



# Board Policy 17

## Student Transportation Services

The Board of Trustees believes student safety is of paramount importance in the operating of the transportation system.

Boards are required to provide transportation for students who reside more than 2.4 km from their designated schools. However, the Board permits other students to access available space at existing stops on existing routes.

Transportation routes support the school attendance boundaries.

The Board may set fees for transportation services as per the current AB ED Funding Manual.

The Board may enter into transportation agreements with other boards.

### Specifically

1. The Superintendent or designate shall be responsible for designing safe, efficient, effective transportation services and may adjust, eliminate, establish or alter routes at any time during the year.

2. **Registration and Application Process**

All riders are category A or B. Students who are eligible for transportation and/or those requesting courtesy service must apply. See Request for Transportation Services Form (see Form 18-1). The Superintendent, or designate, approves the applications and in a timely manner notifies the applicant. Applications are approved according to the following order of priority.

3. **Order of Priority for Service**

A. *Essential Service - Distance 2.4+ km to designated school or students with special needs directed to an out-of-area school.*

3.1. Distance

Students residing more than 2.4 km from their designated school are eligible for transportation services to that school. Registration and approval is considered continuous unless the student moves or changes school.

3.2. a. Exceptional Special Needs

Students with exceptional special needs may be directed to a school when services or programs are unavailable in the designated school. Students are eligible for



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transportation services or support for parent transportation to the directed school (subject to approval from the Superintendent or designate).

b. Out of School Areas

Direction to attend an out-of-area school shall continue from year to year provided that the condition under which the direction was granted continues to exist.

B. Courtesy Service - (listed by priority)

*Courtesy service is subject to availability and expires at the end of the school year in which it is offered. Parents must apply annually for courtesy service.*

### 3.3 Safety Considerations

Students residing within the 2.4 km distance may access transportation if the walk to their designated school poses significant safety hazards (e.g. crossing a highway, outside town boundaries) subject to available space on existing routes.

### 3.4 Elementary Students

Students K-6 residing further than 0.75 km from their designated school may access transportation to that school.

### 3.5 Junior/ Senior High Students

Students in grades 7-12 residing within 2.4 km of their designated school may access transportation to that school, subject to availability on existing routes, at existing stops.

### 3.6 Program of Choice (i.e., a school other than the designated school)

Subject to annual renewal students attending a program of choice may access transportation to the program of choice, subject to available space, at an existing stop, on an existing route. Parents are responsible for making appropriate arrangements for supervision of their child at the stop. Appropriate arrangements include written consent and agreement to provide supervision from the residents at the existing stop. Parents must contact the Transportation Supervisor for information regarding the supervision requirements.

### 3.7 Children Drop Off/Pickup

A parent may request, with sufficient notice, that his/her child be picked up/dropped off at a *regular* caregiver's location rather than the child's place of residence. If these

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#### GOLDEN HILLS SCHOOL DIVISION

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NEW POLICY

BOARD APPROVAL:

MOTION NO.

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arrangements require the student to be transported on a different bus from his/her regular route, approval is subject to availability of a seat on the other bus. Requests will be approved by the Superintendent, or designate, only if the caregiver's location is on an established bus route.

#### 4. Other Considerations

Materials required for a student's program at school may be transported on the school bus provided the size, weight, or nature of the materials do not compromise the safety of students. A driver may refuse to transport items that he/she deems to be a danger to the safety of the students.

#### Legal Reference:

- School Act, R.S.A. 2000, C. S-3, S. 51, 52, 53, 60, 62
- Traffic Safety Act, R.S.A. 2000, C. T-6
- Alberta Education Funding Manual