

Student Transportation



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Student transportation is critical for many students and their families. It encompasses much more than the morning and afternoon rides to and from school. It includes school field trips, sporting events, other extracurricular activities, and additional service for before-and-after school care. It is a complex issue that requires detailed analysis to ensure appropriate funding, while considering local circumstances. The coordination often involves several partners; multiple school boards, different school bus operators, a separate consortium, and in many instances, school boards working directly with their municipalities' local public transit systems.

OPSBA RECOMMENDS

- Any policy or funding framework must consider the unique student transportation circumstances and needs of each board (northern, rural and urban).
- Investments targeted at attracting and retaining school bus drivers.
- Updating the funding benchmarks to reflect increased costs, especially related to inflation.
- Finding ways to support student participation in field trips, sporting events, and extracurricular activities.

Transportation issues for school boards include inadequate funding, driver recruitment and retention, and safety. Many boards continue to regularly overspend their transportation budgets to meet their own unique needs.

QUESTIONS?

How can we move on new solutions to support local student transportation challenges, including more closely connecting with municipal partners?

What more can be done to attract and retain school bus drivers?

Are there other actions that could be done to ensure school buses are safer for students and drivers?

