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Halton District School Board to make concussion education mandatory

Board collaborates with medical expert Dr. Paul Echlin

By Hamilton Spectator

The [Halton District School Board](#) says it will bring concussion education to classrooms to teach students the dangers of head injuries that can result in concussions. The board issued a news release Tuesday.

Called the Halton Student Concussion Education Project (HSCEP), it has been created by Halton board program and research staff through the guidance of [Dr. Paul Echlin](#), sports physician and expert in concussion research and education. Beginning in September, Halton District School Board Grade 9 students will participate in mandatory concussion education while elementary schools will pilot this concussion education project at the same time.

Piloted with students in 2013, it's based on an [online](#) instruction unit about concussion education created and developed by Echlin with Halton District School Board staff.

While school boards are mandated by the Ontario Ministry of Education to provide this education in 2015, the Halton District School Board says it will be the first school board to institute and lead mandated [health](#) and physical education curriculum-based concussion education in Ontario.

"The Halton Student Concussion Education Project is an extremely influential learning experience for students," says Jeff Blackwell, associate director of education for the Halton District School Board, in the news release. "This concussion awareness program gives our students accurate information about the short-term and long-term effects of concussions. More importantly, this programming allows them opportunities to discuss and apply skills needed to keep themselves and others safe and healthy when there is potential that a concussion has occurred."

"The next generation of athletes, coaches, and parents will be informed about this serious [brain injury](#) in our schools by professional educators," says Echlin. "It's important to create a generational shift concerning the awareness and prevention of sport-related brain injuries or concussions. We have abundant reason to act to prevent these injuries from occurring and have a collective responsibility to secure the wellbeing of youth and children and assure they grow and develop to their fullest potential."