

News and Information

October 5, 2016

Student Transportation Grant - Update

Kelowna, B.C. –

Central Okanagan Public Schools spends almost \$4.0 million per year transporting students to and from school. To assist in offsetting rising costs, and to continue to provide a comprehensive bus service, the School District collects approximately \$1.0 million from the users of the system.

In August, the Ministry of Education announced it is providing a \$600,000 Transportation Grant which can only be used for the purpose of alleviating the transportation fee for students who in the past would have been considered 'eligible' riders. The Board of Education's plan to implement a subsidy of 100% of the fee schedule for 'eligible' riders has now been approved by the Ministry of Education. The School District will be using the historical Ministry of Education guidelines to determine eligible riders. The guidelines identify eligibility as students living beyond 4.0kms (primary) and 4.8kms (grades 4-12) from their catchment school.

The development of the Board of Education's current transportation model was based on principles that were fair, efficient and provided accessibility. Moving forward from our existing model to a new model that takes advantage of this funding is complicated and it is our intention that we will be able to continue to provide a comparable or improved transportation system.

The School District will now begin the process of issuing refunds for students identified as eligible. The target is to have all refunds issued by early November.

For comments, please contact:
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