

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF PEEL REGION

STOPR

**PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD AND THE
DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
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LETTER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS TO BE INVOLVED IN INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) will be initiating integrated ridership at limited school sites effective September 2011. Integrated ridership involves students, from both the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board, riding together on a bus which will service both Boards' schools. You are receiving this letter because your child's school is one of the thirty-six schools at which some of the buses will be involved in integrated transportation commencing September 2011. Please note that integrated ridership may not be in place on all buses serving your child's school.

Shared ridership of a school bus between students from different school boards is a well established practice throughout the province of Ontario. Most school boards have been sharing buses successfully for decades. Implementation of integrated service significantly enhances route efficiency.

Notable changes for riders in moving to integrated ridership are a requirement for the bus to drop off or pick up at two schools instead of one and somewhat reduced overall riding time for students as more students can be accessed within a more limited geographic area. Each school Principal remains responsible for only their students on each integrated bus run. Extensive inquiries with transportation staff at other school board jurisdictions throughout Ontario have consistently identified no reported concerns regarding student behaviour issues in shared transportation circumstances. Perhaps the most notable benefit of integrated ridership is the reality that your children, although riding with students from another school, will generally be riding to and from school with a greater number of children from your immediate residential neighbourhood.

Attached, for your information, is a Frequently Asked Questions document pertaining to integrated transportation. We are confident that adopting this method of bus route planning will serve to benefit the service level your children receive and create improved efficiency resulting in reduced expenditure.

Sincerely,

Tom G. Howe, Manager
Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR)



Student Transportation
of Peel Region

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION – INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION

- Q. What is integrated transportation?
- A. Integrated transportation combines students attending a Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board school with students attending a Peel District School Board school on the same bus which serves both schools.
- Q. Why is integrated transportation being implemented?
- A. Generally, integrated transportation improves capacity usage resulting in increased cost efficiency and reduced riding time for students.
- Q. How can I be sure that my child will get on the correct bus and to the correct school?
- A. Bus drivers are provided with a complete list of all riders and the school which they attend. School staff is required to supervise both loading and unloading of buses at the school site.
- The runs and routes being serviced by a bus are identified and visible on each bus.
- Kindergarten and grade one students for Dufferin-Peel CDSB and Kindergarten students for Peel DSB are provided with an identification tag, which indicates school of attendance, and assigned to designated seats at the front of each bus, so that drivers and school staff may easily identify those students most likely to require assistance.
- Q. Is integrated transportation new or unique to our school boards?
- A. Integrated transportation has been utilized successfully for decades by most other school boards in the Province of Ontario.
- Q. Will my elementary school child be required to ride on the same bus with secondary school students?
- A. No. For the initial implementation of integrated ridership in 2011-2012, only elementary school students from each board will ride together on buses.
- Q. Does this affect all schools?
- A. The initial plan for integrated transportation involves approximately 15 schools from each board. Also, at the schools involved, only some of the bus runs may be integrated.
- Q. Is my child subject to discipline from the other school Principal in circumstances of misbehavior?
- A. Disciplinary action, where required, is exclusively the responsibility of each school Principal for only students attending their school.