



Memorandum

Date: February 21, 2020
To: Board of Education
From: Ryan Stierman, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Action Item: **Transportation Recommendations from the February 12, 2020 Public Board Meeting**

1.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

Public Board Meeting – February 12, 2020

Main 20P-025 as amended by 20P-026

THAT: The Board of Education set the eligibility walk limits as 3.0 km for elementary students, 4.0 km for middle students, and 4.8 km for secondary students.

Main 20P-027 as amended by 20P-029

THAT: The Board of Education set the transportation fee of \$300 using the no route cap scenario, as attached to the Agenda and presented at the February 12, 2020 Public Board Meeting.

Main 20P-030

THAT: The Board of Education refer the following Motions: Main 20P-025 as amended by 20P-026, and Main 20P-027 as amended by 20P-029, as well as the approval of the transportation registration opening date of March 2, 2020 and closing date of May 31, 2020 to the February 26, 2020 Public Board Meeting.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Formed in the 2018-19 school year in response to increasing community demands and unsustainable cost increases in Transportation, the Transportation Task Force Steering Committee was established by the Board of Education to make recommendations to create a sustainable transportation system that better meets the needs of the community.

As part of its work, the Transportation Task Force Steering Committee conducted a comprehensive community consultation that consisted of two surveys and five public consultation sessions. With over 3,500 responses and over 100 parents that attended the public sessions, the Steering Committee was provided with significant feedback to develop its recommendations.

All of the timelines, presentations and survey results for the Committee's work is published on the [Transportation Review Website](#).

At the February 5, 2020 Planning and Facilities Committee Meeting, the Committee referred the Transportation Task Force Steering Committee's recommendations to the February 12, 2020 Public Board Meeting and asked for additional information on different eligibility limits and fee amounts.

At the February 12, 2020 Public Board Meeting, the Board moved to amend some of the recommendations and referred the motions to the February 26, 2020 Public Board Meeting along with the other recommendations of the Transportation Task Force Steering Committee.

3.0 INFORMATION STATEMENT

Currently, the Board of Education has amended or confirmed five of the recommendations from the Steering Committee. The current status of recommended policy changes is as follows:

Policy	Current Policy	Task Force Recommendation	Board Revised/Affirmed Recommendation
Transportation fee	\$225	\$450	\$300
Elementary Eligibility Limit	4.0 km	3.0 km	3.0 km
Middle School Eligibility Limit	4.8 km	3.6 km	4.0 km
Secondary School Eligibility Limit	4.8 km	4.8 km	4.8 km
Registration Deadline	N/A	May 31	May 31
Fee Subsidy – Addtl Income based method	N/A	Include	
Secondary Students in areas with adequate transit service	N/A	Service is discontinued	
Courtesy seats for students under 2.0 kms	Allow	Disallow	
Courtesy seat assignment priority	Only on distance	Priority first to Elementary and Middle School students then based on distance	
Removing courtesy riders to accommodate new eligible riders	Allow	Remove from policy and discontinue practice	
Additional fee for students that require more than one route	N/A	Additional fee is charged if a seat is available	
Restriction on bus transfers and how many students can be at a bus stop	No transfers permitted and only 15 students per stop	Remove restriction	
Ride time guideline	40 minutes	60 minutes	

Busing service if fees are outstanding	N/A	All outstanding fees must be paid, arranged for payment or subsidized to receive busing service.	
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4.0 BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT: The Board of Education set the eligibility walk limits as 3.0 km for elementary students, 4.0 km for middle students, and 4.8 km for secondary students.

THAT: The Board of Education set the transportation fee of \$300 using the no route cap scenario, as attached to the Agenda and presented at the February 12, 2020 Public Board Meeting.

THAT: The Board of Education set the transportation registration opening date to March 2, 2020 and closing date of May 31, 2020.

5.0 STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT: The Board of Education approves the amendments to Regulation 425R – Student Fees (Regulations), as attached to the Agenda and makes the following substantive changes to the existing regulation:

Addition of a new criteria to also allow for a subsidy under income thresholds.

THAT: The Board of Education approves the rewrite to Regulation 470R – Transportation Services Management (Regulation) Guiding Principles for Transportation in Central Okanagan Public Schools, as attached to the Agenda and makes the following substantive changes to the existing regulation:

Registration deadline set to May 31. Late applications for eligible students will be accommodated if there is an empty seat.

Eligibility for secondary students can be removed if the area they reside in has been deemed to have adequate transit service.

Courtesy seats will not be provided to students that reside less than 2.0 kms from their catchment school.

Courtesy seats will first be provided to elementary and middle school students based on distance. Any remaining seats will be provided to secondary students based on distance.

The practice to remove courtesy riders from a seat during the year to accommodate new eligible riders is discontinued.

An additional fee will be charged for students that require more than one route.

The restriction on bus transfers and bus stop limits is eliminated.

Increase of ride time guideline to 60 minutes.

All outstanding fees must be paid, arranged for payment or subsidized to receive busing service.

6.0 APPENDICES

- A. Memo to Board of Education - February 12, 2020 Public Board Meeting (without appendix)
- B. Amended 425R – Student Fees (Regulations)
- C. Rewritten 470R – Transportation Services Management (Regulations) Guiding Principles for Transportation in Central Okanagan Public Schools
- D. Current 470R – Transportation Services Management (Regulations) Guiding Principles for Transportation in Central Okanagan Public Schools



Memorandum

Date: February 7, 2020
To: Board of Education
From: Ryan Stierman, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Action Item: Transportation Task Force Steering Committee Recommendations

1.0 BACKGROUND

At the February 5, 2020 Planning and Facilities Committee meeting, the Committee reviewed the recommendations of the Transportation Task Force Steering Committee.

The Planning and Facilities Committee passed the following Motion:

THAT: The recommendations from the Transportation Task Force Steering Committee be referred to the February 12, 2020 Public Board Meeting for discussion.

After reviewing the recommendations, the Planning and Facilities Committee also directed staff to provide additional options, including alternate fee amounts and eligibility limits, related to the proposed Transportation Task Force Steering Committee's Recommendations for the Board to consider at the February 12, 2020 Public Board Meeting.

The Committee also agreed that any recommendations made at the February 12, 2020 meeting could be referred to a Special Planning and Facilities Committee Meeting for final recommendations to the February 26, 2020 Public Board Meeting or be referred directly to the February 26, 2020 Public Board Meeting.

In response to the request from the Committee, the following analysis is being included detailing the financial impact of various eligibility distances and fee scenarios. For ease of review of the analysis, the operating subsidy amounts have been coded red if they increase the operating subsidy from current levels, yellow if it remains relatively the same and green if it reduces the operating subsidy from current levels. The eligibility limits have been colour coded green if it matches the feedback received from the public consultations and red if it does not match the feedback received.

Scenario Financial Analysis

Eligibility Limits			No route cap*									
			# of riders			Addtl Routes	Projected Operating Subsidy @ Fee					
EY	MY	SS	Eligible	Courtesy	Total		\$ 225	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 400	\$ 450
3.0	3.6	4.8	4,575	1,217	5,792	5	3,590,793	3,491,618	3,286,318	3,081,018	2,875,718	2,670,418
3.0	4.0	4.8	4,344	1,363	5,707	3	3,450,793	3,351,618	3,150,568	2,949,518	2,748,468	2,547,418
3.6	4.0	4.8	4,151	1,521	5,672	2	3,380,793	3,281,618	3,082,318	2,883,018	2,683,718	2,484,418
3.0	4.4	4.8	4,117	1,533	5,650	2	3,381,343	3,282,168	3,082,868	2,883,568	2,684,268	2,484,968
4.0	4.8	4.8	3,555	1,999	5,554	0	3,241,343	3,142,168	2,948,768	2,755,368	2,561,968	2,368,568

*Routes are added in order to ensure courtesy riders that rode in 2019-20 continue to be provided a seat

Eligibility Limits			Route cap**									
			# of riders - Route cap			Addtl Routes***	Projected Operating Subsidy @ Fee					
EY	MY	SS	Eligible	Courtesy	Total		\$ 225	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 400	\$ 450
3.0	3.6	4.8	4,575	1,078	5,653	2	3,415,543	3,316,368	3,118,018	2,919,668	2,721,318	2,522,968
3.0	4.0	4.8	4,344	1,249	5,593	1	3,330,543	3,231,368	3,030,018	2,828,668	2,627,318	2,425,968
3.6	4.0	4.8	4,151	1,403	5,554	0	3,241,343	3,142,168	2,948,768	2,755,368	2,561,968	2,368,568
3.0	4.4	4.8	4,117	1,437	5,554	0	3,241,343	3,142,168	2,948,768	2,755,368	2,561,968	2,368,568
4.0	4.8	4.8	3,555	1,999	5,554	0	3,241,343	3,142,168	2,948,768	2,755,368	2,561,968	2,368,568

** Routes are only added if there are not enough courtesy riders to remove from seats to accommodate the additional eligible riders

*** Routes still required to be added in the Upper Mission area as there are not sufficient Middle and Secondary courtesy riders to remove to accommodate the additional eligible riders

The memo provided to the Planning and Facilities Committee is included as Appendix A.

The memo details the recommendations that were brought forward after an extensive public consultation that resulted in over 3,500 responses and hundreds of conversations at the five public consultation sessions. What the Steering Committee heard from the consultation was as follows:

- Parents need to be notified of their seat status earlier so they can make arrangements.
- Eligibility distances need to be reviewed to reflect the age of students and challenges with topography.
- Courtesy seat assignment should be prioritized based on distance and age.
- Public transit is a viable option for secondary school students, if there is adequate service available.
- Fees should increase to cover a greater share of costs and/or increase service.
- A family's situation should be considered when setting policy on fees.
- Busing for schools and programs of choice should remain status quo.

The Transportation Task Force Steering Committee has extensively communicated its progress publicly using the [Transportation Review Website](#) and direct communications to parents. Communications relating to transportation are expected to significantly improve over previous years due to earlier timelines and notification to parents. Staff is committed to continue to keep parents well informed on any changes and what impact the changes will have on the transportation system.

2.0 APPENDIX

- A. Action Item – Transportation Task Force Steering Committee Recommendations – February 5, 2020 Planning and Facilities Committee Meeting



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Section Four: Students

425R – STUDENT FEES

Schools may assess and collect the goods and services fees, distinct schools, unique programs and specialty academy fees, rentals, deposits, and charges described below, providing that the ability to pay is not a prerequisite to taking an educational program and that the charge is not for an activity that directly relates to achieving the prescribed learning outcomes of a course or program except where permitted by legislation. All goods, services, distinct schools, unique programs and specialty academy fees and supplies referred to in these Regulations shall be optional to students. The financial hardship Policy (section 8) applies to all student fees.

The Board may assess and collect a Student Transportation Charge for students requesting access to the District transportation system.

Interpretation

For the purpose of these Regulations:

Goods and Services

Include but are not limited to:

- Materials and equipment of a nature, or of a quality or quantity, beyond that which is necessary to meet the required outcomes or assessment requirements of an educational program,
- Paper, writing tools, calculators other than graphical calculators, student planners, exercise books, computer storage media and other school supplies and equipment for a student’s individual use,
- The provision of a musical instrument for a student’s individual use, and
- The payment of expenses in respect of field trips or special events including expenses for transportation, accommodation, meals, entrance fees and equipment rentals.
- Student bus passes or replacement bus passes.

Student Transportation Charge

Representing a portion of the cost to transport the student to and from school as per Policy 470.

Supplies

Items which are purchased and used personally by the student; (examples: school supplies available through the bulk purchase plan, gym strip, exercise books, binders, loose-leaf refills, blank computer diskettes, home economics and technology education projects)



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<i>Educational Resource Materials</i>	Information, represented or stored in a variety of media and formats, that is used for instruction in an educational program and materials and equipment necessary to meet the learning outcomes or assessment requirements of an educational program provided by the Board of Education.
<i>Musical Instruments</i>	School District owned musical instruments used in the curricular and extracurricular school-based music programs.
<i>Merchandise</i>	Merchandise of a non-educational nature available through the schools for the benefit of its students (examples: personal foods and beverages, T-shirts and book fairs).
<i>Activities</i>	Optional activities of a non-educational or supplemental nature that are made available through the schools for the benefit of students (example: co-curricular programs).
<i>Distinct School</i>	A school that provides a curriculum with a specific school-wide educational focus (e.g. traditional or fine arts), or creates a unique school identity (e.g. mandatory uniforms).
<i>Unique Program</i>	A program that fulfills a recognized educational need separate from existing programs and services, but within the parameters of provincially prescribed and/or Board authorized curriculum, and provides educational options for students, parents and staff (e.g. International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement or Elementary/Middle School Okanagan Language).
<i>Specialty Academy</i>	An educational program that emphasizes a particular sport, activity or subject area, and meets the prescribed criteria set out in the regulations (BC Ministry of Education Specialty Academy Criteria Regulation 219/08 dated October 15, 2009).

1. Goods and Services and Supplies

The Superintendent of Schools may approve the charging of specific fees and levies to students for goods and services and supplies not normally provided free-of-charge by the district's schools.

2. Student Transportation Charge

The Board may approve the charging of a portion of the cost to transport the student to and from school as per Policy 470.



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3. Educational Resource Materials

Secondary and middle schools may require a deposit (caution fee) for equipment or materials on the following basis:

- 3.1 individual fee
- 3.2 family fee

Upon the return of such equipment or materials in working order and good condition, all of the deposit shall be refunded to the student.

4. Activity Charges

Schools may collect an activity charge (student council/supplemental field trips/extra-curricular activities/cultural performance) providing the charge for the activity or resources does not relate directly to a prescribed outcome. Also, alternative activity must be provided to non-participating students. Activity charges should be on a cost-recovery basis or, where common among schools, shall be applied consistently and shall reflect reasonable cost recovery.

5. Approval and Publication

- 5.1 Applications for the charging of goods and services fees activity charges, and the requiring of deposits referred to in subsections 1 to 3 above, shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools or his designate for approval.
- 5.2 Upon receiving approval of the applicable goods and services fees, student transportation charge, charges, and deposits, each school shall publish a schedule of such fees, charges and deposits, and shall make the schedule available to students and children registered under Section 13 of the School Act, and to the parents of those students before the beginning of the school year.

6. Merchandise and Activities

6.1 Merchandise:

Schools will be free to sell a wide range of merchandise beyond the Goods and Services and supplies, a general list of such known merchandise must be approved by the principal and filed with the office of the Superintendent of Schools or his designate for information purposes.

6.2 Band instruments:

Schools may charge a nominal fee (below market rate) for the rental of School District owned band instruments. The rental fee will be established by the school principal.

6.3 Activities:

Although schools will be free to undertake a number of activities beyond those required in the educational program, a list of such known activities with estimated



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charges is to be approved by the principal and filed with the office of the Superintendent of Schools or his designate for information purposes.

6.4 Specialty Academy Fees:

A school may charge a fee for an authorized academy to recover supplementary instruction and resource costs (e.g. professional coaches, facility rentals) provided that Academy and associated fees are approved by the school’s School Planning Council on a yearly basis. Authorized Secondary School Apprenticeship specialty academies and Dual Credit Program specialty academies may charge for tools, equipment and materials directly related to the academy.

7. Accounting

All monies collected and distributed by a school are public funds and are subject to an audit by the office of the Secretary-Treasurer.

7.1 Proper accounting procedures shall be maintained at each school.

7.2 The principal shall be responsible for authorizing all expenditures.

7.3 Separate accounts shall be maintained for each approved specialty academy.

8. Financial Hardship

8.1 Principals shall annually notify parents through newsletters, notices to parents, and at the time of registration, that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship.

8.2 Principals shall facilitate participation in courses by fully or partially waiving the schedule for payment of goods, services, supplies, project fees, distinct schools, unique programs, specialty academies and charges for students unable to pay because of financial hardship. Where fees are fully or partially waived, the principal may explore with the student options to recover the fees through school-sponsored fundraising, other school funds or community sources. Parents of other participating students are not expected to fund financial hardship.

8.3 Principals shall facilitate exemption requests for the student transportation charge by meeting with the parents seeking the exemption and completing the student transportation fee Subsidy Request form. The form must be submitted confidentially to the Secretary-Treasurer for final approval.

8.4 Parents may also submit exemption requests directly to the Secretary-Treasurer should they qualify under income thresholds.



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- 8.5 Principals are directed to establish a procedure in each school which will allow for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families. Such procedures will preserve the dignity of families who may be unable to pay.

AMENDMENT

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**470R – TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGEMENT
(REGULATIONS)**

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES for TRANSPORTATION
in Central Okanagan Public Schools**

Registration

- 1) A student must be registered and have a seat assigned in order to ride the school bus. Registration will be available online year-round.
- 2) Priority registration shall be open in the spring and until May 31 for the upcoming school year. Applications made after May 31 for students deemed to be eligible riders shall be accommodated if there is a seat available.

Eligible Riders

- 3) An Elementary school student will be considered eligible for transportation if their home address is at least 3.0 km from the school or schools designated for the catchment area (measured as actual driving distance).
- 4) A Middle school student will be considered eligible for transportation if their home address is at least 4.0 km from the school or schools designated for the catchment area (measured as actual driving distance).
- 5) A Secondary school student will be considered eligible for transportation if their home address is at least 4.8 km from the school or schools designated for the catchment area (measured as actual driving distance) and the student does not live in a neighborhood deemed to have adequate transit service.
- 6) If a student meets the criterion for eligibility distance after being placed by the District at a school other than their catchment area school(s), the student will be given the same consideration and priority as other eligible students. These students will only be designated as “redirected” students by the appropriate Assistant Superintendent.
- 7) Special Education students identified by the Student Support Services Department as requiring a specially equipped bus will be considered as eligible students.



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Courtesy Riders

- 8) Courtesy seats shall not be provided to students who reside less than 2.0 km from their catchment school.
- 9) Seats that are not required for eligible students on school bus routes will be made available to Elementary and Middle school students as courtesy riders based on the following criteria on a route by route basis:
 - a) Furthest home to school distance
 - b) If distance is the same, grade level
 - c) If distance and grade level are the same, application date and timestamp
- 10) Seats that are not required for eligible students and Elementary and Middle School courtesy riders on school bus routes will be made available to secondary students who reside in a neighborhood not deemed to have adequate transit service as courtesy riders based on the furthest home to school distance. If distance is the same, application date and timestamp will be used.
- 11) In the case of a student residing with parents or caregivers in more than one home, one address will be accepted for eligibility purposes. However, where possible, consideration will be given to an alternate stop on the same route or a courtesy seat on another route within the same catchment, if a parent submits an application and provided there are no remaining courtesy applications on that route. A transportation charge will be assessed for each route assigned.
- 12) Transportation will not be provided to a school or program of choice outside a student’s English catchment area unless approved by the Board (e.g. French Immersion or locally developed courses).

Conduct

- 13) Students must abide by their school’s Code of Conduct expected of all riders.

Routes

- 14) School bus routes are established on the basis of safety and efficiency of service for students who meet the criteria for eligibility.
- 15) Route changes must be approved by the Director of Operations or delegate.



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- 16) A minimum of fourteen (14) eligible students is required for the establishment of a bus route.
- 17) Where possible, routes will be designed to minimize the time students spend on a bus with an upper limit of 60 minutes as a guideline.
- 18) Where reasonable, a bus driver will be assigned to the morning and afternoon routes for a given run.

Fees and Payments

- 19) Eligible riders and courtesy riders registered on bus routes must pay the student transportation charge; however, Board Policy 425 – Student Fees and 425R – Student Fees (Regulations) is in place for those families who are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to pay the transportation charge.
- 20) Families with more than two children assigned to a bus will receive a 50% subsidy of the Student Transportation Charge for the third and fourth child assigned to a bus and a 100% subsidy of the Student Transportation Charge for the fifth and any additional children who are assigned on a bus.
- 21) The student transportation charge is to be paid or payment arrangements setup in the District's fee system and all past due school and transportation fees must be paid prior to a student being provided a bus pass.
- 22) Failure to pay the transportation charge or follow payment arrangements may result in the removal of service.
- 23) If an eligible rider or courtesy rider discontinues using the transportation service prior to March 31 of any year, a prorated refund will be issued upon request and once the bus pass is surrendered to the School District. The refund will only cover the months after the month in which the pass is surrendered. No refunds will be issued after March 31.
- 24) The student transportation charge will be communicated each year in accordance with Policy 425 – Student Fees
- 25) Students will not ride the bus unless they have received a valid bus pass.
- 26) Additional Service Routes – If approved by the Board, parent requested routes will be charged the actual cost of the route. Approval by the Board is required on an annual basis.



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Transportation Assistance Payments

- 27) If there are less than fourteen (14) eligible students for a bus route, the individual providing transportation of the student(s) to the catchment school may be eligible for transportation assistance payment based on mileage from the home address to the school.
- 28) Transportation assistance payments described in the above guideline are calculated at the rate of 60% of the rate paid to staff for personal use of vehicles for Board business, based in one round trip per day, for the days on which the student(s) attend(s) school. To a maximum of \$625 per year, per family. This annual maximum transportation assistance rate will be adjusted as the five (5) year average cost/student changes.
- 29) If a family has more than one student attending a given school, only one transportation assistance payment will be made.
- 30) If transportation or a transportation assistance payment is provided on behalf of a student on the wait list for their catchment area school and the invitation to return mid-year is declined in favour of a September entry, school bus transportation or the transportation assistance payment will be continued for the balance of the current school year. However, if the student remains at this school in the following year the student transportation charge will apply or transportation assistance payments will be discontinued.

Date Agreed: November 12, 2008

Date Amended: May 27, 2009, May 12, 2010, November 13, 2013;

October 14, 2015; February 22, 2017; June 12, 2019

Related Documents:



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470R – TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGEMENT (REGULATIONS)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES for TRANSPORTATION in Central Okanagan Public Schools

Rider Eligibility

- 1) A student must be registered as an eligible or courtesy rider in order to ride the school bus. Registration will be available online year round.
- 2) A student will be considered eligible for subsidized transportation if his or her home address is at least 4.0 km (Elementary) or at least 4.8 km (Middle/Secondary) from the school or schools designated for the catchment area (measured as actual shortest driving or walking distance).
- 3) If a student meets the criterion for home-school distance after being placed by the District at a school other than his or her catchment area school(s), the student will be given the same consideration as other eligible students. These students will only be designated as “capped” students by the appropriate Assistant Superintendent.
- 4) Seats that are not required for eligible students on school bus routes will be made available to courtesy riders based on the criterion of furthest home to school distance. Courtesy ridership is subject to cancellation at any time, with a one-week notice, based on the receipt of an application for the transportation for a newly identified eligible student living within the catchment area.
- 5) In the case of a student residing with parents or caregivers in more than one home, one address will be accepted for eligibility purposes. However, where possible, consideration will be given to an alternate stop on the same route or a courtesy seat on another route within the same catchment if a parent submits an application.
- 6) In situations in which a student in Kindergarten through Gr. 3 qualifies as an eligible or courtesy rider and an older sibling travelling to the same school does not, the older sibling will be given courtesy riding privileges on the same bus if space permits.
- 7) In the event that students with courtesy riding privileges have to be displaced due to the registration of eligible students living further from the school, the first criterion for priority will be distance from the school and the second criterion will be the accommodation of an older sibling travelling with a younger student. Ties will be broken in favour of the youngest student.
- 8) Transportation will not be provided to a school elective program outside a student’s catchment area (e.g. French Immersion or locally developed courses).



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Conduct

- 9) Students must abide by their school’s Code of Conduct expected of all riders.

Routes

- 10) School bus routes are established on the basis of safety and efficiency of service for students who meet the criteria for eligibility.
- 11) Route changes must be approved by the Director of Operations or delegate.
- 12) A minimum of fourteen (14) eligible students is required for the establishment of a bus route.
- 13) Where possible, routes will be designed to minimize the time students spend on a bus with an upper limit of 40 minutes as a guideline.
- 14) Where reasonable, a bus driver will be assigned to the morning and afternoon routes for a given run.
- 15) Where reasonable, bus stops at sites other than school sites will have 15 or fewer students.
- 16) Where reasonable, routes will be planned so that students are able to travel without having to transfer from one bus to another in a single direction.

Fees and Payments

- 17) Eligible riders and courtesy riders registered on bus routes must pay the student transportation charge; however, Board Policy 425 – Student Fees and 425R – Student Fees (Regulations) is in place for those families who are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to pay the transportation charge.
- 18) Special Education students identified by the Student Support Services Department as requiring a specially equipped bus will be considered as eligible students.
- 19) Families with more than two children assigned to a bus will receive a 50% subsidy of the Student Transportation Charge for the third and fourth child assigned to a bus and a 100% subsidy of the Student Transportation Charge for the fifth and any additional children that are assigned on a bus.
- 20) Once the Board has established a student transportation charge for a year of service, a minimum 50% of the charge must be paid by June 30th of the year prior to the year of service, and the charge must be fully paid by October 15th of the year of service.
- 21) If there are less than fourteen (14) eligible students for a bus route, the individual providing transportation of the student(s) to the catchment school may be eligible for transportation assistance payment based on mileage from the home address to the school.

- 22) Transportation assistance payments described in the above guideline are calculated at the rate of 60% of the rate paid to staff for personal use of vehicles for Board business to a maximum of 100 kilometres per day, based in one round trip per day, for the days on which the student(s) attend(s) school. To a maximum of \$625 per year, per family. This annual maximum transportation assistance rate will be adjusted as the five (5) year average cost/student changes.
- 23) If a family has more than one student attending a given school, only one transportation assistance payment will be made.
- 24) If transportation or a transportation assistance payment is provided on behalf of a student on the wait list for his or her catchment area school and the invitation to return mid-year is declined in favour of a September entry, school bus transportation or the transportation assistance payment will be continued for the balance of the current school year. However, if the student remains at this school in the following year the student transportation charge will apply or transportation assistance payments will be discontinued.
- 25) Students must be registered and assigned to a route by the Transportation Department before the student transportation charge will be accepted.
- 26) The student transportation charge is to be paid before the bus pass will be issued.
- 27) Students added to a route midyear will be required to pay for the current and remaining months before the pass will be issued.
- 28) A current identified eligible student who does not register by the established new year registration date and has not submitted the student transportation charge by the cut-off date will not be eligible to 'bump' a courtesy rider. Upon registration such a student will be placed at the top of the waiting list for the next available seat.
- 29) If a courtesy rider is 'bumped' by a newly identified eligible rider, the courtesy rider will receive a refund pro-rated from the last day of service.
- 30) If an eligible rider or courtesy rider discontinues using the transportation service prior to March 31 of any year, a prorated refund will be issued upon request and once the bus pass is surrendered to the School District. The refund will only cover the months after the month in which the pass is surrendered. No refunds will be issued after March 31.
- 31) The student transportation charge and lost and damaged bus pass charge will be communicated each year in accordance with Policy 425 – Student Fees
- 32) Students will not ride the bus unless they have been registered, have paid the student transportation charge and have received a valid bus pass.
- 33) Additional Service Routes - parent requested routes will be charged the minimum of the student transportation charge or actual cost if higher than the student transportation charge.

Date Agreed: November 12, 2008

Date Amended: May 27, 2009, May 12, 2010, November 13, 2013;

October 14, 2015; February 22, 2017; June 12, 2019

Related Documents:

470R – Transportation Services Management

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