

LEGISLATIVE RETURN



SUBMITTED BY: Hon. Ms. McLean, Minister of Education

1. On [date], [MLA]
- asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) [page numbers] of *Hansard*
 - submitted the following written question – WQ No. #
 - gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. #

RE: [subject]

OR

2. This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion with Scott Kent, Member for Copperbelt South on November 22, 2021 related to:

Bill No. 202

Second Reading Third Reading

Committee of the Whole: Vote 03 Education

Motion No. #

RE: Busing arrival standards

at page(s) 979 of *Hansard*.

The response is as follows:

Buses routes are scheduled to arrive before the bell.

Like many other jurisdictions Yukon is facing a driver shortage and we are working with our contractor, Standard Bus, to support them in their recruitment efforts. Combined with the pandemic, this is a challenging time. And, in some cases, unfortunately, the busing contractor has had to cancel routes for the day or there are impacts to the route schedule.

We acknowledge the impact cancelled bus routes can have on families. We are working with Standard Bus to find solutions whenever possible. Sometimes, they are able to combine routes or have a driver cover two routes. We are doing our best to get as many students to school as possible on a daily basis.

In some cases, we are aware that students are arriving after the morning bell and are actively working with Standard Bus on solutions that will minimize instances where services are being impacted.

Regarding Bus #35, children for École Whitehorse Elementary School (EWES) are transferring to bus #34 which goes to ESES and École Emilie-Tremblay (EET) [along with the South Klondike, South Alaska and Country Residential students], which then proceeds downtown to EWES.

There are 26 students for EWES, who have been arriving after the school bell at 8:30 a.m. This is not a planned route arrival time but rather a response to driver shortages that allows for all bus riders to continue receiving school bus service.

Bus #35 (which is supposed to be the EWES bus), is servicing all of the students in the Copper Ridge / Granger area for EET and ESES, instead of Bus #28 which has been impacted due to the driver shortages.

As an option, we have explored is having bus #35 not service Copper Ridge and Granger and have the students who are (mostly all) within walking distance of EET and ESES have no service until a driver can be found for Bus #28.

We will continue to work with Standard Bus to ensure minimal disruptions to busing service and we appreciate how flexible families have been. Standard Bus is responsible for notifying schools and families when there are bus route cancellations.

We are working with Standard to ensure notifications are sent out as early as possible.

December 2, 2021
Date


Signature