

Ministry of Education

Office of the ADM
Capital and Business Support
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Ministère de l'Éducation

Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint
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2017: B16

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

FROM: Joshua Paul
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division

DATE: **December 15, 2017**

SUBJECT: **School Bus Driver Retention Bonus Program**

I am writing to provide you with information about a school bus driver retention initiative over the next two years aimed at enhancing school bus driver recruitment and retention.

The government is committed to getting children to school safe, on time, and ready to learn every day. We recognize the important role that school bus drivers play in student transportation. This initiative will allow eligible school bus drivers who provide continuous home-to-school transportation service under contract with school boards and transportation consortia to receive three retention bonuses in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. This is intended to reward those school bus drivers who stay on the job throughout the school year, reduce driver turnover, and make student transportation services more reliable for students and families.

Understanding the importance of ensuring that this investment goes directly to school bus drivers, the Ministry of Education will be establishing agreements with school bus operator association(s) to administer the school bus driver retention bonus program. In addition, the retention bonus provided through this program is not intended to replace or substitute any existing school bus driver compensation offered by school bus operators.

Additional details on the school bus driver retention bonus program including eligibility criteria, process, and timing for bonus claim submissions will be communicated to the student transportation sector in the near future.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Cheri Hayward, Director, School Business Support Branch, at (416) 327-7503 or cheri.hayward@ontario.ca.

Original signed by

Joshua Paul
Assistant Deputy Minister
Capital and Business Support Division

cc: Senior Business Officials
Transportation Consortia Managers
Ontario School Bus Association
Independent School Bus Operators Association