

Ministry of Education

School Board Advanced
Supports Branch
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Ministère de l'Éducation

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aux conseils scolaires
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2021: SB26

Date: October 29, 2021

Memorandum to: Senior Business Officials

From: Mehul Mehta
Director
School Board Advanced Supports Branch

Subject: **Update on Student Transportation Routing Simulation**

In January 2020, the Ministry of Education launched a review of student transportation, which aims to achieve a more equitable and needs-based student transportation system in Ontario. The ministry is exploring a potential funding option centred on a needs-based funding approach which can incorporate a benchmark framework and a volume-based approach built on province-wide common reference standard to improve consistency in funding across the province.

In the summer of 2021, the ministry convened the Student Transportation Technical Committee on Reference Standards (TCRS) to provide feedback and advise the ministry on province-wide common parameters to generate a volume of buses for funding purposes, as well as provide technical and operational considerations related to the routing simulation that would be conducted by transportation consortia and their member school boards.

Incorporating feedback from the TCRS, the ministry has developed the Student Transportation Reference Standard Guidelines, which outlines a set of common parameters for student transportation to determine student eligibility, the mode of transportation, and service parameters.

As we move forward with next steps in the review of student transportation and to assist in developing options for a new funding approach, the ministry is requesting that consortia undertake a routing simulation calibrated to these common parameters.

It is important to note that these common parameters are intended to support a standardized measure of need that would be considered in the development of a new funding approach. School boards and consortia will continue to implement transportation policies that may vary from the parameters in the common standard.

Consortia are asked to submit completed routing simulation results in the reporting template with corresponding instruction and submitted the results to student.transportation@ontario.ca by December 17, 2021.

In recognition of the timelines to undertake a new routing simulation, the ministry will be providing additional funding. Additional details will follow shortly.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this request please contact your consortium site analyst using the contact information provided in the submission template.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Nathania Ho, Manager (Acting), Student Transportation Unit, at (416) 995-2261 or nathania.ho@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Mehul Mehta
Director
School Board Advanced Supports Branch

c: Transportation Managers

Attachments:

1. Student Transportation Reference Standard Guidelines
2. Routing Simulation Instructions and Reporting Template