



## Board Policy 17

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### STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Board believes in the provision of safe transportation for eligible students from their designated pick up point to their designated school and back.

The Board also believes it is appropriate, when numbers warrant, for the Division to provide “School of Choice” transportation, for students to access programs which are not available at their designated school. However, “School of Choice” transportation, by school bus, is not guaranteed.

#### Specifically

1. Registration is required for all students requesting transportation services from the Division.
2. Under normal circumstances, only registered passengers will be transported.
3. The Board will provide for the transportation for the following students:
  - 3.1 Kindergarten to Grade 6 – the parent or guardian resides 1.0 kilometre or more from the school the student attends; and
  - 3.2 Grades 7 to 12 – the parent or guardian resides 2.0 kilometres or more from the school the student attends.
  - 3.3 Students who reside outside of the eligible distances may be provided transportation for an additional fee.
  - 3.4 The 1.0 and 2.0 km walk boundary is based on Alberta Education funding. The distance will be calculated using roadways, walkways, alleyways, ditches, sidewalks, etc.
4. A non-refundable administrative fee will be charged annually for all riders. The administrative fee will be determined by the Board annually.
5. The Board recognizes the Education Act provides choice for parents in the matter of which school they may wish to have their children attend. When exercising such choice, parents accept responsibility for transportation.
  - 5.1 The Board may provide transportation to students who are attending a school other than their designated school; provided:
    - 5.1.1 There is space available on the bus;
    - 5.1.2 The bus does not have to be diverted from the regular approved route; and
    - 5.1.3 That any applicable cross attendance area fees are paid.
6. Students wishing to attend a “School of Choice” must receive approval annually from the Principal of the requested school and is based upon availability of room and resources.

7. Transportation fees for “School of Choice” do not apply to Covenant Christian School due to the school’s open boundaries.
8. In some instances, “School of Choice” students may only be accommodated by meeting an existing regular program bus on route in the attendance area of that school.
9. This policy shall apply to eligible passengers attending ECS through Grade 12.
10. The boarding allowance and associated revenues provided by Alberta Education will be forwarded to the parent/guardian of the student qualifying for this financial support as per the Funding Manual for School Authorities.
11. Non-resident students not covered by a transportation agreement who have been authorized to access transportation services will be charged a fee which is established by the Board annually.
12. Transportation routes will be reviewed annually to provide safe, caring and efficient transportation of students.
13. Kindergarten students registered in half day programs will only be transported one way.

Legal Reference: Section 3, 7, 11, 31, 32, 33, 51, 52, 53, 59, 222 Education Act  
Traffic Safety Act  
Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation 121/2009  
School Transportation Regulation  
Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation 304/2002  
Vehicle Equipment Regulation 122/2009  
Funding Manual for School Authorities