



Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services

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Farewell to Winter, School Buses Ready to Roll into Spring

The staff at Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services (“STS”) would like to thank the bus companies, especially school bus drivers and mechanical staff, for their hard work over the winter. With April upon us, the worst of winter weather should be over for the season.

Bus yards come to life long before the first student boards. Every morning, there are teams of people at bus branches throughout the district, including mechanics, supervisors and dispatchers, ensuring the buses are ready at the start of the service day. Staff review weather conditions to get the best information possible before decision-time.

During the depths of winter, or during heavy rain or light fog, there are days where the weather may not result in cancellations, but the conditions on the road require extra vigilance. The school bus driver behind the wheel uses extra caution whenever there is any kind of inclement weather on the roads, so parents and guardians can rest assured their students are in good hands. While it may mean the buses run slightly behind the normal schedule, professional drivers adjust their speed to conditions during such circumstances to put safety and student well-being first.

So far this school year, there have been three system-wide cancellations, but students in the counties had several additional days where service did not operate due to weather conditions. January and February saw clustered weather events with multiple days of freezing rain and extremely cold temperatures. These events are taxing for bus operations and communities alike, as uncertainty about service can cause problems for child care. STS would also like to extend its thanks to the parents, guardians and other stakeholders for their patience during the winter months.

Looking ahead in the coming weeks, STS will feature safety updates as more students get active outside as the weather improves.