# Standard 16: Transportation

## Halton Student Transportation Services

Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) officially opened on January 7, 2008; the membership is comprised of the two publicly funded English school Boards in the Region of Halton.
The member school boards are:

* The Halton District School Board;
* The Halton Catholic District School Board.

The two school boards currently transport over 29,000 students daily on 454 buses, mini buses, vans and wheelchair accessible vehicles. Continuous monitoring, updating and optimizing of routes have resulted in a transportation system that is efficient and cost effective. In addition, HSTS provides a student safety program that includes interactive rider safety training programs for all students in grades JK to 8 in all 125 of the elementary schools within the Halton Region.

HSTS is a provincial leader in the provision of student transportation. One of the recent initiatives that HSTS has been involved in is the development of a training video for bus drivers on how to safely evacuate students with special needs from a bus. The video will be available to school bus companies across Canada to use for training new bus drivers and also as a resource when providing refresher training to existing drivers.

Halton District School Board’s [Transportation Policy](https://www.hdsb.ca/our-board/Policy/Transportation.pdf#search=Transportation%20Policy) states that transportation will be provided for registered pupils who, because of distance from school, IPRC decision, Board-approved programs, hazardous walking conditions, physical disabilities or emotional problems, suffer undue hardships as a result of travelling to and from school.

Where a student requires transportation because of a disability, student specific staff and bus operator training will be provided so that student can travel on the bus safely.

### Eligibility

Students attending a program or class offered at a school other than their home school, including those who have been placed through the IPRC process, are subject to the eligibility distances as per the Halton District School Board’s Transportation Policy. They are:

 Grades JK-8 more than 1.6 km;

 Grades 9-Graduation more than 3.2 km.

### Students with Disabilities

1. Students with physical/emotional needs, who go to an IPRC, will have transportation requirements communicated by the IPRC Manager
2. If a student requires specialized transportation due to physical or other special needs, e.g. mobility, developmental disability, behaviour, etc… and is not an identified student, the parents/guardians must submit an original copy of a medical note from a health practitioner.
3. The Principal is responsible for contacting HSTS to make transportation arrangements for students with special needs. The school notifies the Special Education Instructional Program Leader and confirms eligibility for specialized transportation. Approval of the Superintendent of Student Services is required.
4. The Principal is responsible for online completion of the Individual Student Transportation Plans (ISTP)

Student Travel Plans (See Appendix) are developed for every student with medical and/or special needs in accordance with the Integrated Standard of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

## Transportation Training

Transportation providers through Halton Student Transportation Services, are compliant with all components of the Accessibility For Ontarians With Disabilities Act (AODA). All bus drivers are trained in Emergency First Aid/CPR and EpiPen administration. In addition to this training, bus drivers also undergo specific training with respect to the vehicle type they drive, e.g. wheelchair accessible, this includes emergency evacuation procedures and emergency site management. Drivers also receive training in Student Management; this training provides drivers with strategies to assist them in effectively handling different situations that may arise on their bus, including strategies to problem solve situations that are unique to students with special needs.

### Other Transportation Requests:

* Transportation arrangements for a student that vary from the regular school day\* or for students who are otherwise ineligible for transportation must be authorized by the Superintendent of Education, Student Services. Transportation is not arranged until proper authorization is received by Halton Student Transportation Services. This becomes part of the Individual Student Transportation Plan.
* If a School Resource Team (SRT) determines a student's health and safety needs are such that they require special transportation arrangements, the SRT representative may present this information at the time of the student's initial identification or annual review at an IPRC meeting, where the request is forwarded to Halton Student Transportation Services. The IPRC does not approve transportation.
* If a student's transportation needs change because of health or safety concerns or if the student is not proceeding to IPRC, the SRT may contact the Instructional Program Leader or Senior Manager to discuss the issue and determine if a change in transportation is required
* Transportation may be provided for students in educational programs in care, treatment and correctional facilities providing the student resides in Halton and meets the transportation criteria
* [Transportation](http://www.haltonbus.ca) is provided for students attending Provincial and Demonstration Schools upon authorization/ documentation from the designated provincial demonstration school
* Parents/guardians may contact Halton Student Transportation Services at 905-637-4009 or via email

\*Regular School Day

This statement is to reflect that some students who may require an early pick up or a partial day schedule would receive special transportation like a taxi or individual rider on a bus (signed off by Student Services). Field trips do not require special sign off. Schools must include all students in the class going on a field trip and Student Services helps, where needed, to arrange accessible transportation.