



Memorandum Re - New Intermediate School Students & Transportation – 2012/13 School Year

November, 2011

Dear families of prospective Kawartha Pine Ridge (KPR) DSB Intermediate School students:

At this time, as part of preparations for enrolling your child(ren) in a KPRDSB, Grade 7 & 8 Intermediate School for the first time, Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO) would like to provide you with important information on transportation and school bus services. STSCO is the organization which oversees student transportation service for local School Boards. You can find out more about our services by visiting www.stsco.ca and exploring the information provided which includes common transportation facts that you may wish to understand prior to school starting next September. On our website, we also offer a portal where you can check student transportation information by confidentially entering their OEN number and birth date.

Some Important Intermediate School Transportation Service Facts:

By virtue of attending an Intermediate School, your children will be entering a new and exciting stage of their education. They will attend a school which is separate from that of lower Grade elementary school children and which is closely associated with a nearby secondary school that they will attend when they graduate to Grade 9. Given this distinction, School Board Policy sets certain provisions which are different from a JK to Grade 8 elementary school, particularly as it applies to walk distance from home to school. The following information is intended to help ready all prospective Intermediate School students and their families for attendance at their new school.

Transportation eligibility is determined by distance from nearest property access point of the student's home residence to nearest property access point of their designated school of attendance as measured by STSCO staff along maintained streets and walkways. **The policy walk distance for Intermediate students is 2.4 km (2,400 m).** Students residing outside this distance are eligible for School Board supplied transportation. Families of students within this distance are responsible for getting their child(ren) to school.

Transportation is a shared responsibility. The combined efforts of students, parents and families, bus drivers and companies, school staff and STSCO ensure a safe, effective and enjoyable system which provides for the needs of all eligible students.

Parent/Family Responsibility: Where a student is eligible for transportation, families are responsible for the safe passage of their child(ren) from their home or caregiver location to the bus stop in the morning and back again in the afternoon.

Bus Company Responsibility: Companies are responsible for ensuring that students have a safe ride to and from school.

School Responsibility: Schools are responsible for student behaviour while students are riding on buses.

STSCO Responsibility: STSCO is responsible for ensuring that bus stop locations are reasonable with the bus being adequately visible to vehicular traffic in the area and students being able to wait and disembark at a safe location adjacent to their bus stop.

Stop locations are generally centralized to serve several nearby families. The distance guideline for Intermediate student walk to bus stop is 1.0 km (1,000 m) and stops are reviewed annually as part of STSCO's route planning. Of course, not all families need to make their way to bus stops set 1 km away and most stops are at a closer distance.

Should you have any questions regarding our services, please contact the STSCO office, at either (705) 748-5500 or 1-800-757-0307, and speak with your area Route Planner (Peterborough ext. 242, Northumberland ext. 232, Clarington ext. 231, and Special Needs ext. 241). We at STSCO wish each and every new Intermediate student all the best in the coming year.

Joel Sloggett, C.A.O., STSCO