

# FAQS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

about the  
School Bus Driver Retention Program (DRP)

## NEW and ORIGINAL FAQs

### NEW QUESTIONS – as of November 12, 2018

- 74. What was the school bus driver bonus amount for Payment Period #1 and how was it calculated?**

*Answer:* As has been stated since the inception of the DRP, the bonus for each Payment Period will be **up to** \$1000 and subject to applicable taxes and government remittances. For several months, DRP representatives and their legal counsel worked with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to determine the appropriate taxes and remittances. Based on those discussions, the \$1,000 bonus payment per driver for Payment Period #1 was only subject to \$100 of personal income tax withholdings and therefore the net amount of the bonus was \$900 per driver.

- 75. I am a school bus driver who did not receive a cheque for Payment Period #1 in the mail, but I think that I was eligible to receive a bonus. What should I do?**

*Answer:* School bus operator employers received confirmation of their eligible school bus drivers in late October, 2018 based on the claims submission and the Exception Application Forms submitted by July 20, 2018. If you have not been notified by your employer as to whether you are receiving a cheque, please contact your employer directly. All questions about your eligibility should go to your employer. The DRP Call Centre cannot answer questions about school bus operator employer claims submissions.

If your employer advised you that you are to receive a bonus and you have not received a cheque in the mail by November 23, 2018, please contact the DRP Call Centre at [schoolbusdriver@deloitte.ca](mailto:schoolbusdriver@deloitte.ca) or toll-free at 1-833-346-6177.

- 76. I am a school bus driver and was informed that I will receive a bonus cheque, but I have changed by mailing address since the claims submissions were submitted in July, 2018. What should I do?**

*Answer:* Contact your school bus operator employer. Any change of address must be submitted to the DRP Call Centre by your employer. The Call Centre will work with your employer directly if a replacement cheque is required.

- 77. I am a school bus driver and I did not receive a bonus for Payment Period #1 because I did not complete a consent form. Therefore, my school bus operator employer did not include me in their July, 2018 claims submission. Can I complete a consent form now and receive a bonus for Payment Period #1?**

*Answer:* No. It is a mandatory requirement of the DRP that a school bus driver complete a consent form in order to receive a bonus payment. A consent form is required in order for a school bus operator employer to share the driver's name, address, SIN number and other personal information with the DRP. This information is required to enable the DRP to pay a bonus directly to the driver. Also see FAQ #27.

Unfortunately, the DRP cannot accept late submissions for a school bus driver who did not complete a consent form prior to the July 20, 2018 deadline for claims submissions in Payment Period #1.

Please note that this will not affect your ability to receive a bonus payment for Payment Period #2 (September to December 2018) or Payment Period #3 (January to June 2019), provided you complete a consent form and meet the eligibility criteria for each of those Payment Periods. The DRP encourages all drivers to seek to qualify for these bonuses.

- 78. What will the eligibility criteria be for Payment Period #2?**

*Answer:* The eligibility requirements and exception application process in effect for Payment Period #1 will be continued through Payment Period #2 (relating to employment from September to December 2018), with some changes to make the documents more clear. In order to qualify for the bonus in Payment Period # 2, a driver must meet all eligibility criteria #1 to #6. School bus drivers who meet eligibility criteria #1 to #5 but do not meet criteria #6, may apply for an exception. The eligibility criteria for Payment Period #2 are available on OSBA's website at <http://www.osba.on.ca/files/drp-eligibility.pdf>.

Drivers who did not participate in the DRP in Payment Period #1 and wish to participate in Payment Period #2 will be required to sign and provide a Consent Form to their employer.

- 79. When will the Exception Application Form for Payment Period # 2 be available? Can I use the Exception Application Form from Payment Period #1?**

*Answer:* The Exception Application Form for Payment Period #2 will be published on OSBA's website well before school bus operator claims submissions for Payment Period #2 are due in January, 2019. The Exception Application Form for Payment Period #1 will **not** be accepted for Payment Period #2.

- 80. I am a school bus operator employer who made a claims submission for Payment Period #1. How will I receive my operator administration fee payment?**

*Answer:* In the near future, the DRP will be in touch with all school bus operators who made a claims submission for Payment Period #1 with information about the administration fee payment process.

## **NEW QUESTIONS – as of September 14, 2018**

**69. When will I get my bonus cheque for Payment Period #1?**

*Answer:* As mentioned in earlier communications, we had hoped to mail the bonus cheques for Payment Period #1 by the end of September. Unfortunately, as this is a new pilot program, we have experienced a number of unexpected administrative delays. It is anticipated that the cheques for Payment Period #1 will be mailed directly to eligible school bus drivers towards the end of October, sooner if possible. This is to ensure that all claims submissions from all school bus companies are complete and that all Exception Application Forms are given a full review. A communication will be issued once the cheques have been mailed.

**70. How will the bonus cheques be delivered if there is a Canada Post strike?**

*Answer:* We are currently working on alternative options for cheque distribution and will provide an update if there is an interruption in postal service.

**71. How much will the bonus amount be?**

*Answer:* [See FAQs #32 and #74.](#)

**72. I submitted an Exception Application Form. How will I know if my exception has been approved?**

*Answer:* School bus operator employers who have submitted Exception Application Forms on behalf of their drivers will be notified in advance of cheque mailing as to whether the exception applications were approved or not. The employers will be asked to then notify the applicable drivers of the outcome of the review process. If you have not been notified by your employer about the outcome of your Exception Application Form when the notice that the cheques have been mailed is issued, please contact your employer.

**73. What will the eligibility criteria be for Payment Period #2?**

*Answer:* [See FAQ #78.](#)

## **NEW QUESTIONS – as of June 25, 2018**

- 61. I am a school bus operator employer who will be completing a Claims Submission Form. The Claims Submission Form requests the total number of school bus drivers that I employ in Ontario. Does this include only the drivers that are listed in my Claims Submission Form Appendices, or all of the drivers that I employ?**

*Answer:* For section 3(d) of the Claims Submission Form, please state the total number of school bus drivers that you employ in Ontario, including drivers who are not listed on the Claims Submission Form and Appendices (e.g. including drivers who do not meet the eligibility requirements and/or have not provided an Exception Application Form). This information is to assist the DRP in understanding what percentage of drivers will be receiving a bonus.

- 62. I am a school bus operator employer who will be completing a Claims Submission Form. Do I need to list both the drivers that do and do not qualify on my claims submission?**

*Answer:* No. On Appendix A, list only the school bus drivers who meet all of eligibility criteria #1-6, On Appendix B, list only the drivers that meet all eligibility criteria #1-#5, and have submitted an Exception Application Form that the employer agrees is correct. On Appendix C, list only the drivers that meet all eligibility criteria #1-#5 and have submitted an Exception Application form that the employer does not agree with. Employers should not list any drivers who are outside of these requirements (e.g. those who do not meet criteria #1-#5).

- 63. I am a school bus operator employer who will be completing a Claims Submission Form. What date does a school bus driver need to be 70 years of age or older for the purpose of completing the last column on the Appendices to the Claims Submission Form?**

*Answer:* A school bus driver needs to be 70 years of age or older as of July 20, 2018.

- 64. Will a new consent form be required for each Payment Period?**

*Answer:* No. At this time, the DRP intends to use one consent form for all three Payment Periods. However, the DRP is a pilot program and therefore changes may occur in Payment Periods #2 or #3. School bus operator employers will receive advance notice and information if such a change occurs. If a school bus driver did not participate in Payment Period #1 or if a driver is hired after Payment Period #1, that driver must complete a consent form before being considered for Payment Period #2 or #3.

- 65. I am a school bus operator employer with routes that end earlier than the dates set out in the DRP Guide as the last school calendar day in the Payment Period. Will school bus drivers on these routes still qualify?**

*Answer:* Yes. The DRP recognizes that the last school calendar day may vary between education organizations and regions of the province. Eligibility is based on employment until the last school calendar day that a school bus driver drives for an education organization.

- 66. I am a school bus operator employer and have received an Exception Application Form from one of my school bus drivers. The driver and I disagree about whether an absence was previously approved. Where on the driver’s Exception Application Form do I note my disagreement?**

*Answer:* If a school bus operator employer disagrees with how a school bus driver has classified the driver’s absence, the employer should discuss the disagreement with the driver to see if they can reach an agreement on what should be written on the Exception Application Form. If, after having a discussion, the employer and driver still disagree on the reason for the driver’s absence from work, the employer is still required (under the Participation Agreement), to submit the Exception Application Form if the driver meets eligibility criteria #1-5 and has completed a consent form. The Exception Application Form distributed in early May does not include a specific spot for employers to indicate disagreement, however, this form can still be used. Employers should write a brief note on page 3 of the form:

- 1) indicating that the employer does not believe the contents to be true, and
- 2) providing a 1-2 sentence explanation of the disagreement (e.g. the absence was not previously approved by the employer).

The Exception Application Form available at the following link:

<http://www.osba.on.ca/files/Exception-Application-Form-PERIOD2-2018-FINAL.pdf> includes directions to employers as to how to express disagreement with the contents of the Exception Application Form.

- 67. If I work every day as a school bus driver but also work in my employer’s office or maintenance area doing other jobs, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* Yes. If the time you spend each week driving to Eligible Education Organizations, listed [here](#), constitutes the majority of the time you work for the school bus operator, and you meet the other eligibility requirements, then you would receive the bonus. *[Note: This is an updated version of FAQ #13 previously posted and will replace that response]*

- 68. I am a school bus operator who employs spare and part-time school bus drivers. How do these drivers meet eligibility requirement #6?**

*Answer:* If a school bus driver works 95% of his/her regularly scheduled or requested shifts between May 1, 2018 and the last school calendar day, then the driver will meet criteria #6(a). In order to be eligible to receive a bonus, spare and part-time drivers must also meet the other eligibility criteria #1-#5.

## **NEW QUESTIONS – as of May 24, 2018**

- 46. Is the DRP an “entitlement” program for all school bus drivers in Ontario, or a “reward” program?**

*Answer:* The bonus payments are not an entitlement based on employment as a school bus driver. The purpose and intent of the DRP is to enhance school bus driver recruitment and retention rates by providing a financial incentive for school bus drivers to stay on the job throughout the school year. It is a reward for meeting specific eligibility criteria, including continuous employment, during the DRP Payment Periods and not an entitlement based on past work as a school bus driver.

- 47. I disagree with the requirements for the DRP. What can I do?**

*Answer:* The DRP is subject to certain conditions established by the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, in order to enhance school bus driver recruitment and retention. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria (subject to the available exceptions from criteria #6(a)), you will not receive a bonus for the applicable Payment Period. There is no exception or appeals process for eligibility criteria #-1-#5.

Eligibility is based on the particular Payment Period, not past work history. If you do not currently qualify, you may be eligible for a subsequent Payment Period if your circumstances change. Additionally, the DRP is a pilot program that presents learning opportunities. As the program develops, changes to the requirements may be considered for subsequent Payment Periods.

- 48. If I only drive students to a private school, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* No. Only those school bus drivers who drive students to and from schools under the Eligible Education Organizations, listed [here](#), qualify to receive a bonus. Private schools are not eligible as they do not receive public student transportation funding from the government to operate their institution, which is a requirement of the DRP. *[Note: This is an updated version of FAQ #11 previously posted and will replace that question and response]*

- 49. If I drive students to private schools as well as to schools under an Eligible Education Organization, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* Maybe. In order to qualify for the bonus you must spend the majority of your working time for your school bus operator employer driving students to and from schools under the Eligible Education Organizations, listed [here](#).

If you cover both private school routes and routes for one or more of the Eligible Education Organizations, for example, and you spend 90% of your working time for your school bus operator employer driving to and from schools under the Eligible Education Organizations, and 10% of your working time for your school bus operator employer driving to and from private schools, then you will be eligible to receive a bonus.

**50. I am a charter school bus driver only who periodically transports students on various school trips and outings. I do not drive a regular home-to-school am or pm shift/run. Do I qualify to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* No. Only those school bus drivers who spend the majority of their working time driving students to and from schools under the Eligible Education Organizations, listed [here](#), qualify to receive a bonus.

**However**, if you are a charter driver who is assigned a route or routes by your school bus operator employer to drive students to and from schools under one or more of the Eligible Education Organizations, and the majority of your working time for your employer is spent on the route or routes, you will be eligible. For example, if during a Payment Period, you spend 75% of your working time for your school bus operator employer driving to and from schools under one or more of the Eligible Education Organizations, and the rest of your working time is spent driving charters, then you will be eligible to receive a bonus.

Additionally, if you are a charter driver for one company, but drive students to and from schools under one or more of the Eligible Education Organizations for the majority of your working time for another company, you will be eligible. *[Note: This is an updated version of FAQ #37 previously posted and will replace that question and response]*

*[Note: FAQ #51-#60 answer questions about the Participation Agreement for School Bus Operators]*

**51. How do I participate in the DRP as a school bus operator employer?**

*Answer:* Complete and return the Participation Agreement to [info@osba.on.ca](mailto:info@osba.on.ca). If you did not receive a copy of the Participation Agreement and you provide to and from school student transportation services under the Eligible Education Organizations, listed [here](#), please email [info@osba.on.ca](mailto:info@osba.on.ca).

**52. As a school bus operator employer, do I need to send back the entire Participation Agreement?**

*Answer:* No. You are only required to sign and complete the information on page four of the Participation Agreement and scan/email a copy of page four ONLY to OSBA in PDF format on or before May 31, 2018 at [info@osba.on.ca](mailto:info@osba.on.ca).

**53. As a school bus operator employer, do I need to include my HST number?**

*Answer:* Yes. Your HST number is required in order to process payment of the administration fee for school bus operator employers.

**54. What if my school bus company is not registered for HST?**

*Answer:* If you are a school bus operator employer and do not have an HST number, please indicate in the space for the HST number on page four of the Participation Agreement that you are not registered for HST.

**55. What if the signing officers for my school bus company are away until after the due date for the Participation Agreement (e.g. May 31, 2018)?**

*Answer:* If the Participation Agreement cannot be fully executed by May 31, 2018, please provide written notice of the date that you expect the Participation Agreement will be executed by email to [info@osba.on.ca](mailto:info@osba.on.ca) no later than May 31, 2018.

**56. What if the person in my company who signs the Participation Agreement and whose information is provided as the responsible person changes after the Participation Agreement is signed?**

*Answer:* If you would like to change the contact person for your organization, you may provide written notice including the name, title, phone number and email of the new contact person by email to [info@osba.on.ca](mailto:info@osba.on.ca).

**57. As a school bus operator employer, how will I know if my employees meet the eligibility criteria?**

*Answer:* Please review the eligibility criteria, available [here](#), and the FAQs. Further information will also be provided to all school bus operator employers in the DRP Guide, to be distributed in the near future, and school bus operator employer training, to be held by webinar/teleconference in the near future.

**58. As a school bus operator employer, do I need to send in copies of the consent forms that I receive?**

*Answer:* No. You must retain and safeguard the signed consent forms or records of electronic forms of consent that you collect, but you should not send the consent forms to OSBA or the Service Provider unless requested by the Service Provider as part of a verification process.

**59. As a school bus operator employer, do I need to send in copies of the Exception Application Form?**

*Answer:* Yes. You must receive, verify and submit electronic copies of all Exception Application Forms provided by your participating school bus drivers with your overall claims submission form.

**60. As the employer, what if I do not agree with the contents of an Exception Application Form submitted by one of my employees?**

*Answer:* If you disagree with the contents of an Exception Application Form, discuss it with the employee. If you still disagree:

- (i) make a note on the Exception Application Form indicating why you cannot agree with its content; and
- (ii) include the school bus driver's name on appendix C of the overall claims submissions form.



## **NEW QUESTIONS – as of May 10, 2018**

- 22. Are there any exceptions to the 95% attendance requirement under criteria #6 (a)?***Answer:* Yes. The DRP is a pilot program which presents many learning opportunities. School bus operator and driver feedback is highly valued. The DRP has the authority to make exceptions to certain aspects of the eligibility criteria and will do so in Payment Period #1. Exceptions will be granted to applicants who have taken time off of work for various absences as noted in the **Exception Application Form** available for download here: <http://www.osba.on.ca/files/Exception-Application-Form-PERIOD2-2018-FINAL.pdf> during Payment Period #1, and who qualify under the remaining eligibility criteria #1 to #5. Exceptions include approved vacation, WSIB claims, short or long term disability, absences permitted by law (e.g. personal emergency days, bereavement for immediate family members, parental leave, pregnancy leave), jury duty and other approved leave (medical or otherwise). Exceptions may also be considered in other circumstances. If you were absent for a listed reason, or for a reason that you believe requires further consideration, you should complete and submit the Exception Application Form to your employer.  
*See FAQ #73 with updated information about Payment Period #2.*
- 23. Do I have to apply for an exception under criteria #6 (a) for Payment Period #1?**  
*Answer:* Yes. If you meet criteria #1 to #5 but require an exception because you do not meet the 95% attendance requirement under criteria #6 (a), you must complete an **Exception Application Form** available for download [here](#) and submit it to your employer. Every application form must be received by your school bus operator employer as soon as possible and no later than Friday, July 6, 2018. **Exceptions are not required for absences prior to May 1, 2018 for Payment Period #1.**  
*See FAQ #73 with updated information about Payment Period #2.*
- 24. What if I fill in an Exception Application Form this week and then I have to take another day off next month?**  
*Answer:* You should complete and submit another Exception Application Form for such absence (and each additional absence that is not reflected in your previous Exception Application Forms that were submitted).
- 25. Who approves my request for an exception?**  
*Answer:* Your employer will review for accuracy and completeness and then submit your Exception Application Form to the DRP for processing.
- 26. Will the same exception process be available in Payment Period #2 or Payment Period #3?**  
*Answer:* *See FAQ #78 with updated information about Payment Period #2.* Final decisions have not yet been made about Payment Period #3.

**27. Why do I need to complete a Consent Form?**

*Answer:* A Consent Form is required in order to share your personal information with someone other than your employer. Information such as your name, address and SIN number are required in order to pay a bonus to you directly and to issue you a T4 directly. Your personal information will not be accessed or used for any purpose other than to administer and evaluate the DRP. Any reports published on the DRP to develop future strategies to assist drivers and the student transportation industry will not include your personal information.

**28. Can my school bus operator employer collect my Consent Form using an electronic signature process or other electronic process?**

*Answer:* Yes. Your employer is responsible for the collection and safekeeping of all Consent Forms and may set up an electronic process to do so. Consent Forms will be retained by your employer and not submitted to any other party or agency.

**29. Will the first bonus payment affect my ability to collect Employment Insurance in July and August, 2018?**

*Answer:* The bonus should not affect your ability to obtain Employment Insurance in the months of July and August 2018 because the bonus payment will relate to services you provided prior to July 1, 2018. It is expected that the bonus will be mailed to eligible school bus drivers in September 2018. *[Note: This is an updated version of FAQ #19 previously posted and will replace that response. See FAQ #69 for updated information about the timing of the bonus payments for Payment Period #1.]*

**30. Will the bonus payment affect the amount I may receive in the future for Employment Insurance?**

*Answer:* Maybe. It is likely that the bonus will be counted as employment income once it is received. If this is something you are concerned about, you should seek advice from a professional advisor or the applicable government agency before completing either a Consent Form or an Exception Application Form agreeing to participate in the DRP.

**31. I am currently on leave. Will the bonus payment affect my ability to claim disability, maternity or other benefits?**

*Answer:* Maybe. It is likely that the bonus will be counted as employment income once it is received, which could affect your ability to claim or obtain certain benefits or the amount of those benefits. If this is something you are concerned about, you should seek advice from a professional advisor or the applicable government agency before completing either a Consent Form or an Exception Application Form agreeing to participate in the DRP. By completing the Exception Application Form, you agree to be considered for a bonus payment and to receive the bonus payment if you qualify.

**32. If I am eligible to receive a bonus, how much will the bonus be?**

*Answer:* The amount of the bonus will be up to \$1000 less deductions for Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance (both employee and employer portions) and income tax. Options are being considered at this time to maximize the amount of the bonus.

- 33. I drive students during am and pm shifts/runs to schools under one or more Eligible Education Organizations listed on the OSBA website, but I am not employed by a school bus operator that has a contract with any of the Eligible Education Organizations. Am I still eligible to receive a bonus?**

*Answer:* Yes. You will be deemed to meet criteria #1 if you drive a school bus covered by an Ontario Ministry of Transportation Commercial Vehicle Operator's Registration (CVOR) that transports students to schools under one or more of the prescribed list of Eligible Education Organization including transportation consortia, school boards, school authorities and provincial or demonstration schools. The list is available: [http://www.osba.on.ca/files/DRP-list-of-educational-organizations-2018\\_3.pdf](http://www.osba.on.ca/files/DRP-list-of-educational-organizations-2018_3.pdf). If you meet this requirement, please have your school bus operator employer email OSBA at [info@osba.on.ca](mailto:info@osba.on.ca) in order to receive a participation agreement.

- 34. If I miss my morning or afternoon shift, does it count as a half or full day off?**

*Answer:* If you regularly drive an am **and** pm shift (e.g. 5 days per week) for a school bus operator employer, but have to take off an am or pm shift one day, it will count as half a day off. However, if your employment agreement with your employer or regular work week schedule is to ONLY drive the am shifts, for example, and you miss one am shift, then it will count as a full day off since that am shift is your full day of work.

- 35. If I am a standby or spare driver and do not drive the same am and/or pm routes every school day, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* Yes. As long as you meet all other eligibility criteria. If the majority of your working time for the school bus operator employer is driving students to and from schools under one or more of the Eligible Education Organizations listed here: [http://www.osba.on.ca/files/DRP-list-of-educational-organizations-2018\\_3.pdf](http://www.osba.on.ca/files/DRP-list-of-educational-organizations-2018_3.pdf), then you will qualify to receive the bonus. *[Note: This is an updated version of FAQ #12 previously posted and will replace that response]*

- 36. I am an on-call school bus driver who is called upon by my employer to cover am and/or pm shifts that are missed/cancelled by other drivers, and sometimes I also do school field trip charters, but I do not have a regular am and/or pm shift assigned to me. Do I qualify to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* Yes. As long as you meet all other eligibility criteria. If the majority of your working time for the school bus operator employer is driving students to and from schools under one or more of the Eligible Education Organizations listed here: [http://www.osba.on.ca/files/DRP-list-of-educational-organizations-2018\\_3.pdf](http://www.osba.on.ca/files/DRP-list-of-educational-organizations-2018_3.pdf), then you would qualify to receive the bonus.

- 37. I am a charter school bus driver only who periodically transports students on various school trips and outings. I do not drive a regular home-to-school am or pm shift/run. Do I qualify to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* See [FAQ #50 with updated information](#).

- 38. If my company removes me from my 'home to school' run to do a charter, does it affect my eligibility for a bonus payment?**

*Answer:* No. You can still fulfil the eligibility requirement of continuous employment if you are employed by the same school bus operator throughout the Payment Period. In order to be eligible, your primary employment responsibility must be driving students to and from schools under one or more of the Eligible Education Organizations listed here:

[http://www.osba.on.ca/files/DRP-list-of-educational-organizations-2018\\_3.pdf](http://www.osba.on.ca/files/DRP-list-of-educational-organizations-2018_3.pdf). See criteria #2 for further details regarding “primary employment responsibility”.

**39. If I fill in for other drivers who are absent/missing for the day by doing double/triple runs (e.g. on top of my regular single am and pm routes), can I build up credit for my days off towards the 95%?**

*Answer:* No. Eligibility for the bonus is based on the percentage of your scheduled days that you work; increased work on a single day will not affect the calculation of “minimum percentage of days” under criteria #6.

**40. Why are monitors excluded from the DRP?**

*Answer:* The DRP is subject to conditions established by the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education in order to achieve the goal of improved school bus driver recruitment and retention. Monitors are not within the scope of this pilot program.

**41. If I change employers during a Payment Period, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* Maybe. Provided that your employer remains a school bus operator, you may still be eligible to qualify as long as you continue driving substantially the same route(s) throughout the Payment Period. See criteria #5 (b). If you transfer from one school bus operator employer to another due to the first employer losing routes in an RFP process or the employer returning routes to a consortia or education organization, but you remain driving substantially the same route(s), you will be eligible to receive a bonus payment.

However, if you change employers (due to personal choice or circumstances or otherwise) you will not be eligible to receive the bonus. You may be eligible during the subsequent Payment Periods as long as you meet the eligibility criteria at that time. *[Note: This is an updated version of FAQ #9 previously posted and will replace that response]*

**42. If I drive a van or mini bus for a school bus operator, am I eligible to receive a bonus?**

*Answer:* Yes. If you hold a valid Class G licence and meet all other eligibility criteria, you will be eligible to receive a bonus. See criteria #4.

**43. If I miss a month of work for any reason, but otherwise had a perfect attendance record, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* The eligibility criteria requires that you must work 95% of the school calendar days within the specified time period. For the first Payment Period, the attendance requirement applies from the date that the eligibility criteria were first announced (May 1, 2018) to the last day of the school calendar year. If you miss a month of work prior to May 1, 2018 in the first Payment Period, but otherwise meet the other eligibility criteria, you will be eligible for a bonus. If you miss more than the permitted absences after May 1, 2018, you will not meet the 95% threshold. *[Note: This is an updated version of FAQ #10 previously posted and will replace that response. See FAQ #73 for information about Payment Period #2. In Payment Period #2, the 95% requirement will apply from the beginning of your employment period, meaning the first day of your employment at any point during the first month of the Payment Period.]*

**44. Will information about the DRP be available in French?**

*Answer:* Yes. Some documents related to the DRP will be available in French in the near future, including the consent form, the exception form and the DRP Guide for use by school bus operator employers. Please check the [OSBA website](#) for updated information.

**45. Who do I contact if I have more questions about the DRP?**

**If you are a school bus driver:**

Email Address – [schoolbusdriver@deloitte.ca](mailto:schoolbusdriver@deloitte.ca); Toll-free Number – 1-833-346-6177

**If you are a school bus operator:**

Email Address – [schoolbusoperator@deloitte.ca](mailto:schoolbusoperator@deloitte.ca); Toll-free Number - 1-833-715-7360

This FAQ list will be updated periodically. *[Note: This is an updated version of FAQ #21 previously posted and will replace that response]*

## **ORIGINAL FAQs – as of April 30, 2018**

### **1. What is the DRP?**

*Answer:* The DRP is the School Bus Driver Retention Program. It is a pilot project initiated by the Ontario Ministry of Education which is comprised of a series of three separate bonus payments made directly to eligible Ontario school bus drivers. The purpose of the DRP is to enhance school bus driver recruitment and retention rates by providing a financial incentive for school bus drivers to stay on the job throughout the school year.

### **2. What are the periods of the bonus payments?**

*Answer:* Bonuses will be paid based on eligibility in three separate Payment Periods (see below). You must meet the eligibility criteria in each period to receive the bonus for that period. If you are not eligible in one period, you may become eligible in the next period.

- (b) Payment Period #1 - The first school calendar day in January 2018 to the last school calendar day in June 2018. The 95% attendance requirement (see below) in this period begins on May 1, 2018.
- (c) Payment Period #2 - The first school calendar day in September 2018 to the last school calendar day in December 2018. In this period, the 95% attendance requirement will apply from the day that you begin work, which must be before the last school calendar day of September.
- (d) Payment Period #3 - The first school calendar day in January 2019 to the last school calendar day in June 2019. In this period, the 95% attendance requirement will apply from the day that you begin work, which must be before the last school calendar day of January.

### **3. What are the bonus payments based on?**

*Answer:* Please see the specific criteria details listed on the separate web page called “Eligibility Criteria” posted on the OSBA website the following link: <http://www.osba.on.ca/files/drp-eligibility.pdf>

You must meet all of the eligibility criteria in order to receive a bonus. As a summary only, DRP eligibility involves 4 major requirements:

- (a) “Continuous Employment” – this is the minimum period of time during a Payment Period that a school bus driver must be continuously working for a school bus operator or driving substantially the same route. The eligibility criteria require “continuous employment” from the last school calendar day of the first month of the Payment Period through to and including the last school calendar day of the final month of the Payment Period.
- (b) “Attendance” – this is the minimum number of days that a school bus driver must work during an employment period (e.g. 95%). See criteria #6 (a) For the first Payment Period, the attendance requirement applies from the date that the eligibility criteria are published (May 1, 2018). You must still meet all the other eligibility requirements to receive a bonus, including continuous employment from the last school calendar day of January.

- (c) “Employment Period” – this is the time that a school bus driver is employed and paid by a school bus operator. To be eligible, your “employment period” must begin during the first month of a Payment Period and continue to the last day of the Payment Period.
- (d) “Primary Employment Responsibility” – individuals receiving a bonus must either have an agreement with a school bus operator that states that they are employed as a school bus driver, or work in the capacity of a school bus driver for the majority of their working time for the school bus operator each week.

**4. How do I know if I am eligible to receive a bonus payment?**

*Answer:* Your employer will determine your eligibility for each Payment Period based on the eligibility criteria posted on the OSBA website at the following link:

<http://www.osba.on.ca/files/drp-eligibility.pdf>

**5. As a School Bus Driver, what do I need to do to receive my bonus?**

*Answer:* All you will be required to do is sign a consent form and provide it to your employer. Your signed consent will allow your personal information to be shared with OSBA, the Service Provider (Deloitte) and the Ontario Ministry of Education. Personal information will be used to administer the bonus payments, complete required tax forms and conduct research and analysis on the DRP and School Bus Driver workforce.

**6. Where do I obtain a consent form?**

*Answer:* Your employer will have the consent form for you to complete and return to them (either manually or electronically). The form is also available on the OSBA website which can be downloaded and returned to your employer from the following link:

<http://www.osba.on.ca/files/Consent-Form-DRP-School-Bus-Drivers-Final2.pdf>

**7. For the first Payment Period, if I became a school bus driver in February 2018 or later and did not miss a single day of work through to the end of June 2018, will I meet the eligibility criteria?**

*Answer:* No. In order to qualify you must be employed as a school bus driver on or before the last school calendar day of the first month of the Payment Period. For the Payment Period ending in June 2018, this means you will need to have been an employee with a school bus operator employer on or before January 31, 2018. However, you may be eligible during the subsequent Payment Periods as long as you meet the eligibility criteria at that time.

**8. For the first Payment Period, if I was in unpaid training to be a school bus driver on February 1, 2018 or later, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* No. In order to be eligible you need to have been a paid employee of a school bus operator employer (not an unpaid trainee) on or before January 31, 2018. However, you may be eligible during the subsequent Payment Periods as long as you meet the eligibility criteria at that time.

**9. If I change employers during a Payment Period, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* See FAQ #41 with updated information.

**10. If I miss a month of work for any reason, but otherwise had a perfect attendance record, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* [See FAQ #43 with updated information.](#)

**11. If I drive students to a private school, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* [See FAQ #48 with updated information.](#)

**12. If I am a standby driver and do not drive the same routes every day, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* [See FAQ #35 with updated information.](#)

**13. If I work every day as a school bus driver but also work in my employer's office or maintenance area doing other jobs, will I be eligible to receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* [See FAQ #67 with updated information.](#)

**14. I work part-time at another job in addition to driving a school bus, will I receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* Yes. The eligibility criteria is concerned with the period of time you work for the school bus operator, not the time you work for others.

**15. I have worked every day as a school bus driver. I have never missed a day but in April I chose to move to a new community and I applied to work with a new school bus company. Will I still receive the bonus?**

*Answer:* No. In order to meet the eligibility criteria, you must work for the same school bus operator or drive substantially the same route(s) throughout the Payment Period. If you meet the eligibility criteria in subsequent Payment Periods, you may qualify for the bonus at that time.

**16. When will I receive my bonus payments?**

*Answer:* [See FAQ #69 with updated information.](#)

**17. How will I receive my bonus payment?**

*Answer:* If you are eligible, you will receive a cheque directly mailed to your home address issued by the Service Provider (Deloitte).

**18. How do I know if my employer is participating in the program?**

*Answer:* You need to speak with your employer directly and enquire with them.

**19. Will the bonus payment affect my ability to collect employment insurance in July and August?**

*Answer:* [See FAQs #29 and #30 with updated information.](#)



**20. If I receive a bonus payment, do I need to report it as income for income tax purposes?**

*Answer:* Yes. A T4 slip will be issued to each school bus driver from OSBA (not your employer) by the end of February in the year following the payment of the bonus.

**21. Who do I contact if I have any questions about the DRP?**

*Answer:* [See FAQ #44 with updated information.](#)