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2022: B13

Date: August 02, 2022

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 2022-23 School Year**

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

The Ministry of Education recognizes the importance of minimizing disruption of transportation services for students and families. As such, the Ontario government is continuing the DRP in the 2022-23 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 2022 and January to June 2023.

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 2022-23 school year is in addition to the \$1,107.4 million that will be flowed through the Student Transportation Grant component of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mehul Mehta, Director, School Board Business Support Branch, at 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