



INTEGRATED RIDERSHIP – SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

The school board’s bus transportation services are operated by Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR). This is a consortium, or partnership, between the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board. The Ministry of Education requires school board bus transportation consortiums to improve efficiency.

One initiative promoted by the Ministry of Education, that is designed to improve efficiency is known as integrated ridership. In integrated ridership, students from both Dufferin-Peel and Peel schools will ride on the same buses, where feasible. The majority of school boards across the province have successfully implemented integrated ridership. Integrated ridership is designed to create a more effective and efficient operation of service, is more environmentally friendly and reduces traffic in our communities. All eligible students continue to be transported on runs where integrated ridership is implemented.

The STOPR Governance Committee has approved implementation of integrated ridership for the following pairs of Dufferin-Peel Catholic and Peel District School Board locations:

DPCDSB SCHOOLS	PDSB SCHOOLS
Blessed Teresa of Calcutta	Burnhamthorpe
St. Hilary	Cooksville Creek
St. Matthew	Huntington Ridge
St. Louis	Elmcrest
St. Margaret of Scotland	King’s Masting
St. Edmund	Westacres
St. Mary	McHugh
St. Brigid	Morton Way
Our Lady of Providence	Fernforest
Sacred Heart	Terry Fox
Pauline Vanier	Hickory Wood
St. Gertrude	Champlain Trail
St. Cornelius	Caledon East
Pope John Paul II	James Bolton

Parents/students at the above noted schools will receive further communication from STOPR regarding the implementation of this program at their schools. Meetings with principals at both Dufferin-Peel Catholic and the Peel District School Board are being convened to ensure a smooth transition to this new program. Courtesy riders may continue to be accommodated on some integrated bus routes, although the number of courtesy seats will be less due to the efficiencies generated on the integrated routes.

Integrated ridership will also be initiated on some special education transportation runs. STOPR will also be providing additional information to parents of students utilizing special education transportation.

STOPR will keep you informed through regular updates in school newsletters over the upcoming months.



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 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.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF PEEL REGION

STOPR

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS REGARDING SCHOOL START UP TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES

June 2011

- If your home address will be changing during the summer, please notify the office staff at your child's school prior to June 30. STOPR will also accept address change information after June 30 and until July 15. Address changes received after July 15 will not be reflected in the planned bus routes to commence in September and may result in transportation services not being available for your child during the first weeks of school. Parents will be responsible for their children getting to and from school until appropriate transportation service is arranged.

The distance criteria for transportation eligibility is:

- 1.0 kilometer Kindergarten and Grade 1
- 1.6 kilometers for Grades 2-4
- 2.0 kilometers for Grades 5-8
- 4.8 kilometers for Grades 9-12

If your child is moving to grade 2, grade 5 or grade 9 in the 2011-2012 school year, their eligibility status for transportation may be changing. Eligibility information can be accessed at the website noted below.

- All transported kindergarten and grade 1 students are required to be met by a parent/caregiver when disembarking from their bus on their return trip from school.
- Please be aware that during September and early October, STOPR priorities are eligible students requiring transportation service, bus overloads, and route timing adjustments.
- Courtesy transportation, which is assignment of ineligible students to available, empty seats on buses, will not be initiated prior to October 3. No exceptions.
- Requests for additional or adjusted bus stop locations, route adjustments, and challenges to eligibility status will not be addressed until late October.
- Please be patient. STOPR provides transportation services for approximately 62,000 students to 350 schools on 1,300 buses. This is accomplished with an operations staff of 15. Every effort is made to complete required adjustments as quickly as possible, but there are limitations to the volume of changes which can be appropriately communicated and implemented each week.
- **Please note that the STOPR consortium administers all aspects of home to school student transportation on behalf of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board. School Board trustees are not involved in procedures related to transportation including determining student eligibility for transportation or the criteria for establishing eligibility. Please direct all communications regarding eligibility for transportation to the STOPR consortium.**

Contacting STOPR

Internet: www.stopr.ca This website provides up to date delay and inclement weather cancellation information in addition to policy, procedures and frequently asked questions

Businfo.stopr.ca This website allows parents to access information specific to "what school do I attend" and "am I eligible for transportation". This site also provides parents access to specific bus stop location and pick up and drop off times for their children if eligible for transportation

Telephone:

Transportation East (areas generally east of Highway 10)	905 890-6000
Transportation West (areas generally west of Highway 10)	905 890-0614
Special Education Transportation	905 890-6362
Toll free	1-800 668-1140
STOPR Administration	905 890-0708 ext. 23220

The following chart outlines the approved communication process for contacting STOPR or resolving transportation concerns.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF PEEL REGION (STOPR)

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are directed to contact STOPR.



STOPR contact information is available on the Dufferin-Peel CDSB website: www.dpccsb.org ⇨ www.stopr.ca
**Transportation East of Hwy 10:
905 890 6000 or 1 800 668 1140**
Transportation West of Hwy 10: 905 890 0614
Special Education: 905 890 6362



The Transportation Coordinator will process the inquiry or concern. If they are unable to satisfactorily resolve the matter, they will refer the parent(s)/guardian(s) to:



- a) The Transportation Officer, or**
- b) The Assistant Manager of Transportation, or**
- c) The Manager of Transportation.**



APPEAL PROCESS
To appeal, parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to submit a written appeal to STOPR.
Information is available at: www.stopr.ca - school forms - TFL017



STOPR Administrative Team renders final decision.

- STOPR is assessing the management of the high volume of phone calls received each September with a view to responding to parent calls in a timely fashion while being cognizant of the volume, staff resources and the priority of providing eligible students with transportation; further information will be available on the STOPR website in August.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Tom Howe
Manager, STOPR