



New Kindergarten Students & Transportation

Dear families of new Kindergarten students:

As part of preparations for enrolling your child(ren) in Kindergarten 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 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. Busing information for new JK students can be obtained after August 1 by contacting the STSCO office by phone or email (comments@stsco.ca). On our website, we also offer a Parent Login portal where, after school starts and your child has been assigned their Ontario Education Number (OEN), you may use it to login with their birth date.

Some of STSCO's Special Services:

***First Rider Program:** This is a school bus safety training program for first time riders held in August every year; all participants will have an opportunity to board and ride a school bus at this event. Dates, times and locations are provided on the poster below. Registration is not required.

***Bus ID Tag:** Schools provide a Bus Identification Tag for recording your child's transportation information to help students, staff and bus drivers at the start of the school year. Please contact your school prior to first day of school to take part.

***Buster the Bus:** Buster is a motorized, talking school bus who, with the help of his friendly handlers, visits many area schools in September and October to further reinforce bus safety with young students.

***Bus Safety and Emergency Evacuation Training:** In the fall and spring, bus companies assist us by visiting each school and teaching students about bus safety rules and what to do in case of an emergency while riding on a bus.

Important Transportation Service Facts:

- **Transportation eligibility** is determined by distance from nearest property access point of the student's home residence to the nearest property access point of their designated school of attendance as measured by STSCO staff along maintained streets and walkways. **The policy walk distance is 1.0 km (1,000 m) for JK and SK Kindergarten students, increasing to 1.6 km (1,600 m) as they move into Grade 1 and beyond.** 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
- **Student Responsibility:** students are expected to behave appropriately on all bus rides and follow the rules as established by the bus driver.

- **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 reasonable location adjacent to their bus stop.

Stop locations are generally centralized to serve several nearby families. The distance guideline for elementary 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 receive a door stop or need to make their way to bus stops which are set 1.0 km away as most stops are at a closer distance.

STSCO wishes each new Kindergarten student all the best in the coming year.

Joel Sloggett, C.A.O., STSCO

Rv. May 2019



NEW SCHOOL BUS RIDERS

Will your child be riding a school bus for the first time this September?

**They can learn about bus safety
- and take a ride on a bus –
with the First Rider program.**

All young school bus riders and their families are welcome at the following First Rider programs:

Bowmanville
**Clarington Central
Secondary School**
200 Clarington Boulevard
Bowmanville, ON.

Cobourg
Northumberland Mall
1111 Elgin Street West
Cobourg, ON.

Peterborough
Lansdowne Place
645 Lansdowne Street West
Peterborough, ON.

**Friday, August 23rd from 3 pm to 6 pm
and Saturday, August 24th from 10 am to 1 pm.**

Each session lasts approximately 20 minutes

Program includes; safety video and child/parent 10 minute bus ride

The First Rider program is offered by Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO) and local school bus operators. STSCO transports students from the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR), the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB), and Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir.

For further information, please visit www.stsco.ca or call 1-800-757-0307.