



## New Kindergarten Students & Transportation (KPR)

Dear families of new Kindergarten students:

As part of preparations for enrolling your child(ren) in Kindergarten, Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO) would like to provide you with important information about busing.

### Transportation Information to Keep in Mind:

- **Transportation eligibility** is determined by the distance from nearest property access point of both the student's residence and their school of attendance, as measured by STSCO along publicly maintained streets and/or walkways. The policy walk distance is 1.0 km (1,000 m) for kindergarten students, increasing to 1.6 km (1,600 m) as they move into Grade 1. Students residing outside this distance are eligible for transportation. Students residing within this distance are not provided with transportation and families are responsible for getting their child(ren) to school.
- **Bus Stop locations** are generally centralized to serve several nearby families. The distance guideline for elementary students walk to their bus stop is 1.0 km (1,000 m) or less and stops are reviewed annually as part of STSCO's route planning.
- **Parent Portal** is where families can look up bus information, subscribe to alerts and make transportation requests. Please visit [www.stsco.ca](http://www.stsco.ca) to create an online parent portal account and after August 1<sup>st</sup> the bus information for the upcoming school year will be available.

### Some of STSCO's Special Services:

**\*First Rider Program:** A school bus safety training program, held annually in August. Participants can ride on a school bus. Registration is not required.

**\*Bus ID Tag:** Schools provide an Identification Tag, shaped like a bus, to record the student's route # and school. This tag is attached to the backpack to help school staff and drivers at the start of the school year. Please contact your school prior to first day of school to obtain a tag.

**\*Young Student Drop Off Protocol** is intended to protect young student's safety. Bus companies are required to instruct each bus driver not to release students in Grades JK through Grade 3 at a bus stop without confirming the parent and/or guardian is present.

**\*Buster the Bus:** Buster is a motorized, talking school bus who, with the help of 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.



## Transportation is a shared responsibility.

- **Parent/Family Responsibility:** safe passage of their child(ren) to and from the bus stop.
- **Student Responsibility:** follow the rules as established by the bus driver.
- **Bus Company/Driver Responsibility:** ensure students have a safe ride to and from school.
- **School Responsibility:** responsible for student behaviour while riding on buses.
- **STSCO Responsibility:** oversee transportation service provided by bus companies and implements school boards transportation policies.

We encourage you to visit our website at [www.stsco.ca](http://www.stsco.ca) to review your school board's transportation policies and important bus safety information in further detail.

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

Roy Wierenga, C.A.O.