

2016-17 Student Transportation Information:

Route information will be available to parents as of **August 19, 2016** via the online Parent Portal. Schools may have access to some routes prior to this date, through the school web portal www.ostabusplanner.ottawaschoolbus.ca or via OSTA's website link to the Parent Portal Log In.

Student Transportation Information can also be found using the **"Stop Finder"** located on the main page of our website, which will link to the **"BusPlanner - Parent Portal"**. The parent must enter the student's last name, birthdate, school and grade in order to access route and stop information.

The **"Stop Finder"** feature returns bus stop and route information for eligible students who are assigned to regular yellow school bus or small school purpose vehicle service, or for eligible grade 7 and 8 students who are assigned to OC Transpo Service.

OC Transpo route schedules will also be made available through the OSTA website or can be found directly through the OC Transpo website at www.octranspo.com. More information on routes to specific schools can be obtained on OC Transpo's Quick Planner under High Schools and Middle Schools.

Small School Purpose Vehicles

The driver responsible for the route will contact each family directly prior to the first day of school.

Transportation for students in a joint custody arrangement and having two homes

OSTA has developed a new policy & procedure to deliver transportation services to students in a joint custody arrangement and having two homes. An application process and other requirements need to be met for parents to receive this service, and the homes or daycares in question must meet all other eligibility requirements. The deadline for September start up transportation was June 1. **Renewals** of current schedule calendars are due **June 30**. All other applications will be reviewed after September 15, and prior to October 1.

More information can be found on our website:

<http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca/policies/transportation-for-students-in-a-joint-custody-arrangement-and-having-two-homes>

Applications for Seat Availability

Students who had been approved to access service under the Seat Availability provision for 2015/16 will need to re-apply for service for the next school year. The **NEW "Application for Access to Empty Seats on School Bus Vehicles"** form is available on the OSTA website at <http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca/policies/empty-seat-provision>.

School principals are authorized to assign empty seats to students not eligible for busing on school bus vehicles serving their schools after October 1. Please note that the number of

available seats will be decreasing year over year as OSTA continues to optimize routes for more efficient and effective transportation service.

Transportation Information During the Summer Months

Please note that the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority will be open during the summer months from 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday. OCDSB parents should contact OSTA directly during the summer months if they have questions about transportation or changes to their children's address or caregiver information.