



Section Four: Students

“Together We Learn”

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

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES for TRANSPORTATION
in School District 23 (Central Okanagan)**

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 (Kindergarten through Gr. 3) or 4.8 km (Gr. 4 through Gr. 12) 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).



Section Four: Students

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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.



Section Four: Students

“Together We Learn”

- 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 \$561.00 per year, per family.
- 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

Related Documents: