

**Ministry of Education**

School Board Advanced Supports Branch  
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**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Direction du soutien amélioré aux conseils scolaires  
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**2022:SB20**

**Date:** June 17, 2022

**Memorandum to:** Senior Business Officials

**From:** Mehul Mehta  
Director  
School Board Advanced Supports Branch

**Subject:** **Student Transportation – One-time Grant to Support School Bus Operators in the Adoption of Updated Lighting Requirements**

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All school buses manufactured **on or after January 1, 2005, must meet the following equipment standards as of July 1, 2022, in order to comply with legislative and regulatory requirements in Ontario:**

- Are to be equipped with four (4) overhead amber signal lights and four (4) overhead red signal lights; and
- Are to display revised signage to be placed on the rear of vehicles to read “do not pass when red lights flashing”.

As indicated in memorandum [2022:B10, Student Transportation- Support for School Bus Operators in the Adoption of Updated Lighting Requirements](#), the Ministry of Education will provide one-time grant to assist school bus operators with undertaking retrofits needed to comply with the legislative and regulatory requirements.

I am writing to provide further details on the application process.

**Online Application and Timeline**

Beginning June 17, 2022, eligible school bus operators can submit an application for grant via: <https://www.app.grants.gov.on.ca/8lamp/#/>. The deadline for bus operators to submit their applications for the grant is July 31, 2022.

School bus operators are encouraged to begin the retrofits as early as possible to ensure that all school buses are compliant with the regulatory requirements by the start of the 2022-23 school year.

### **Program Guide**

To assist with the application process, the *Support for Ontario School Bus Operators: Eight Lamp Amber-Red Warning System Grant Program Guide*, attached with this memo, provides details on the application requirements, eligibility, and step-by-step instructions to complete the online application.

### **Validation and Verification**

Once all applications are received, Ministry staff will review and validate the applications to ensure it meets the program criteria including the following:

- The applicant provides services to at least one of the prescribed educational organizations noted in the Guide; and
- The school buses submitted in the application meet the eligibility criteria under the program – registered with Province of Ontario, manufactured on or after January 1, 2005, and whether the school bus is currently equipped with LED lights.

The grant amount will be based on the results of validation and will be allocated directly to the applicants by September 2022.

I kindly request that school boards and student transportation consortia share this information with their contracted school bus operators so that the operators can submit their application for this one-time grant within the timelines noted above.

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

Sincerely,

Mehul Mehta  
Director  
School Board Advanced Supports Branch

c: Transportation Managers  
School Bus Ontario