

## **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION**

The Board will provide transportation services in a safe, economical, and efficient manner to students of the Division to ensure access and regular attendance.

### **Guiding Principles**

1. The safety of students is the first priority.
2. Routes will be established to minimize the mileage and time traveled by students.
3. Inter-provincial agreements or letters of understanding will require board approval.
4. Agreements or letters of understanding with other Divisions or First Nations for transportation will require board approval.

### **Rural Student Transportation**

1. Buses are to be restricted to provincial highways, municipal roads and approved yard service.
2. Routes will be designed with a targeted maximum ride time of 75 minutes. Exceptions to the targeted 75-minute ride time may occur in extenuating circumstances such as, but not limited to the following:
  - 2.1 Alternate school choice
  - 2.2 Geographic barriers
  - 2.3 Extreme isolation
  - 2.4 Dense population
3. Transportation will be provided to the designated school to and from the student's designated home location.
  - 3.1 Exceptions to the designated home location may be granted in extenuating circumstances. The Division may allow for a regular alternate pickup and drop off location. This location must be a home or designated stop. This alternate location must not cause deviation of more than one mile from the regular route, nor shall the targeted total ride time of the route exceed 75 minutes as a result.
    - 3.1.1. An alternate pickup and drop off location is a designated location other than the home location.

## **Urban Student Transportation**

1. Students in Yorkton and Melville will be provided transportation based on the following criteria:
  - 1.1. Elementary school students who reside within the catchment area of the school they are attending and live outside a radius of 300 Metre (walk zone) from the school.
  - 1.2. High school students who reside within the catchment area of the school they are attending and live outside a radius of 500 Metre (walk zone) from the school.
  - 1.3. Students who are required by the Division to attend a school other than their primary school.
  - 1.4. Students who are required to walk a route to school that is considered to be hazardous.
2. Students who reside within the boundary of a town or village are not provided with transportation services to and from school.
  - 2.1. In rare circumstances transportation may be considered when extreme safety factors exist. Each situation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## **Out of Attendance Area Transportation**

1. Each student in the Division resides within a defined attendance area.
2. Students who reside within the attendance area will be provided with busing, contracted service or parent reimbursement at Board approved rates to the school in that attendance area.
3. While families are typically responsible for the transportation for students attending schools outside their designated area, the Board may approve busing in extenuating circumstances. The Transportation Committee, consisting of three Board members, the Director of Education, and the Transportation Manager, along with other appointed staff, presents decisions on out-of-area transportation requests to the Board of Education for approval.
4. Urban students in Yorkton and Melville that have obtained permission from the Division to attend a school outside of their designated attendance area may access transportation from an existing stop on a bus route.

## **Border Dweller Status**

1. When the section of land on which a family resides has an attendance boundary dividing the section which is not a municipal roadway, therefore eliminating the possibility of having lane access toward the boundary, the family will be given a "school of choice" provision with the following conditions:
  - 1.1 If the school bus must cross an attendance boundary, it is not travelling more than 1 km in one direction into the other attendance boundary, or

- 1.2 If it is determined that exceeding the 1km distance is deemed to be less impactful on existing bus routes and families along those routes.
2. When the quarter section of land on which a family resides touches an existing attendance boundary, they will be given "school of choice" provision with the following conditions:
  - 2.2 If the school bus is not travelling more than 1 km in one direction into the attendance boundary, or
  - 2.3 If it is determined that exceeding the 1km distance is deemed to be less impactful on existing bus routes and families along those routes.
3. The following considerations of the Transportation Committee may result in exceptions to the policy:
  - 3.1 Current/future impact on the school and families on the route (student ride time).
  - 3.2 The location and proximity to existing routes.
  - 3.3 Additional cost to the Board, resulting from new routes.
  - 3.4 Safety issues impacting students.
4. In the event that Border Dweller status is denied:
  - 4.1 Families not meeting the criteria for a "Border Dweller" may apply to have "courtesy ridership" for their children from a "host family". Families wishing to have "courtesy ridership" are required to find a family who is willing to "host" their children.
5. Host Families are defined as:
  - 5.1 Families on an existing stop along a current bus route who allow "courtesy riders" to access transportation from their property.
  - 5.2 Host families may choose to discontinue this status at any time.

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