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2007: SB13

MEMORANDUM TO: Senior Business Officials
FROM: Cheri Hayward
DATE: June 28, 2007
SUBJECT: Provincial Schools Transportation- 2007-08

I am writing to provide you with an update on the changes that have been made to Provincial Schools transportation in 2006-07, and the impact on boards for 2007-08.

Update:

In its communication to the sector on May 29, 2006, the Ministry outlined changes to Provincial Schools transportation that were being implemented as a result of a review that was conducted over the preceding 8 months. Central to these changes was the identification of two lead boards that would be responsible for planning transportation for Provincial Schools students.

With the end of the school year almost here, the feedback from students, parents, and the sector has been largely positive. Among some of the achievements in this first year of operation has been a reduction in travel time for many students, the application of uniform policies across the sector, and improved financial reporting and accountability. This is a significant achievement for an area in which expenditures rose approximately 95 percent, from \$4.8M to \$9.4M, between 1999-2000 and 2005-06, and is a testament to the work of staff at the two lead boards, Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and the Consortium de Transport Scolaire d'Ottawa.

Planning and Delivery- Continuing with the approach set out in 2006-07, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board will plan and deliver transportation for all English language students attending a residential program at a Provincial or Demonstration School in 2007-08. For boards who provide daily transportation for students attending an English language Provincial or Demonstration school, they will be expected to continue providing this service for the duration of the 2007-08 school year.

For 2007-08, transportation for all French language students attending Centre Jules-Léger will be planned and delivered by the Consortium de transport scolaire d'Ottawa.

Financial Reporting- For boards providing daily transportation to students in 2007-08, expenditures associated with this service will continue to be reported through Appendix F in the financial statements. The Ministry will review the expenditures and boards will be reimbursed for the costs associated with transporting these students, as per the guidelines outlined in the legislative grants.

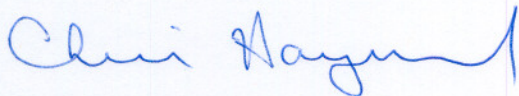
In the case of the OCDSB and Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du Centre-Est, total expenditures will be reported through Appendix F in the financial statements, with a board-by-board breakdown provided in Appendix F1.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - In order to formalize the arrangements for 2007-08, the Ministry will be drafting an MOU to be signed by all boards prior to November 1, 2007. However, in recognition of the issues raised by boards in 2006-07, Ministry staff will be working with our legal department to refine the agreement for 2007-08. The agreement will continue to outline the responsibilities of the Ministry, the OCDSB, Conseil des écoles catholiques de langue française du Centre-Est, and boards.

As the arrangements for 2007-08 will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, boards are encouraged to communicate with either of the co-leads their concerns or suggestions. It is the Ministry's intention to review the arrangements throughout the year, and a decision on the long-term organization of Provincial Schools transportation should be made by March 2008.

Please direct any questions to Nick Landry at (416) 325-2719 (nicholas.landry@edu.gov.on.ca) or to John Grochot at (613) 596-8211 ext. 8564 (John_Grochot@ocdsb.edu.on.ca).

Thank you for your continued support as we work to improve this service for students.



Cheri Hayward
Director
School Business Support Branch

- cc. School Board Transportation Managers
Beth Davies, Director, Provincial Schools Branch
Ginette Plourde, Director, French Language Education Policy and Programs Branch
Andrew Davis, Director, Transfer Payments and Financial Reporting Branch
Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch