



Waterloo Region District School Board

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February 23, 2023

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Lecce,

At its meeting on January 16, 2023, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), agreed to write to you to express our concerns and support for the [Ontario Public School Boards' Association's \(OPSBA\) Advocacy Day Student Transportation issues and recommendations](#).

Transportation issues for school boards include inadequate funding, driver recruitment and retention, and safety. Like many boards, the WRDSB continues to regularly overspend their transportation budgets to meet the needs of the district.

The WRDSB supports OPSBA's recommendations:

- Any policy or funding framework must consider the unique student transportation circumstances and needs of each board (northern, rural and urban).
- Investments targeted at attracting and retaining school bus drivers.
- Updating the funding benchmarks to reflect increased costs, especially related to inflation.
- Finding ways to support student participation in field trips, sporting events, and extracurricular activities.

Minister Lecce, we respectfully request the Ministry of Education consider these recommendations to address student transportation needs for the WRDSB and other Ontario public school boards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne Weston".

Joanne Weston
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees and Student Trustees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association Member Board Chairs
Waterloo Catholic District School Board
Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Region of Waterloo Regional Chair