



STEO

Kindergarten Information
Package



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Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario

www.steo.ca



Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO) is the transportation consortium of the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO) and the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB).

Safe, effective and efficient transportation is provided for approximately 33,000 students on 750 vehicles, traveling over 130,000 kilometers daily, to over 150 sites and schools across Eastern Ontario.

Transportation is provided to students in the counties of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, and Prescott-Russell. This area covers over 12,000 square kilometers.

Contact Us:

P.O. Box 1179, 104 Commerce Drive,
Prescott, ON, K0E-1T0

Telephone: 613-925-0022

Toll-free: 1-855-925-0022

Fax: 613-925-0024

Email: transportation@steo.ca

Website: www.steo.ca

Inclement Weather Hotline:

1-866-629-0629 (updated by 6:15 a.m.)

STEO's website is an excellent resource for detailed transportation information for parents and students.

Visit the **STUDENT INFORMATION** section at www.steo.ca to review or download a copy of STEO's **Transportation Information and Guidelines for Students and Parents.**



Follow us on X



Helpful Reminders for Parents

A review of best practices for preparing your child for a safe and happy journey to school.



Purple Band Program

An overview of the Purple Band Program, designed to safeguard our Kinder travelers.

STEO reminds families that access to student transportation services is a privilege. Inappropriate/unsafe conduct may result in the withdrawal of this privilege. Families are also reminded of the importance of having a contingency plan in place for days when transportation may be delayed or interrupted, including inclement weather days.

Promoting School Bus Safety

Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario

As parents, there is much we can do to become active in our children's transportation safety.

Model and reinforce safe and appropriate behaviour expectations to your children while waiting for and boarding the bus.

Get to know your child's bus driver, company, route number and pickup/drop-off times. Remember, bus drivers are only able to pick up and drop off students at authorized stops and cannot make stop changes.

Please ensure that your child is at the bus stop at least 5 – 10 minutes prior to scheduled bus arrival. This helps to ensure that students are prepared to board the bus and can avoid rushing.

Staying seated helps to ensure that children are safe if a school vehicle has to stop abruptly and allows the driver to concentrate on the road. To help your child prepare for riding the school bus, ensure that they understand the importance of staying seated while on the school bus, just like they do while travelling in a family vehicle.

As a parent driver, please ensure that you practice safe and mindful driving, respectfully sharing the road with bus traffic and avoiding stopping or parking in Bus Loading Zones if dropping or meeting your child at school.

Provide immediate notice to the school and bus company, if your child is not to be on the bus as expected.

Plan for changeable weather and assist your child to dress in weather appropriate gear. This ensures a safer and more comfortable wait and ride.

Report safety concerns to STEO right away, giving specific details regarding bus number, date, time and location of your concern.

Active Travel – Kinder children whose walking distance to school is greater than 800 metres may be eligible for transportation. If you reside within the walk zone, contact STEO, your school Principal or Parent Council for ideas to support a safe walk to school.



Visit www.steo.ca under STUDENT INFORMATION to watch a First Time Rider Video featuring Buzzy Bee!

Purple Band: Purple = Parent

Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario



The **Purple Band Program** is designed to help bus drivers keep a close eye on our tiniest travelers – our Junior and Senior Kindergarten passengers.

Simply, school staff attach a Purple Band around the handgrip on the top of a Junior or Senior Kindergarten student's backpack.

The purple band is a quick visual tool that tells bus drivers that the student with a tagged backpack needs their special attention, as well as guardian supervision at the drop-off point.

Parents play a key role in the program:

Ensure that the band the school provides is in place on your child's backpack.

Ensure that the school has your correct contact and caregiver information.

Ensure that an authorized guardian is always at the bus stop on time to receive your child.

Contact your school and bus company prior to your child boarding, if you are unable to provide supervision at the stop and have made alternative arrangements.