



LONDON DISTRICT  
Catholic School  
BOARD



August 20, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This message is to proactively alert you of the need to consider alternate transportation arrangements for your student(s) in the event of a potential service disruption by local school bus companies when classes begin this fall.

Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services (STS) plans transportation services for 50,000 students every day on behalf of the London District Catholic and Thames Valley District School Boards. Daily service is delivered by local school bus companies contracted by STS.

While negotiations are continuing, we have been unable to reach agreements with local school bus operators for the coming school year. We will continue to work to address this challenge.

We recognize that a possible disruption in service will create significant inconvenience to many families and we are grateful for the understanding of students, parents and guardians as we work through this complex matter. Parents/guardians should take the time now to consider alternate transportation arrangements such as carpooling or public transportation, where available, in the event of a service disruption.

Regular updates on this matter will be posted on the STS ([www.mybigyellowbus.ca](http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca)), LDCSB and TVDSB websites and shared through social media. Please monitor these communication channels for the latest updates.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Pratt".

Jeff Pratt  
Associate Director & Treasurer  
Thames Valley District School Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacquie Davison".

Jacquie B Davison  
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer  
London District Catholic School Board



## Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services

[www.mybigyellowbus.ca](http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca)

### **Potential Service Disruption Bulletin** **First Issue: Monday, August 20, 2018**

---

Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services (“STS”) is proactively alerting families of a potential service disruption initiated by local school bus companies when classes return in September. We recognize this anticipated service disruption will have a significant impact on your daily family routines. STS will continue to work diligently to resolve the matter. We encourage families contemplate alternative transportation arrangements now.

STS is committed to providing regular updates as information becomes available. Please check the [www.mybigyellowbus.ca](http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca) frequently for current information. A special page has been set up for the latest information on the potential service disruption.

Please see frequently asked questions for more information.

#### How will my children get to school if the school buses are not running?

Unfortunately, parents and guardians will have to make alternate arrangements to get their children to and from school if school buses are not running. Consider carpooling with other neighborhood families. In some areas, public transit may be a good option.

#### What will happen around school sites?

Traffic around school sites will be heavier than usual if school bus services are not offered. Plan for extra time during your commute in and around school zones. Carpooling will help with traffic congestion.

For older students, consider a “Drive to 5” approach by looking for a drop-off spot or meeting place near the school that is a short 5-minute walk away. Some examples of good places for this are community centers, libraries, plazas or regional malls.

#### How will we know if the buses are going to run?

STS is committed to keeping communications current for our communities. Please check the website and our social media channels for up-to-date information. We will also communicate via email to all bus-eligible families. STS will continue to post regular service disruptions bulletins like this to keep you informed.

#### Who should I contact with concerns or questions?

The STS office is open from 8 am – 5 pm daily, Monday through Friday. Staff can be reached by phone at 519-649-1160 or by submitting an online ticket by clicking on “Contact Us” on our website. We will do our best to respond within 24 hours.

#### Where will my bus stop be and what are the pick-up times for when the buses start running again?

The Parent Portal will open on Monday, August 20. When you log in, you will see the bus stop location and pick up/drop off time. STS staff are working on regular preparations at this time of year and are available to assist with routine bus inquiries.