

**Ministry of Education**

Capital and Business Support  
Division

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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Division du soutien aux  
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**2024: B07**

**Date:** April 26, 2024

**Memorandum to:** Directors of Education  
Senior Business Officials

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

**Subject:** **Student Transportation – Core Education Funding 2024-25**

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As a follow up to the announcement of the 2024-25 Core Education Funding (formerly Grants for Student Needs), this memorandum provides details related to the 2024-25 Student Transportation Fund.

Introduced in 2023-24 school year, the funding framework for Student Transportation Fund (STF) is transparent, equitable, and focused on reliability, and:

- Establishes needs-based **Common Reference Standards** (home-to-school distance criteria) for funding to encourage consistency and improve equitable access to student transportation services across the province;
- Establishes **evidence-based funding benchmarks** that reflect cost of providing services – such as number of routes, time and distance travelled;
- Provides support through **Local Priorities and Operations** for school boards to address unique circumstances, needs and operations of their transportation services;
- Provides **transition support so that no school board receives less funding** as a result of the new model, to allow school boards and their transportation consortia and service providers to align policies and costs with the funding framework.

To build on these goals and to help school boards deliver safe, effective, and efficient transportation services, the STF allocation is being increased by about \$77.8 million (6%) in 2024-25 and is projected to total \$1,294.7 million. This investment includes funding to:

- **support growth** in increased transportation need resulting from enrolment changes,
- reflect increase in costs of transportation services such as cost of purchasing new vehicles, wages etc.
- address sector's feedback relating to the **funding for contracted special purpose vehicles and taxis**.
- provide **each board with an increase of at least 3%**.

The projected allocation for each school board under the STF is presented in the Appendix of this memorandum.

The STF allocation is made up of the following three allocations:

### 1. Transportation Services Allocation: \$1,286.5 million

For 2024-25, the Transportation Services Allocation includes:

- **Updates to routing simulation** - based on the 2024 Routing Simulation data reported by school boards/transportation consortia by January 2024 to align the changes in enrolment, daily time and distance etc.
- **Enhancements to existing benchmarks**- the funding framework includes benchmark to reflect the cost of operating and delivering transportation services, such as:
  - capital, operating and licensing cost of vehicles
  - driver wages and compensation; and
  - transit amount per student
- **New benchmarks for contracted special-purpose vehicles**: distinct benchmarks for contracted special-purpose vehicles such as mini-vans, large vans and sedans etc., related to capital, operating, licensing of these vehicles well as drive wages and fuel have been established, similar to benchmarks related buses. A separate and distinct benchmark is also being introduced for contracted taxis.
- **Recruitment & Retention (R&R) Bonus Funding updates**: includes funding for eligible drivers based on reported school bus as well as contracted special-purpose vehicle routes. The entire R&R funding amount is now excluded from the calculation of Transition Amount.
- **Updates to Local Priorities and Operations Amount**: benchmarks have been updated along with ensuring that each school board receives at least 3% increase in funding in 2024-25 STF compared to the 2023-24 Student Transportation Grant.

### 2. School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation: \$2.1 million

The total Student Transportation Fund includes about \$2.1 million for School Bus Rider Safety Training. The standardized training for elementary students continues to be available in English and French through a contract established by the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM) with Intertrain. It is important to note that only training programs delivered by Intertrain through this OECM contract are eligible for this safety training funding support.

Funding allocation for this training component is based on the following:

- Projected number of funded in-person sessions, based on 250 students per session, to cover at least 50 per cent of each boards' elementary students in 2024-25.
- Increased reimbursement rate for each in-person session from \$420 to \$440 for the 2024-25 school year to align with the revised contract rate.
- Reimbursement rate of \$244 for online training session.
- Actual funding will be based on the number of on-site and/or online sessions delivered. Boards will be required to report the number of on-site and online training sessions conducted through 2024-25 financial statements.
- If rider safety training sessions are conducted virtually for 2024-25 as has been the case in the recent years, boards will be able to train more than 50 per cent of their elementary students.

For more information on the standardized school bus rider safety training, please visit the [OECM website](#). Questions about accessing this program and establishing an agreement should be directed to OECM through Mie Okawa at [mie.okawa@oecm.ca](mailto:mie.okawa@oecm.ca) or 647-289-3717.

### **3. Transportation to Provincial or Demonstration Schools Allocation: \$6.1 million**

As in prior years, funding to cover expenditures for transportation to Provincial and Demonstration schools will be based on expenditures reported by school boards, as approved by the ministry. School boards may report these expenses through financial reports and receive direct reimbursement with expenditure approval.

#### **Enhanced Accountability and Reporting for 2024-25**

In keeping with the prior year, the ministry will continue the accountability and reporting requirements to understand how funding is used by school boards, consortia, and operators to deliver transportation services to students. Additional information and reporting templates will be provided at a later date.

As noted in the Core Education Funding for 2024-25, school boards spending on student transportation and school facilities shall not exceed the total funding generated by a school board through the STF and School Facilities Fund (SFF) plus up to a maximum of 5 percent of the total amount generated through the Classroom Staffing Fund (CSF), Learning Resources Fund (LRF), and Special Education Fund (SEF).

Additional details on the Student Transportation Fund as well as enveloping and financial reporting can be found in the 2024-25 Core Education Funding Technical Paper for School Boards: [https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2024/B05\\_Attach1\\_EN.pdf](https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Memos/B2024/B05_Attach1_EN.pdf).

## **Concluding Remarks**

As in prior years, the ministry will continue to monitor fuel prices during the year, and apply fuel price adjustment (formerly Fuel Escalator/De-Escalator) by the end of the school year.

Please note that the elements and proposals set out in this memo can only take effect if certain regulations are made by the Minister of Education or Lieutenant Governor in Council under the *Education Act* or other legislation as required. Such regulations have not yet been made. Therefore, the content of this memo should be considered subject to such regulations, if and when made.

In closing, the ministry would like to thank and acknowledge the work and collaboration of the student transportation sector for their efforts in refining the student transportation funding in Ontario. The ministry will continue to work with school boards, consortia, and the sector to review and refine the funding framework for the Student Transportation Fund on an annual basis.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mehul Mehta, Director, School Board Advanced Support Branch, at (647) 448-3862 or [mehul.mehta@ontario.ca](mailto:mehul.mehta@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Didem Proulx  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Capital and Business Support Division

cc: Transportation Consortia Managers

APPENDIX: PROJECTED STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FUND FOR 2024-25

DSB No	DSB Name	Transportation Services Allocation						School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation		Provincial and Demonstration Schools Allocation <sup>i</sup>	PROJECTED 2024-25 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FUND <sup>ii</sup>
		Buses	CSPV	R & R	Public Transit & Taxis	Local Priority & Operations <sup>ii</sup>	Transition <sup>ii</sup>	Maximum Safety Training Sessions <sup>iii</sup>	School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation		
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H		
1	District School Board Ontario North East	\$7,549,010	-	\$324,572	-	\$994,174	\$1,098,635	24	\$10,560	-	\$9,976,951
2	Algoma District School Board	\$8,476,441	-	\$361,656	\$274,675	\$969,233	\$1,072,138	31	\$13,640	-	\$11,167,783
3	Rainbow District School Board	\$12,563,345	\$489,292	\$528,158	\$189,414	\$984,411	\$1,916,436	36	\$15,840	-	\$16,686,896
4	Near North District School Board	\$10,460,975	\$1,767,771	\$580,622	\$48,467	\$942,323	\$361,609	31	\$13,640	-	\$14,175,407
5.1	Keewatin-Patricia District School Board	\$3,074,098	-	\$138,783	-	\$849,190	\$1,699,350	17	\$7,480	-	\$5,768,901
5.2	Rainy River District School Board	\$2,078,129	-	\$75,918	\$138,476	\$685,839	\$630,732	10	\$4,400	-	\$3,613,494
6.1	Lakehead District School Board	\$5,364,466	\$175,673	\$215,333	\$25,656	\$757,619	\$1,366,738	25	\$11,000	-	\$7,916,485
6.2	Superior-Greenstone District School Board	\$953,947	-	\$43,793	-	\$800,540	\$175,545	10	\$4,400	-	\$1,978,225
7	Bluewater District School Board	\$15,831,792	\$411,467	\$717,373	\$45,746	\$1,004,904	\$153,225	45	\$19,800	-	\$18,184,307
8	Avon Maitland District School Board	\$11,943,142	\$280,550	\$596,349	-	\$1,458,286	\$786,215	38	\$16,720	\$110,920	\$15,192,182
9	Greater Essex County District School Board	\$14,338,297	-	\$602,072	\$217,582	\$1,576,875	-	75	\$33,000	-	\$16,767,826
10	Lambton Kent District School Board	\$13,566,627	\$91,774	\$507,838	-	\$1,187,152	\$405,701	57	\$25,080	\$182,736	\$15,966,908
11	Thames Valley District School Board	\$36,542,293	\$5,678,964	\$2,013,873	\$5,040	\$1,886,109	\$8,720,748	181	\$79,640	\$654,335	\$55,581,002
12	Toronto District School Board	\$58,548,430	-	\$2,880,093	\$15,132,699	\$5,175,356	-	532	\$234,080	\$151,920	\$82,122,578
13	Durham District School Board	\$25,257,602	\$34,614	\$1,118,733	-	\$2,033,060	-	165	\$72,600	-	\$28,516,609
14	Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board	\$21,888,524	\$576,315	\$945,278	\$962,666	\$1,180,972	\$1,026,839	89	\$39,160	\$134,543	\$26,754,297
15	Trillium Lakelands District School Board	\$15,982,772	\$362,880	\$726,509	-	\$905,343	\$688,473	43	\$18,920	-	\$18,684,897
16	York Region District School Board	\$31,823,011	\$5,253,953	\$1,781,553	\$11,150,400	\$2,816,423	-	259	\$113,960	\$79,000	\$53,018,300
17	Simcoe County District School Board	\$22,660,413	\$3,268,279	\$1,069,079	-	\$1,290,385	-	124	\$54,560	-	\$28,342,716
18	Upper Grand District School Board	\$19,885,722	\$510,882	\$969,721	\$28,788	\$3,307,415	\$1,028,487	82	\$36,080	\$236,000	\$26,003,095
19	Peel District School Board	\$58,861,415	\$1,805,641	\$2,929,326	\$192,462	\$4,242,625	-	307	\$135,080	\$524,591	\$68,691,140
20	Halton District School Board	\$16,326,694	\$584,780	\$811,186	\$585,843	\$1,296,824	\$254,155	135	\$59,400	\$208,695	\$20,127,577
21	Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board	\$16,439,372	\$94,674	\$755,720	\$3,162,322	\$1,266,242	-	113	\$49,720	\$510,000	\$22,278,050
22	District School Board of Niagara	\$20,045,128	\$405,548	\$906,449	\$1,235,852	\$1,203,036	\$696,090	93	\$40,920	\$88,065	\$24,621,088
23	Grand Erie District School Board	\$14,205,497	\$1,027,407	\$767,620	-	\$1,006,423	-	66	\$29,040	\$344,003	\$17,379,990
24	Waterloo Region District School Board	\$15,819,725	\$1,570,580	\$729,932	\$3,402,613	\$1,337,638	-	134	\$58,960	\$425,581	\$23,345,029
25	Ottawa-Carleton District School Board	\$19,837,628	\$15,980,854	\$1,979,776	\$11,357,178	\$2,578,458	-	158	\$69,520	-	\$51,803,414
26	Upper Canada District School Board	\$21,923,485	\$3,807,273	\$954,714	-	\$1,490,793	\$10,110,462	71	\$31,240	-	\$38,317,967
27	Limestone District School Board	\$15,185,948	\$639,956	\$688,895	-	\$976,034	\$1,638,449	54	\$23,760	\$245,000	\$19,398,042
28	Renfrew County District School Board	\$7,957,570	\$1,782,405	\$448,579	\$148,552	\$864,139	-	25	\$11,000	-	\$11,212,245
29	Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board	\$13,761,375	\$154,475	\$571,590	-	\$1,006,808	\$1,836,649	39	\$17,160	\$280,500	\$17,628,557
30.1	Northeastern Catholic District School Board	\$2,270,116	-	\$99,020	-	\$697,874	\$797,292	11	\$4,840	-	\$3,869,142
30.2	Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board	\$2,894,469	\$599,317	\$167,254	-	\$669,999	\$82,397	11	\$4,840	-	\$4,418,276
31	Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board	\$3,363,285	\$6,104	\$147,995	\$94,028	\$1,519,284	\$9,257	15	\$6,600	-	\$5,146,553

DSB No	DSB Name	Transportation Services Allocation						School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation		Provincial and Demonstration Schools Allocation <sup>i</sup>	PROJECTED 2024-25 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FUND <sup>ii</sup>
		Buses	CSPV	R & R	Public Transit & Taxis	Local Priority & Operations <sup>ii</sup>	Transition <sup>ii</sup>	Maximum Safety Training Sessions <sup>iii</sup>	School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation		
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H		
32	Sudbury Catholic District School Board	\$5,523,911	\$231,663	\$232,730	-	\$754,818	\$727,037	15	\$6,600	-	\$7,476,759
33.1	Northwest Catholic District School Board	\$810,418	-	\$35,668	\$2,057	\$802,717	\$46,684	5	\$2,200	-	\$1,699,744
33.2	Kenora Catholic District School Board	\$746,926	-	\$35,548	-	\$750,910	\$25,210	4	\$1,760	-	\$1,560,354
34.1	Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board	\$3,919,630	\$18,450	\$168,271	\$1,964	\$720,881	\$1,403,176	19	\$8,360	-	\$6,240,732
34.2	Superior North Catholic District School Board	\$528,687	-	\$23,703	-	\$552,932	-	7	\$3,080	-	\$1,108,402
35	Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board	\$5,502,988	\$30,849	\$224,103	-	\$1,061,888	-	12	\$5,280	-	\$6,825,108
36	Huron Perth Catholic District School Board	\$5,321,997	\$84,059	\$246,151	-	\$1,853,352	\$14,295	16	\$7,040	-	\$7,526,894
37	Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board	\$8,269,053	-	\$340,372	\$181,356	\$881,022	\$1,229,501	44	\$19,360	-	\$10,920,664
38	London District Catholic School Board	\$14,479,632	\$1,038,905	\$702,888	-	\$969,981	\$3,789,149	53	\$23,320	\$8,200	\$21,012,075
39	St. Clair Catholic District School Board	\$7,222,845	-	\$264,655	-	\$922,946	-	25	\$11,000	\$182,736	\$8,604,182
40	Toronto Catholic District School Board	\$30,134,922	-	\$1,588,750	\$16,425,618	\$3,633,737	-	199	\$87,560	\$153,900	\$52,024,487
41	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board	\$11,224,256	\$409,896	\$495,426	\$668,314	\$976,451	-	37	\$16,280	-	\$13,790,623
42	York Catholic District School Board	\$15,863,436	\$979,558	\$786,986	\$2,807,169	\$1,028,680	-	98	\$43,120	-	\$21,508,949
43	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board	\$18,876,779	\$862,821	\$923,003	\$24,279	\$1,877,383	\$665,514	135	\$59,400	\$201,730	\$23,490,909
44	Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board	\$12,219,638	\$1,825,846	\$590,915	-	\$983,267	-	55	\$24,200	-	\$15,643,866
45	Durham Catholic District School Board	\$8,637,179	-	\$380,387	\$306,544	\$1,508,297	-	51	\$22,440	-	\$10,854,847
46	Halton Catholic District School Board	\$8,713,062	\$236,880	\$423,926	\$16,219	\$1,278,352	-	63	\$27,720	\$121,080	\$10,817,239
47	Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board	\$9,603,721	-	\$427,160	\$18,247	\$1,897,927	-	61	\$26,840	\$196,000	\$12,169,895
48	Wellington Catholic District School Board	\$3,956,148	\$126,294	\$187,450	\$50,560	\$2,263,288	\$141,385	20	\$8,800	-	\$6,733,925
49	Waterloo Catholic District School Board	\$7,601,086	\$302,626	\$334,660	\$708,451	\$935,964	-	60	\$26,400	\$189,800	\$10,098,987
50	Niagara Catholic District School Board	\$10,939,969	\$77,514	\$476,796	\$628,183	\$842,714	-	55	\$24,200	\$58,710	\$13,048,086
51	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board	\$7,220,956	\$318,673	\$361,929	\$30,238	\$1,272,364	-	31	\$13,640	-	\$9,217,800
52	Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario	\$13,116,427	\$2,266,480	\$575,788	-	\$1,100,145	\$4,942,025	36	\$15,840	-	\$22,016,705
53	Ottawa Catholic District School Board	\$13,705,367	\$4,733,447	\$917,073	\$10,437,130	\$1,435,655	-	103	\$45,320	-	\$31,273,992
54	Renfrew County Catholic District School Board	\$4,977,735	\$853,423	\$263,538	\$259,074	\$745,484	-	20	\$8,800	-	\$7,108,054
55	Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board	\$11,820,262	\$245,129	\$494,544	-	\$2,313,582	-	35	\$15,400	\$104,000	\$14,992,917
56	Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario	\$2,197,257	\$81,296	\$103,073	-	\$1,107,091	-	9	\$3,960	-	\$3,492,677
57	Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	\$2,653,202	\$262,358	\$119,616	\$41,693	\$812,229	-	15	\$6,600	-	\$3,895,698
58	Conseil scolaire Viamonde	\$22,127,179	\$2,181,200	\$1,136,952	\$1,286,278	\$768,100	-	49	\$21,560	-	\$27,521,269
59	Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	\$11,679,835	\$2,497,629	\$648,206	\$4,066,273	\$894,100	-	42	\$18,480	-	\$19,804,523
60.1	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Grandes Rivières	\$6,797,618	-	\$279,617	\$211,099	\$1,819,002	-	24	\$10,560	-	\$9,117,896
60.2	Conseil scolaire de district catholique Franco-Nord	\$2,969,543	\$224,711	\$150,098	\$27,828	\$651,275	\$173,427	11	\$4,840	-	\$4,201,722
61	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Nouvel-Ontario	\$5,205,078	\$133,335	\$217,940	\$112,278	\$767,651	\$1,258,146	24	\$10,560	-	\$7,704,988
62	Conseil scolaire de district catholique des Aurores boréales	\$836,194	-	\$35,009	-	\$505,209	-	6	\$2,640	-	\$1,379,052
63	Conseil scolaire catholique Providence	\$9,953,596	\$418,312	\$435,147	\$26,059	\$727,166	\$188,114	27	\$11,880	-	\$11,760,274

DSB No	DSB Name	Transportation Services Allocation						School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation		Provincial and Demonstration Schools Allocation <sup>i</sup>	PROJECTED 2024-25 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FUND <sup>ii</sup>
		Buses	CSPV	R & R	Public Transit & Taxis	Local Priority & Operations <sup>ii</sup>	Transition <sup>ii</sup>	Maximum Safety Training Sessions <sup>iii</sup>	School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation		
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H		
64	Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir	\$28,691,012	\$2,866,774	\$1,493,646	\$1,781,746	\$858,997	-	54	\$23,760	-	\$35,715,935
65	Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien	\$8,399,606	\$3,039,096	\$557,654	-	\$1,009,403	\$321,849	31	\$13,640	-	\$13,341,248
66	Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Est de l'Ontario	\$17,412,089	\$3,456,326	\$913,668	\$721,548	\$1,045,913	-	64	\$28,160	\$722,043	\$24,299,747

## Notes

<sup>i</sup> Provincial and Demonstration Schools Allocation includes an estimated expenditure amount for the board Conseil scolaire de district catholique du Centre-Est de l'Ontario; and the other school boards that have the responsibilities to plan and deliver provincial school transportation. Figures are as of 2023-24 Revised Estimates and subject to change pending receipt of 2024-25 Financial Statements.

<sup>ii</sup> The 2023-24 Revised Estimates student transportation allocation and the projected 2024-25 Average Daily Enrolment are being referenced in the calculation of the 2024-25 Student Transportation Fund. They are subject to change pending receipt of 2023-24 Financial Statement and the actual 2024-25 Average Daily Enrolment.

<sup>iii</sup> Reflects number of in-person sessions for School Bus Rider Safety Training.