

**Ministry of Education**

Minister

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Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifce Mowat  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



January 28, 2016

Dear Chairs,

I am writing to you today in response to the *Student Transportation Competitive Procurement Review Report*.

I would like to first thank the review team — the Honourable Colin Campbell, Mr. Leo Gotlieb and Mr. Paul Emanuelli — for their hard work in fulfilling their mandate. The review team has done an excellent job of conveying all stakeholders' perspectives, as a result of the extensive and complex stakeholder consultations that were conducted. I would also like to thank all stakeholders, including school boards, student transportation consortia and operators, for their support and participation in the review.

The *Student Transportation Competitive Procurement Review Report*, attached here and soon to be available on the ministry website, acknowledges that the use of Requests for Proposal (RFPs) is a viable option for acquiring student transportation services, and that exempting student transportation services from the *Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive* (BPSPD) would hinder the promotion of competition or transparency. In addition, the report does not identify an alternative BPSPD-compliant procurement option for school boards' consideration.

This report has also identified several opportunities for improving the competitive procurement of student transportation. I am happy to confirm that the Treasury Board Secretariat reviewed all of the opportunities listed in the report and confirmed their compliance with the BPSPD.

I believe this report is a valuable resource and encourage school boards to collaboratively review the opportunities it puts forth. I also expect that operators will play an important role in assisting and advising school boards as they move forward with addressing many of these opportunities.

The review team will be providing information sessions on their findings to the sector. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and to seek clarification on their report. Details on the information sessions will be provided shortly.

In addition, ministry staff will be connecting with the four trustee associations, the Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO), the Ontario School Bus Association (OSBA) and the Independent School Bus Operators Association (ISBOA) to discuss their participation and involvement in addressing the opportunities identified.

Lastly, I would like to bring your attention to the recent release of the Auditor General of Ontario's 2015 Annual Report, which includes student transportation. Again, I would expect that school boards and consortia will work together to carefully review both the *Student Transportation Competitive Procurement Review Report* and the Auditor General's report, and consider addressing, where appropriate, the opportunities they present.

I would like to again thank you for your support in this review, and for your ongoing hard work and dedication to achieving excellence on behalf of Ontario's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Sandals". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Liz" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Sandals".

Liz Sandals  
Minister

c: The Honourable Colin Campbell Q.C.,  
Independent Review Chair

Leo Gotlieb,  
Independent Review Expert Panel

Paul Emanuelli,  
Independent Review Expert Panel

Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques

Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario