



Transportation Updates – June 2018

Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO), the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) and the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB), understand that families may have questions in the face of rising transportation costs and what that might mean to their own student transportation for September 2018 and beyond. To that end, STEO and the boards are reaching out to provide some answers and some context to help our families understand the path forward.

Walk Distance Change – Grades 7 and 8: The walk distance for students in grades 7 and 8 has been increased by 400 metres, to align with the secondary panel walk distance of 2 kilometres for grades 9 to 12. The walk zone for students in the primary panel, from JK to grade 6, remains unchanged.

Courtesy Walkers: The broad open-seat request for transportation process, which allowed students in the walk zone to access a seat on the bus, has been discontinued. Students in the walk zone with challenges associated to medical needs and/or extraordinary circumstances, will still have access to the refined request for transportation process.

Exceptional Circumstances Request for Transportation: STEO has a process in place to accommodate students in exceptional circumstances. For the 2018-2019 school year, the following criteria will be considered in determining if exceptional circumstances apply:

CAS student placement	Crisis Situation: family illness/emergency
Student has moved and needs to finish semester at existing school	Personal Exceptional Circumstances, i.e. bullying (Subject to Superintendent Approval)
Student in shelter/emergency relocation	Safety Hazard

To minimize the impact to families currently receiving transportation, the following accommodations will remain in place at September 2018:

There is no impact in 2018-2019 to current Grandfathered, Out-of-District, Special Education and Courtesy Daycare students. These transportation accommodations will continue to be subject to annual superintendent review to determine if circumstances have changed since initial approval.

Grandfathered Ridership pertains to an exemption granted to a student who has been impacted by a change, typically related to boundary or programming. The nature of the change means that the student has become ineligible for transportation. The Grandfathering clause allows the student to continue to access transportation, typically until next point of transition (e.g. the student relocates, changes programming or transitions to secondary school).

Out of School Boundary (OSB) Ridership pertains to students attending at a school other than their home school and accessing transportation, despite their ineligibility for same. Current OSB students, who were not allocated a transportation end date of June 2018/sent an expiry letter, and in most cases their siblings, are being granted a status of Temporary Exemption (TE) for 2018-2019, with their transportation to be reviewed annually. New OSB students, commencing in 2018-2019, will be ineligible for transportation.

*STEO and the boards understand that transportation is an important service for students and families. We remain committed to ensuring that safe, reliable transportation service remains available for eligible families and for those who need it most. **If you have any questions related to the information above, please reach out to transportation@steo.ca and our team will work hard to provide you with a timely response.***