

DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Board of Education recognizes the rural character of the District and that safe and accessible transportation serves a vital function in delivering educational programs for students residing beyond established walk limits.

Pursuant to the *School Act*, student transportation to and from school is provided at the Board's discretion; the Board has no obligation, statutory or otherwise, to provide transportation services.

The Board provides transportation for students attending a regular program within their catchment area school who reside more than 4.0 kilometres from the school or where the safety of the student is determined by the Board to represent an unacceptable risk. Factors considered when deciding whether or not to provide transportation services may include, but are not limited to:

- adequate student numbers to warrant the service,
- suitability of road conditions for school bus operation,
- how far eligible students reside from their designated school,
- budget availability, and
- requirements for operational efficiency.

When eligible student numbers are inadequate to warrant creating a school bus route, or when a route cannot be established due to factors including safety concerns, and poor road conditions, and other limiting factors, the Board may provide transportation allowances to parents of eligible students who reside 3.2 kilometres or further from the nearest existing bus route of the student's catchment school based on rates determined periodically by the Board.

Where space is available after all students that qualify for transportation to/from home and school have been accommodated, the District may permit a student who does not qualify for transportation to temporarily use an existing bus route within the catchment area of the student's school of enrolment on a courtesy basis if there is space available; done at no additional cost; and no scheduling or routing adjustments are required.

The Board does not provide transportation or a transportation assistance allowance for students attending a choice program or school outside of their catchment area school.

Transportation services for students with a disability or diverse ability who require additional support are to be provided where possible, balancing the needs of the student with the requirement to safely transport all students to school. Requests for the transportation of a student requiring additional support shall be considered on the individual circumstances of the student and the collective circumstances of the bus and bus route.