

## Policy 17 - Student Transportation

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The Board establishes attendance boundaries for each school.

Within each attendance boundary, bus routes are designed to pick up students attending their designated school. Routes are designed taking into account student safety, average ride times and efficiency.

1. Alberta Education requires school boards to provide transportation to students who reside at a distance of 1.0 kilometre or further for grades ECS-6 and 2.0 kilometres or further for grades 7-12 to and from the student's designated school.
  - 1.1. The Board reserves the right to determine distance eligibility exceeding that mandated by Alberta Education on an annual basis.
2. Where a student is in a shared custody agreement and is living (by court order or court agreement) at two residences, transportation may be provided to both residences to the school of the student(s). Consideration for services is as follows:
  - 2.1 Where the school the student is enrolled in is outside the boundaries of both residences, procedures apply for transportation (see section 7). Depending on the specific situation, the Superintendent may designate a school in the best interests of the child, subject to availability of transportation services.
  - 2.2 Transportation services are only available if there are existing services to the school within the student residence area. Provided transportation services are available in the area of the student, the bus will be rerouted to accommodate the student where either residence is within the attendance boundary of the school.
3. The Board will not normally approve pick-ups or drop-offs within a town, hamlet or village limit if a student's designated school is situated there. The Board will consider individual applications for bus pick-up within town, hamlet or village limits in special needs cases and fees may apply.
  - 3.1 Under this section and where the student resides within the same town, hamlet or village as the school or school bus pick-up, if the student would need to cross a highway, and where there is no controlled intersection and speed of the highway is in excess of 60 km per hour, transportation services will be provided.
4. The Board may, from time to time, find it necessary to alter attendance area boundaries where problems arise due to geography, transportation route changes, establishing equitable attendance areas for schools, and/or full-classroom situations.

5. Students, whose place of residence changes from one attendance area to another during the school year, may finish the year at the school in which they began the year; however, transportation may not be available.

6. Resident students who are directed by the Superintendent or the Board to enrol in a school other than the students' designated schools for sound educational reasons will be provided with transportation as in section 1 above. Sound educational reasons include, but are not limited to, special education programming. Notwithstanding, there may be other students living in the same residence who are transported by other bus(es) to a different school/program.

7. Students may enrol in a school other than their designated school (a school of choice) and transportation may be provided so long as the factors below are met:

7.1 room and resources are available at the school to appropriately meet the student's needs as per legislation, regulation and policy.

7.2 Providing there is an existing bus route and room available on the bus;

7.3 Provided there is room on the bus where there is no existing bus route a school of choice student may be permitted to meet a bus at a designated stop on an existing route, which is determined by the Director of Transportation Services. Parents are responsible for transporting the student to and from the specified stop.

8. It is the responsibility of the Principal to inform parents of this policy in school of choice cases during the enrolment processes.

9. The Board establishes and collects transportation fees where necessary. Should fees be established, it will be done in accordance with Alberta Government regulations and at rates established in accordance with Board policy.

#### Annual Review of Fees

9.1 Fees shall be reviewed annually by the Board and established no later than June preceding the school year the fees shall come into effect.

9.2 Fees shall in general consider cost escalation over time to address cost of living adjustments.

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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 96/2019  
Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation 304/2002  
Vehicle Equipment Regulation 122/2009  
Funding Manual for School Authorities

Effective: May 11, 1995

Amended: November 10, 2020, January 25, 2024, June 20, 2024