

NORTH EAST TRI-BOARD STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

SERVICE DU TRANSPORT SCOLAIRE DES TROIS-CONSEILS DU NORD EST



MEDIA RELEASE

June 23, 2009

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

North East Tri-Board Student Transportation is proud to announce the issuance of "home stops" for JK/SK students and the launch of new pupil transportation management software for the 2009-2010 school year. The partner boards of NETBST include: District School Board Ontario North East, Northeastern Catholic District School Board and Conseil Scolaire Public du Nord Est.

"With additional funding, new software, and cooperation from both the operators and the boards, the new service means good news for parents of JK/SK students," said Ryan Hartling, Supervisor of Transportation Services. "Any older sibling who is eligible to take the same bus and resides at the same home as the JK/SK student, will also be eligible for the "home stop" service.

Parents must be aware that a "home stop" depends on the location of the residence. If the residence is found in an area where there is a concern for safety, the stop will be placed at the nearest suitable location, as decided by the NETBST Transportation Officer in the area. Safety hazards that may impede the allocation of a "home stop" include, but are not limited to: stops on dead-end streets, stops on a curve or hill where visibility is a concern, and narrow or one-way streets which are impassable in the winter.

At this time, only JK/SK students and eligible siblings will be provided with "home stops". All other students who are eligible to take a school bus will continue to do so at a collective stop, unless otherwise directed by NETBST.

The management of the home stops and their routes are partly available due to the recent implementation of new pupil transportation software. The sophisticated system uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping to help analyze and maintain transportation data.

All levels of the school transportation system will now have ability to access transportation information that pertains to their role in the system. An online tool will help communicate transportation information to parents, schools, bus operators, and the general public. The web site tool can be found under "eligibility" at www.netribus.ca. On this site, parents can find transportation schedules, schools can obtain bus lists and route information, and operators can obtain daily changes to routes and run information. The public can also access school information and transportation eligibility.

Parents and students will now access their bus schedule online. "A letter will be sent home with the students report cards," said Hartling. "This letter will explain the log-on process of the individual student. The security of the site is comparable to online banking." The general public can also discover school information, which school they would attend if they lived at a certain address, and if a student would be eligible for school bus transportation based on their address. Hartling adds "...the transportation office has been working diligently to prepare the new transportation system, and school bus schedules and information for the 2009-2010 school year will be available in August."

For More Information Please Contact:

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