



**Friday, October 8, 2021**

Dear Parents and Guardians of Bused Students,

As you are aware, school bus driver shortages continue to be a problem in many areas of Ontario, including our area. The purpose of this letter is to assure you that Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO), the consortium that oversees student busing locally, is continuing to work closely with school bus companies to address this matter.

Steps that continue to be taken by STSCO, school boards and school bus companies include:

- vigorous recruitment and training of new bus drivers
- in-depth, seat-by-seat reviews of every school bus route, to ensure all seats available are filled, and to identify any possible opportunities to reorganize or combine routes
- introduction of double bus runs, with the same bus picking up two different loads of students on the same day, one after another
- constant contact with other busing consortia around the province to identify and share any other innovative options.

While we are pleased to report that the number of local cancelled or delayed routes is decreasing, we will continue to work diligently until all students who qualify for busing are accommodated. We remain hopeful, and are doing everything in our power, to stabilize busing.

In the meantime, we also wish to make all families aware that even stable bus routes could be affected by unpredictable circumstances such as driver illness or emergency. The reality is that bus operators rarely have extra drivers available on short notice to support driver absences. In addition, with the inevitable approach of wintery weather, we encourage families to check [www.stsco.ca](http://www.stsco.ca) every day for the latest news on bus routes.

We know that delays and cancellations of buses cause serious hardships and distress for families during these already stressful times. We will update you on any further developments as soon as we are able.

Should you have any suggestions, we welcome your input at [comments@stsco.ca](mailto:comments@stsco.ca).

Sincerely,

Chris Arnew  
Superintendent, Business  
and Corporate Services  
Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board

Joel Sloggett  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Student Transportation Services  
of Central Ontario