

YARD SERVICE

Background

The Division has a responsibility to ensure that the transportation service provided to students is both safe and efficient. With regard to rural transportation services, the school division may provide yard service to students when safety is a concern. When required, the service will be provided at no charge to the recipient.

Procedures

1. Criteria

- 1.1 Age of the student, time of pickup, length of laneway, medical conditions and safety will be the determining factors with regard to required yard service. These factors will be considered in conjunction with other criteria such as age of siblings.

2. Conditions for Safety Concerns

- 2.1 Should the student have to cross a highway or railway track to board, or after exiting a bus, yard service will be provided. However, if this is the single determining factor, yard service may be provided as follows: if in the morning a crossing is required to board a bus but is not required in the evening, then the morning service would occur in the yard and not the evening.
- 2.2 Some students board buses while it is still dark outside and the age of the student may cause a safety concern. Students who are age 12 and under, who do not have an older sibling on the bus, and are being picked up prior to 7:45 a.m. will receive yard service, providing eligibility is met. Yard service would continue for the winter months of the school year in which the age requirement is attained.

3. Eligibility

- 3.1 A residence with a laneway in excess of 500 meters (0.50 km) from the road allowance (fence line) **will** receive yard service free of charge for the winter months of November 1 to March 31.
- 3.2 A residence with a laneway of 300 to 500 meters (0.30 to 0.50 km) from the road allowance (fence line) **may** be eligible for yard service for a fee determined by the Board, provided the criteria is met, and will be for the winter months of November 1 to March 31.

- 3.3 A residence with a laneway of less than 300 meters (0.30 km) from the road allowance **will not** be eligible for yard service unless a documented medical or safety issue is present.
4. A bus is a large vehicle and requires a considerable amount of space to manoeuvre within a yard. To be eligible for yard service and/or when yard service is provided, the following conditions must be met:
 - 4.1 A designated area must be identified as a turnaround point within the yard. This area must be kept free of obstacles. Once established and identified, the driver will have the final say as to the yard accessibility. Yards that will qualify for service will be determined by the driver. Yards that are questionable will be reviewed by the Transportation Manager or designate.
 - 4.2 The laneway and yard must be free of obstruction and well maintained, with adequate gravel and snow removal being the primary requirements. There must be no overhead or adjacent obstructions which may cause damage to the bus (overhanging trees along the lane, fences etc.). It is also recommended that pets or other animals be restrained or removed from the yard to prevent harm to them – the school division will assume no fault or responsibility should they be injured.
 - 4.3 Should a bus become stuck in a yard due to poor maintenance of the laneway or designated turnaround area, it will be the responsibility of the resident to provide a solution. Any cost for towing, winching and or damage to the bus will be the resident's responsibility. Should another bus be required to come for the students, an additional charge may be levied to the resident. If weather conditions occur that affect the ability of the bus to get in or out of the yard, the resident must call the driver and inform him/her of the condition.
 - 4.4 In the event that damage occurs to the resident's personal property along the laneway or in the designated turnaround area, it will not be the Division's responsibility to make restitution.