



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010

As the 2009-2010 school year draws to a conclusion, plans are well underway for enhanced transportation services to be provided commencing the 2010-2011 school year. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has approved an expansion of service for 2010-2011 and Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR), which is the consortium which administers transportation on behalf of both school boards in the Region of Peel, has initiated a number of operational and communication adjustments for the upcoming school year. These include:

Revised Eligibility

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has enhanced eligibility standards by reducing the distance criteria for eligibility from 1.6 kilometers to 1.0 kilometers for grade 1 students and by reducing the distance criteria for eligibility for grades 7 and 8 students from 3.2 kilometers to 2.0 kilometers. This means that students currently in Senior Kindergarten who are bussed will continue to be bussed next year. Additionally students currently in grade 6 will continue to be bussed next year and some students currently in grade 7 and ineligible for transportation will be eligible for transportation in grade 8.

Access to Bus Information

Please be advised that the following website, businfo.stopr.ca, is now available to students, parents, school administrators, and school bus operators. This website provides basic information for students and parents, specific to what school do I attend?, and am I eligible for transportation?

Also, parents of students who are eligible for transportation will be able to login to the businfo.stopr.ca site and access the specific details of only their child's transportation arrangements. This information will be available commencing August 23, 2010 on the businfo.stopr.ca website by following these instructions:

- ☞ Access the <http://businfo.stopr.ca>
- ☞ Click "student login"
- ☞ Enter your child's OEN number, street address number, school, and grade
(Note: OEN number appears on student report card)
- ☞ Click "login"

The bus run and route number, bus stop location and morning pick-up and afternoon drop-off times specific to only your child can be obtained through this process.

If you do not have access to the WEB, all of the above noted information is available at your school or STOPR.

STOPR Website

A STOPR website is also currently being developed and will be available to all students, parents and schools by entering: . This website will be available to view by June 21, 2010. We are very excited to announce this website with the following features:

- ☪ “About Us” – background information on Student Transportation of Peel Region
- ☪ “Policies and Procedures” – STOPR procedures and Peel and Dufferin-Peel Transportation Policies
- ☪ “FAQ” – frequently asked questions in regards to student transportation
- ☪ “School Forms” – the forms that go with the STOPR procedures
- ☪ “Operators” – a list of all the school bus operators in Peel Region and their telephone numbers
- ☪ “Links” – Ministry of Transportation links ie: booster seat legislation
- ☪ “Contact Us” – STOPR contact telephone numbers by area
- ☪ “Inclement Weather” – updates on a daily basis for inclement weather cancellations
- ☪ “Which School Do I Attend” – a direct link to our Geoquery website
- ☪ “Your Child’s Bussing Information” – a direct link to the student login on our Geoquery website
- ☪ “Dufferin-Peel CDSB and Peel DSB logos – click one of these logos and it takes you directly to the school board home website page

If you do not have access to the WEB, all of the above noted information is available at your school or STOPR.

Revised Courtesy Transportation Procedure

The Courtesy Transportation procedure which provides potential access to available empty seats on school buses for ineligible students has been revised. During the first four weeks of school, up to and including October 1, 2010, no Courtesy Transportation seating will be approved or implemented. This will allow STOPR staff to more efficiently accommodate the needs of identified eligible students. Subsequent to October 1, Courtesy Transportation for approved students will be implemented.

Sibling Transportation

Although not a new procedure, for clarification, ineligible siblings of transported special education students will not be approved to ride along with the eligible student unless providing well documented necessary support for the eligible brother or sister.

Service Improvement

The Governance Committee which oversees STOPR has approved additional temporary staff to assist with telephone response during the first six weeks of the school year. It is anticipated that this additional resourcing will assist in reducing the time required to address questions and concerns and complete system adjustments at this extremely busy time of year.

Early Learning Program (ELP)

Parents of students enrolled at one of the 16 ELP school sites should be aware that their children will be riding the bus with all grade levels, both morning and afternoon. Students at the SK level may experience different routing than experienced in 2009-2010.

Please be reminded that the distance criteria for eligibility for transportation increases at specific grade levels. Effective the 2010-2011 school year, the distance criteria for transportation eligibility will be:

Kindergarten & Grade 1	1.0 kilometers
Grades 2 – 4 inclusive	1.6 kilometers
Grades 5 – 8 inclusive	2.0 kilometers
Grades 9 – 12 inclusive	4.8 kilometers

Based on the criteria noted above, please be aware:

- Students currently in grade 1 and moving to grade 2 in 2010-2011 will experience a change in eligibility requirement and will be required to reside more than 1.6 kilometers from their school in order to qualify as eligible for transportation
- Students currently in grade 4 and moving to grade 5 in 2010-2011 will experience a change in eligibility requirement and will be required to reside more than 2.0 kilometers from their school in order to qualify as eligible for transportation
- Students currently in grade 8 and moving to grade 9 in 2010-2011 will experience a change in eligibility requirement and will be required to reside more than 4.8 kilometers from their school in order to qualify as eligible for transportation

The STOPR consortium is responsible for implementing procedures such as determining eligibility for individual students to access transportation services. School board trustees are not involved in procedures related to transportation including the process to determine whether individual students are eligible for transportation. However, the trustees are represented on the STOPR Governance Committee. Accordingly, all communications regarding eligibility concerns for transportation should be directed to the STOPR consortium.

Please also be aware that home address or caregiver address changes received by July 2, 2010 will be processed for transportation service commencing September 7, 2010 for eligible students. Address change information received subsequent to July 2, 2010, may result in transportation services commencing later in September.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer and we look forward to providing safe and efficient transportation services for your children in 2010-2011.