



STSCO Communiqué to Schools

October, 2011

In keeping with our collective commitment to provision of safe and effective service to students and in effort to keep all Schools informed of transportation related matters, I would like to provide you with October's STSCO "Communiqué to Schools".

Please review the information items and general reminders below and share them with the appropriate staff at your school.

School Bus Safety Week:

As some of you may be aware, this week, October 17-21, is designated across the Province as "School Bus Safety Week" and is intended to direct attention to school busing and to the great job that our drivers and companies do in getting thousands of student to school and home again each day.

STSCO would ask that, if you have a chance, please thank the drivers serving your school and let them know that their work is appreciated and does not go unnoticed.

Bus Safety/Evacuation Training Sessions:

On the topic of school bus safety, bus companies continue to provide ongoing safety and evacuation training to students and your cooperation in setting dates and taking part is appreciated by us all. Many of these sessions have already taken place. Schools should feel free to contact their assigned company directly if they have not received a call. It is necessary that each elementary school take part in the program. Secondary schools are encouraged to take part as well.

Bus Cancellations and Delays:

Transportation service providers and STSCO are very proactive in posting route delay and cancellation information on our website (www.stsco.ca). Principals are asked to coordinate to ensure that school communities are reminded that such information is

available on the website. As in the past, families should be reminded about route cancellation procedures, which, for your information, are summarized as follows:

1. notice of cancellations and delays will be available on the *www.stsco.ca website*;
2. notice will be provided through media outlets (radio and TV stations);
3. if a morning bus route is cancelled, the corresponding afternoon route will also be cancelled;
4. to received notice about route cancellations and delays on any given day, families should log onto *www.stsco.ca* and/or tune into local media outlets;
5. everyone is reminded that, due to variable local weather patterns, inclement weather cancellations are normally made on a regional basis (i.e. Clarington, Northumberland or Peterborough) and announcements will refer to the region affected (those regions not affected will not be included in announcements); and
6. families are to be reminded that they need to note their child's bus route number and bus company name so that they can effectively monitor delays and cancellations.

Thank You for your help during school start-up:

At this time, on behalf of all of us at STSCO, I would like to thank school staff and administrations for their dedicated assistance in preparing for transportation start-up and for helping us deal with the many issues which arise at the beginning of the year as families and students get used to their school routines. We recognize that this year has been challenging for some schools as the issue of out of boundary and babysitter space available busing has caused more concerns than in the past. In coming months, we will target improved communication with all involved to ensure there is a better understanding of the process and more timely notice of whether space is or is not available on buses for those ineligible students and their families who apply for busing on a space available basis.

Please circulate the STSCO Communiqué to those members of your staff who are involved with or interested in transportation.

Sincerely,

Joel Sloggett, C.A.O., STSCO