

## #STOPtheBusDelays: Fact sheet

For over a year, Peel District School Board students have faced ongoing, significant bus delays as a direct result of a shortage of qualified school bus drivers among bus service providers in the Greater Toronto Area.

- 20-60 minute** bus delays are experienced daily by Peel students
- 50+ schools** are currently impacted by ongoing bus delays
- 1,500 students** are waiting for a bus each morning and afternoon that arrives late
- 150 of bus runs** in Peel do not have a regular driver and haven't since the early fall

### What is the impact on school communities?

**Students** are consistently arriving late to school, causing them to miss assessments, assignments and hours of valuable instructional time. Then, at the end of the day, long pickup wait times are taking students away from extracurricular activities they have outside of school.

**Parents/guardians** are missing work to accommodate for the inconsistent or non-existent transportation service. In some cases, families have resorted to alternate methods of transportation to avoid losing their jobs, including paying for cabs out-of-pocket and pulling their child out of class early to drive them home.

**School staff** are remaining at school well beyond the end of the school day to ensure all students are picked up and arrive home safely. Late arrivals at the start of the day result in disruption to class instruction and activities, causing staff to restructure lesson plans to accommodate for these delays.

### What is currently being done to reduce delays?

**Bus service providers** are continuing to work to hire and train more drivers to fill their vacancies.

**Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR)**—the Peel board and Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board's joint transportation consortium—is working closely with school bus providers to mitigate delays. Although we're seeing improvements, these efforts have not been able to resolve these ongoing delays.

**The Ministry of Education** have introduced initiatives to help improve the issue, including a school bus driver retention program and engagement sessions to develop a new vision for student transportation in Ontario. We're hopeful these initiatives will help mitigate delay times by next school year.

### How can impacted families, staff and community members help?

The Peel board has launched **#StopTheBusDelays**, a campaign that calls on families, staff and community members to urge the provincial government, through their local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), to provide additional funding to help with bus driver recruitment and to assist the board in exploring other transportation options for students this school year.

Parents, staff and community members are encouraged to call, email or write to their local MPP. Template letters and emails are available at [www.peelschools.org/stopthebusdelays](http://www.peelschools.org/stopthebusdelays)