



Durham Student Transportation Services in Partnership with Durham District School Board and Durham Catholic District School Board to Commence Community Consultation to Adjust School Bell Times

Media Release
January 24, 2017

At the regularly scheduled Board meetings on January 23, 2017, the Durham District School Board (DDSB) and the Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) approved a joint region wide community consultation to adjust school bell times to ensure maximum transportation efficiency, and to reduce transportation costs, while maximizing the transportation service to students.

Durham District School Board and the Durham Catholic District School Board are partners in the transportation consortium known as Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS). The consortium gains efficiency by consolidating the Boards' transportation needs to gain economy of scale. The economies are realized at both the administration level, and at the provision of student transportation services.

As various factors change such as i) the opening or closing of a school; ii) traffic congestion; and iii) enrolment growth; the consortium needs to review these changes to determine if adjustments need to be implemented to maintain efficiencies. By adjusting bell times at certain schools, school buses can potentially service more students to more schools with fewer vehicles.

It is estimated that the proposed changes to bell times will result in:

- Ensuring the efficient use of vehicles and preparing for future population growth in the region;
- Of 171 total schools between both boards (DDSB and DCDSB):
 - 133 schools (or 77%) require no change in bell times
 - 38 schools (or 23%) require a change in bell times of which:
 - 27 of 38 (71%) are 10 minutes or less
 - 7 of 38 (18%) are 15 to 25 minutes
 - 4 of 38 (11%) are 30 to 45 minutes.

The DDSB and DCDSB are committed to a joint community consultation process. The following three locations and dates for the Open Houses are as follows:

- **February 13, 2017 – Notre Dame CSS Gym, Ajax – 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**
(for Pickering & Ajax schools in both school boards)
- **February 14, 2017 – All Saints CSS Gym, Whitby – 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**
(for Whitby and Oshawa schools in both school boards)
- **February 15, 2017 – Port Perry HS Gym, Port Perry – 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**
(for northern region schools in both school boards)

At these public meetings, Trustee representatives, DSTS Staff, School Administration and Board Staff will be present to provide information and receive comments.

The Boards will receive additional input and comment via a dedicated email address and telephone line until March 1, 2017:

- o Email- belltimes@dsts.on.ca
- o Voicemail- 905-666-8080 ext. 5106

DDSB and DCDSB staff will provide a final report for consideration and approval to their respective Board of Trustees in March 2017.

Copies of the **Regional Bell Time Review Report** can be found on the Durham Student Transportation Services (DSTS) website: <http://www.dsts.on.ca/belltime-review-information>

Durham District School Board is responsible for public education in the rural settings of Uxbridge, Brock and Scugog Townships and the urban settings of Ajax, Whitby, Pickering and Oshawa. The Board employs more than 7,000 teaching and educational services staff. With 131 elementary and secondary schools and learning centres, the DDSB accommodates 69,500 regular day students and thousands more who take advantage of a wide variety of continuing education and adult credit courses. More information can be found on the DDSB's website at www.ddsb.ca, by following us on Twitter [@DurhamDSB](https://twitter.com/DurhamDSB) or by watching our videos on YouTube at [DurhamDSB](https://www.youtube.com/DurhamDSB).

The Durham Catholic District School Board shares a sense of community among families, educators and parishes, and is committed to integrating the teachings of the Gospel with quality educational programs that guide students in their journeys to meeting the Catholic Graduate Expectations. The Board currently serves approximately 21,000 students in Oshawa, Whitby, Ajax, Pickering, and the townships of Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock.

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