducation and the Secrétariat à la jeunesse, and the other members will represent:

- the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications
- the Secrétariat aux loisirs et aux sports
- the Fédération des commissions scolaires
- the Quebec English School Boards Association
- the Fédération des municipalités du Québec
- the Union des municipalités du Québec

## A community-wide commitment



The success of the *What's Up After School* program will depend on a commitment by the community as a whole. The program will be based on partnerships between schools, municipalities and community organizations, helping young people understand the important position they hold in the community and providing them with support as they pursue their studies.

Parents will also be expected to make a specific contribution, since they play a key role in the development and achievements of their children. Their support will be needed to ensure that as many students as possible take part in the activities offered by schools; their encouragement will increase their children's motivation to participate and their ability to achieve educational success.



# What's Up After School





