

June 6, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians/Families:

Earlier today, I informed Stock Transportation that the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) will be ending our current contract with them. Families of children using this service will wonder what this means and how it will affect them.

Why is this happening?

Families have not had the experience with student transportation that we expect. Our efforts to improve have not been effective enough, and the current transportation contract is not sufficient to make it better. A new one is needed.

How will it be different?

Similar to other large school districts, we will only hire a bus service provider to supply, maintain and drive busses according to the routes we provide. HRCE no longer wishes to contract services like communication and routing, as we do currently. Instead, we want to retain those functions and be more responsive to families, especially in these areas. We also want our service provider(s) to focus on getting students to and from school safely and on time.

What's next?

In early July, the HRCE will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to determine what other options may be available for student transportation service in our region. We expect a provider (or providers) to be in place for the 2020-2021 school year. As part of this process, we will explore better options, including having different companies potentially operating in different areas of HRCE.

Who will be busing my child to school this September?

Stock Transportation will continue to provide student transportation for the remainder of this school year and for the entire 2019-2020 school year. Why? It will take a year to have one or more service providers up and running in our region.

Families haven't reliably had the experience they expect. We are creating a better and more reliable service. Between now and September, we will communicate regularly with you as we get ready for a new school year. We bus more than 23,000 students to school every day so I wanted to let you know directly why I made the decision to retender this contract.

Best regards,

Elwin LeRoux
Regional Executive Director