

Return to School – Transportation Update Hamilton, Ontario – September 4, 2020: The following is a joint statement from Patrick Daly, Chairperson of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDsB) and Alex Johnstone, Chair of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB):

*“Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) has advised both HWDSB and HWCDsB that serious delays in student transportation services are expected for the return to school as a result of the ongoing school bus driver shortage which this year has been compounded by increased concerns around COVID-19.*

Bus schedules, which will be shared with families early next week, are subject to change as boards receive new information from families who have opted out of transportation and indicated remote, virtual/online learning.

Parents and guardians can access their child/ren’s bus route information through the HWSTS Parent Portal on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Families are asked to check the HWSTS Parent Portal frequently and before the first bus pick-up to ensure the most up-to-date times.

Parents are cautioned that bus delays are anticipated.

Enhanced public health measures are in place for school buses. Additional cleaning protocols are being implemented, including disinfecting bus seats in between bus routes. HWCDsB and

HWDSB are committed to a safe return to school. We are using the additional COVID-19 relief funding from the Federal and Provincial governments to limit the impact of the bus driver shortage.”