



Halifax Regional Centre for Education

Parents/Guardians,

In the past few days, the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) has heard from parents/guardians concerned about potential reductions in both eligible and courtesy bussing for next year. I want to assure parents/guardians that there will be **no reduction in bus service for the 2018-2019 school year**. This past year, we added more than 10 regular busses to the existing fleet to address increasing enrolments.

If your child was eligible for bussing last year, they will be bussed this coming year.

I also want to confirm that we will continue to offer courtesy bussing opportunities for those students who do not qualify for transportation based on the distance they live from their school. We will also maintain “courtesy stops” that existed this past year, but some may be adjusted or relocated to sites near previous locations.

In short, we will continue to provide the same level of bussing service as last year.

One change that we are implementing is the introduction of a process for applying for courtesy bussing. We are doing this for safety reasons. We need to ensure we are not creating overcrowding situations on busses and we know where students are at all times while in our care.

If you haven't already, please subscribe to [BusPlanner](http://hrce.mybusplanner.ca) (hrce.mybusplanner.ca). Not only will BusPlanner tell you if your child is eligible for bussing, it will provide stop information and allow you to track your child's bus in real time. Applications for courtesy bussing must be submitted through BusPlanner.

Parents/guardians who have submitted a request by August 3, 2018 will be informed no later than August 27, 2018 whether their request for courtesy bussing has been approved.

While we cannot provide any guarantees at this time, if you received courtesy bussing last year you most likely will receive it for 2018-2019.

The changes we are putting in place are designed to provide better service for families. We understand everyone's situation is unique and there will be some growing pains as we introduce new technology and implement new procedures. For example, if you were eligible to receive transportation in the past and BusPlanner says you are now ineligible, don't be alarmed. Give us a call and we will work through it together.

If you have any questions or concerns, please submit your information through [BusReport](http://www.busreport.com/customer) (www.busreport.com/customer) or you can call a member of our student transportation team at 902-464-2000 x. 2871. More information can also be found on the HRCE website at: www.hrsb.ca/about-our-schools/student-transportation. We will continue to communicate with you throughout the summer as we prepare for the opening of school.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make these changes. We are here to help you.

Sincerely,

Ron Heiman
HRCE Director, Operations Services