

Ministry of Education

Business Services Branch
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Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation

Direction des services opérationnels
21^e étage, Édifice Mowat
900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



August 10, 2005

Ms. Rosalind Minaji
rminaji@mountaincable.net

Dear Ms. Minaji,

Thank you for writing to express your concerns about student transportation in Ontario. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As you are aware, under the *Education Act*, decisions regarding student transportation are made at the local level by school boards. The provincial government provides funding to school boards, enabling them to provide effective and efficient transportation services for the students in their jurisdiction.

The Ministry conducted a Data Collection Exercise in 2002 from school boards on distance traveled for all students in their board from their home to school of attendance, including students in French Immersion programs. Provincial funding for student transportation in 2004-05 was based on a partially phased-in draft model, which included distances of French Immersion students, while consultations were held throughout the province.

Over the past few months, Ministry of Education staff have been working with our partners in education on refinements to the proposed transportation funding model. This work has led to the development of a number of options that will need to be considered before the government can proceed with full implementation. No final decisions have yet been taken on the model or its implementation. Until such a decision is made, I wish to assure you that we will continue to focus our efforts on ensuring that factors that impact student transportation are reflected in the new model and that adjustment parameters are reasonable and fair. I want to assure you that transportation to French Immersion programs will be taken into consideration as we work on our new approach to student transportation.

Thank you again for taking the time to express your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Kerry Pond
Acting Director
Business Services Branch