

**Section Four: Students***“Together We Learn”*

**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) Inclusive Education students identified by the Inclusive Education 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).
- 13) The Superintendent of Schools/CEO has the authority to place a student on a bus route. The student placement on a bus route will be reviewed annually.

Conduct

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



Policies And Procedures

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Routes

- 15) School bus routes are established on the basis of safety and efficiency of service for students who meet the criteria for eligibility.
- 16) Route changes must be approved by the Director of Operations or delegate.
- 17) A minimum of fourteen (14) eligible students is required for the establishment of a bus route.
- 18) 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.
- 19) Where reasonable, a bus driver will be assigned to the morning and afternoon routes for a given run.

Fees and Payments

- 20) 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.
- 21) 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.
- 22) The student transportation charge is to be paid or payment arrangements set up 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.
- 23) Failure to pay the transportation charge or follow payment arrangements may result in the removal of service.
- 24) If transportation service is cancelled, a prorated refund will be issued or the transportation fee payment will be cancelled. Cancellation of payments and refunds are applied effective the last day of the month in which the service was cancelled.
- 25) The student transportation charge will be communicated each year in accordance with Policy 425 – Student Fees.



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- 26) Students will not ride the bus unless they have received a valid bus pass.
- 27) 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.

Transportation Assistance Payments

- 28) 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.
- 29) 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 on one round trip per day, for the days on which the student(s) attend(s) school. To a maximum of \$745 per year, per family. This annual maximum transportation assistance rate will be adjusted as the five (5) year average cost/student changes.
- 30) If a family has more than one student attending a given school, only one transportation assistance payment will be made.
- 31) 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;

February 26, 2020; June 14, 2023; October 25, 2023

Related Documents: *Policy 425/Regulations 425R – Student Fees*