

**Ministry of Education**

Capital and Business Support  
Division

315 Front Street West  
15th Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 0B8

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Division du soutien aux  
immobilisations et aux affaires

315, rue Front Ouest  
15e étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 0B8

**2021: B13**

**Date:** May 11, 2021

**Memorandum to:** Directors of Education  
Secretaries/Treasurers of School Authorities

**From:** Didem Proulx  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Capital and Business Support Division

**Subject** **School Bus Driver Retention Pilot Program (DRP) in the 2021-22 School Year**

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I am writing to provide you with information about the School Bus Driver Retention Pilot Program (DRP).

The Ministry of Education recognizes the continued impacts of the pandemic for the 2021-22 school year and the importance of minimizing disruption of transportation services for students and families. As such, the Ontario government is continuing the DRP in the 2021-22 school year to support ongoing efforts in school bus driver retention.

The Ministry of Education intends to partner with School Bus Ontario (SBO) and a service provider to facilitate the administration of bonus payments to eligible school bus drivers.

The program parameters, including eligibility criteria, are expected to be unchanged. Eligible school bus drivers could receive up to two separate retention bonuses of up to \$1,000 (less applicable taxes) each, based on continuous employment over two periods between September to December 2021 and January to June 2022.

It is important to note 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 DRP including timing for bonus claim submissions will be communicated to the student transportation sector by SBO in the near future.

The investment in DRP for the 2021-22 school year is in addition to the \$1,077 million that will be flowed through the Student Transportation Grant component of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and \$65.5 million for student transportation related to COVID funding supports for enhanced cleaning protocols and other safety measures in student transportation.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mehul Mehta, Director, School Board Business Support Branch, at [mehul.mehta@ontario.ca](mailto:mehul.mehta@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Didem Proulx  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Capital and Business Support Division

cc: Senior Business Officials  
Transportation consortia managers  
School Bus Ontario