

Policy 18

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Board will provide a transportation service, for its student population, that is safe, caring, comfortable, economical and timely.

Specifically

1. According to Education Act (Section 59) and School Transportation Regulation, eligible transported students shall be those students if:
 - 1.1 the student resides within the attendance area established by the board for the school,
 - 1.2 the student resides within the boundaries of the school division, and
 - 1.3 the student must reside at a distance of at least 2.4 kilometres from the site of the school.
2. Distances will be established and measured by the Division's transportation department.
3. Students will be deemed to be an eligible transported student if they are directed to a school that is not their resident school based on current transportation boundaries.
4. When the Board closes out a school or all classes of a grade in a school, transportation will be provided to students who would normally have attended classes in that school and must now be relocated to another school provided the eligibility requirements of Section 1 are met.
5. Ineligible riders may be allowed to ride with a user fee providing:
 - 5.1 There are available empty seats on the bus, and
 - 5.2 Bus stops are controllable and reasonable.
 - 5.3 Accommodating the ineligible rider is financially feasible.
6. Ineligible riders will be added to bus routes on a first-come, first-served basis.
7. It is the responsibility of the parent to provide transportation personnel with a written schedule for children who have multi-drop scheduling.
8. Unless directed by the Board of Trustees, eligible transported students who reside in separate school districts of the Division shall have the option of using Parent/Guardian Provided Transportation.
 - 8.1 The Division will remunerate families who were directed to provide eligible transported students with Parent/Guardian Provided Transportation at a rate equal to the amount of Transportation grant funding received for those students.

User Fees

1. No parent shall pay a fee that is prohibited by the Student Transportation regulation
2. Parents shall be provided with the opportunity to be consulted annually on fees and will be provided with what services and/or supports are provided by the fees prior to a fee being charged.
3. The Board shall approve the Division Fee Schedule for students during the Spring budgeting process.
4. The Division will support a transparent fee waiver procedure for families of students who are eligible for transportation funding if they meet the criteria laid out in Administrative Procedure 505. The fee waiver is not applicable for other transportation fees charged or for students who are not eligible for transportation funding.
5. If a parent no longer requires ineligible service, the Division will refund parents on a prorated basis based on how many complete months of service are remaining in the school year.
6. Transportation Service may be denied to students due to non-payment of transportation fees.
4. Parent disputes on fees shall be subject to appeal to the Secretary-Treasurer.

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