

Community Transit's Youth Program and Connections to Washington's OSPI Learning Standards

Community Transit offers free transit to all people 18 years old and younger. We're helping students get to after-school activities and events, pursue employment and volunteer opportunities, and gain independence. To help more students and families learn about the benefits of public transportation, Community Transit is proud to offer free programs for middle and high schools in Snohomish County.

Our goal is to inspire the next generation of public transit riders through an engaging program that promotes equity and sustainability by helping students learn how to get where they want to go without driving. Through a flexible in-class presentation, students learn transit basics such as:

- Trip planning, reading a bus schedule, and locating nearby bus stops
- How to board the bus and request a stop
- Safety tips and rider etiquette
- How to travel with a bike and use the bike rack

Learning how to use public transit is an essential life skill that builds confidence and gives all students access to more opportunities. We hope to get the chance to present to your school community! Below are several Washington OSPI Learning Standards and their desired outcomes that Community Transit's youth program supports.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Standard 4 (PE4.1.HS1, PE4.1HS2, PE4.1.8.): Students will exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others.

Community Transit teaches students that utilizing free transit is a way they can access opportunities they want to pursue that increase their physical activity inside and outside of school. Showing young people how to use public transportation helps them take responsibility of their own level of physical activity and fitness. Whether that is walking or biking safely to the bus stop or using transit to get to an after-school sports practice or other extracurricular activity that supports physical fitness.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY

ESE Standard 2: The Natural and Built Environment. Students engage in inquiry and systems thinking and use information gained through learning experiences in, about, and for the environment to understand the structure, components, and processes of natural and human built environments.

ESE Standard 3: Sustainability and Civic Responsibility. Students develop and apply the knowledge, perspective, vision, skills and habits of mind necessary to make personal and collective decisions and take actions that promote sustainability.

Community Transit teaches students that the built environment, including transit systems, is a major factor in the health of a community. We offer information on how transit-oriented designs improve physical fitness, social well-being, and the environment. Community Transit also educates students on the environmental benefits of choosing public transit over a single occupancy vehicle and teaches them the skills to use transit, which is an action they can choose that promotes sustainability.

HEALTH EDUCATION:

Wellness (H2.W3.7, H2.W3.8, H2.W3.HS): Access Valid Information.

Community Transit teaches students how transit can be used to access valid information and care in their community.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING:

Standard 3: (Benchmarks 3A, 3B, and 6C) Self-Efficacy

Community Transit positions transit as a strategy to help students identify opportunities for growth to achieve further success. Public transit highlights the need for personal responsibility and developing cultural humility—and existing in a shared social space (such as a bus or train) helps all young people become better community members. Navigating a complex shared space equips students with the skills to engage responsibly in a variety of situations. Riding transit and seeing the role it plays in a student's community encourages big picture thinking and promotes societal contributions and involvement.