

BACKGROUND

The Board acknowledges its obligation to provide transportation for resident students in accordance with the *Education Act* and the Student Transportation Regulation. In addition, the Board supports the transportation of other students in accordance with this policy.

The Board believes that the responsibility for providing safe student transportation is shared by employees of the division, school bus contractors and their employees, parents/guardians and students.

The Superintendent is charged with maintaining administrative procedures that are consistent with this policy for the provision of a student transportation system that is managed with high regard for student safety, fiscal accountability, and efficiency.

GUIDELINES

1. Eligible Riders

- 1.1. Those authorized by government regulations;
- 1.2. Those authorized by the Board of Trustees including but not limited to:
 - 1.2.1. Students attending a kindergarten program;
 - 1.2.2. Students attending a divisional program of choice where transportation has been approved;
 - 1.2.3. Transportation route exceptions;
 - 1.2.4. Transportation Service Agreements with other school divisions;
- 1.3 Those authorized by the Superintendent or designate.

2. Service Levels

- 2.1. Transportation may be provided for Eligible Riders who:
 - 2.1.1. Reside 1.5 kilometres or more from the school they attend and are in Grade 6 or lower;
 - 2.1.2. Reside 2.0 kilometres or more from the school they attend and are in Grade 7 or higher.
- 2.2. Bus stops serving Eligible Riders for a specific school will be located no closer to the school than 2.0 kilometres, excepting those schools with students in grades 6 or lower for which bus stops serving Eligible Riders will be located no closer to the school than 1.5 kilometres.
- 2.3. Bus service may be extended to students who live closer to their designated school than the eligible distance when safety concerns are identified by Transportation Department.
- 2.4. Bus service will be provided for kindergarten students as follows:
 - 2.4.1. Full Day Program – to and from school each school day
 - 2.4.2. Half Day Program – one way each school day

- 2.5. Additional transportation between one alternate location (childcare, family members home, etc.) and school may be provided subject to the following:
 - 2.5.1. Alternate location is within the school attendance boundary of the school the student attends;
 - 2.5.2. Space is available on the bus for the required route;
 - 2.5.3. Requested upon registration.
- 2.6. School buses shall travel only within the defined Government of Alberta boundary of Rocky View Schools and within the school's / divisional programs of choice approved for transportation's transportation service boundary.
- 2.7. The ride time from pickup to drop off for riders will typically be less than 75 minutes.
- 2.8. The walk limit for urban students to a bus stop is typically 400m for K to grade 6 students and 1.2 km for grade 7 to grade 12 students. The walk limit for rural students to a bus stop is typically 800m from the end of their driveway.
- 2.9. Service level exceptions may be granted by the Superintendent of designate in consideration of:
 - 2.9.1. Students requiring customized or enhanced school transportation services;
 - 2.9.2. Student safety;
 - 2.9.3. Efficiency.

3. Transportation Fees

- 3.1. The Board will annually review and approve student transportation fees.
- 3.2. A fee waiver and refund process will be in place for transportation fees and details of these processes must be communicated annually to parents/guardians.
- 3.3. Transportation fees must be paid prior to accessing service unless:
 - 3.3.1. A payment agreement is in place; or
 - 3.3.2. A transportation fee waiver has been approved by the Senior Manager of Transportation or designate.

4. Safety

- 4.1. School bus safety is the responsibility of the bus driver, student riders, their parents/guardians and the school.
- 4.2. Parents/guardians have the responsibility for getting their child/children to and from the bus stop and while standing at the stop/waiting for the bus to pickup and/or drop off.
- 4.3. School buses are an extension of the school and as such, students are expected to adhere to school and bus safety and behaviour expectations as well as the RVS Student Code of Conduct.



POLICY 17 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Approved: 2024 12 01

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 96/2019
- Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation 304/2002
- Vehicle Equipment Regulation 122/2009
- Funding Manual for School Authorities
- AP5107 Student Transportation Fees
- AP5500 Student Transportation Services