School Transportation Costs
FAQ's

1) A base 50 km route (one route/one vehicle) costs $34,500/year; a base 50 km double run route (two schools served, one after the other) costs $38,500/year total. Costs increase with each km over 50. Therefore, if a secondary school is part of double run bus route, the secondary portion costs $19,250/year.

2) Student city bus passes are $42.50/month (=$425/year) per student. A full yellow bus holds 48 students. Therefore, 48 x $425 = $20,400/year. The added cost to increase a student city bus pass to unlimited usage is $6.50/month, subject to any City Transit conditions.

3) The main variable which drives up busing cost is the length of the route in distance (under our formula we pay a certain amount per kilometre of route travel) and there is not a big enough difference in average route lengths across each school for costs to vary too much between them.

4) The analysis of transportation costs is complicated by the fact that each school's bus system is different from each of the other schools in terms of:

i) Mix of small and large vehicles (large buses cost more to operate than small but have the potential to carry many more students at a cheaper cost per student).

ii) Loading of each vehicle (the optimal load for a large school bus is 48 secondary students but not all buses are loaded to capacity and this can vary cost per student for individual routes).

iii) Kilometres travelled by route (as noted, this a key variable and a long route carrying the same number of students as a small route costs a great deal more to operate).

iv) Level of double running of school buses with other schools (by varying bell times, buses serve two schools, back to back, thus defraying costs over more students).

v) Level of seat sharing with other schools (some buses have a mixed load of students from different schools riding at the same time and drop students at successive schools as part of one trip).

3) Not included are any extra-billed, dedicated special needs vehicle costs for any of the schools in the calculations because, regardless of school of attendance, the vast majority of students with special needs would be transported, regardless of whether or not they are within walking distance and, therefore, the cost of transport would not vary significantly if their vehicle were pointed to any of the schools in the City.

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Transport Cost/Student/School	*2010/11 Revised*
Adam Scott	**$1,178.71**
Kenner	**$1,208.43**
PCVS	**$1,505.19**
Thomas A. Stewart	**$1,115.62**

4) The explanation for Adam Scott's lower cost lies in the school enjoying the benefit of a much more tightly networked and shared bus system (i.e. students ride together with students from other schools and cost is therefore shared and the cost of longer routes is disproportionately covered by the denser, elementary school load as a result).

5) PCVS has the greatest average student transport cost ($200+ per student greater than the other schools). This is because many of the school's routes are long, in terms of distance, as they collect Integrated Arts Program students outside of the City of Peterborough, while at the same time, the nature of the necessary bus routing limits potential sharing with other schools. Included for PCVS is the amount for eligible students transported by City Transit in Peterborough. Monthly passes for, on average, 60 students per month cost $42.50/month x 60 x 10 months = $25,500/year.