



Board Policy 17

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Board believes in the provision of safe transportation for students from their designated pick up point to their designated school and back.

The Board also believes it is appropriate, when numbers warrant, for the Division to provide School of Choice transportation, for students to access programs which are not available at their designated school. However, School of Choice transportation, by school bus, is not guaranteed.

Definitions

Eligible Students: students attending their designated school who reside 1.6 km or more away (Kindergarten - Grade 6) or 2 km or more away (Grades 7-12).

Ineligible Students: students who reside less than 1.6 km away (Kindergarten – Grade 6) or less than 2 km away (Grades 7-12) from the school they are attending.

School of Choice: students attending a school other than their designated school who reside 1.6 km or more away (Kindergarten to Grade 6) or 2 km or more away (Grades 7-12).

Specifically

1. Registration is required for all students requesting transportation services from the Division.
2. Under normal circumstances, only registered passengers will be transported.
3. The Board will provide for the transportation for the following students:
 - 3.1 Kindergarten to Grade 6 – the student resides 1.6 kilometres or more from their designated school; and
 - 3.2 Grades 7 to 12 – the student resides 2.0 kilometres or more from their designated school.
 - 3.3 The 1.6 km and 2.0 km walk boundary is based on Alberta Education funding. The eligibility distance will be calculated using the shortest driving distance between the student's residence and the school, based on the Division's transportation software.
4. A transportation fee will be charged annually for all riders. The fee will be determined by the Board annually.
5. The Board recognizes the Education Act provides choice for parents in the matter of which school they may wish to have their children attend. When exercising such choice, parents accept responsibility for transportation. Students wishing to attend a School of Choice must

receive approval annually from the Principal of the requested school and is based upon availability of room and resources.

6. The Board may provide transportation to Ineligible Students and students who are attending a School of Choice; provided:
 - 6.1.1 There is space available on the bus;
 - 6.1.2 The bus does not have to be diverted from the regular approved route; and
 - 6.1.3 That any applicable fees are paid.
7. In some instances, School of Choice students may only be accommodated by meeting an existing regular program bus on route in the attendance area of that school.
8. This policy shall apply to eligible passengers attending Kindergarten through Grade 12.
9. The boarding allowance and associated revenues provided by Alberta Education will be forwarded to the parent/guardian of the student qualifying for this financial support as per the Funding Manual for School Authorities.
10. Non-resident students not covered by a transportation agreement who have been authorized to access transportation services will be charged a fee which is established by the Board annually.
11. Transportation routes will be reviewed annually to provide safe, caring and efficient transportation of students.
12. Kindergarten students registered in half day programs will only be transported one way.

Legal Reference: Section 3, 7, 11, 31, 32, 33, 51, 52, 53, 59, 222 Education Act
Traffic Safety Act
Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation 121/2009
School Transportation Regulation
Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation 304/2002
Vehicle Equipment Regulation 122/2009
Funding Manual for School Authorities