



701BP Student Transportation Services

ADOPTED:	2011.02.16
APPROVED:	2019.11.27 (2011.02.16)
AMENDED:	2019.11.20 (2012.02.15)
REVIEWED:	2019.11.20 (2013.04.29)

LEGAL REFERENCE:

- Education Act
- Education Act School Transportation Regulation
- Traffic Safety Act
- Canadian Standards Association (CSA) D250/D270
- Transportation Compliance in Alberta
- National Safety Code

CROSS REFERENCE:

- [701.1AP Student Conduct/Discipline on Buses](#)
- [701.21AP Transportation to Caregiver's Residence](#)

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Board will comply with all laws, acts, statutes, standards, policies and regulations that relate to student transportation. The transportation department of Buffalo Trail Public Schools will design and manage its student transportation services safely, efficiently, economically and as consistently as possible, within the parameters of the Transportation budget.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Student transportation services shall be provided in support of student attendance at school.
2. School buses are an extension of the classroom and all policies and regulations regarding student conduct in the classroom apply to buses.
3. The Board shall establish transportation service areas for eligible students in a manner consistent with provincial statutes and regulations or where agreements have been established with other school authorities.

4. Eligibility for transportation will be determined as per provincial regulation. Transportation services may be extended to an ineligible student who:
 - must walk along a road with posted speeds of 80 km/hr or higher, without the benefit of sidewalks;
 - has been directed to attend a school by the Board;
 - is a special needs student with exceptional requirements?
5. The Board will try to accommodate transportation service to a caregiver's residence where there is no extra cost to the Board and it does not interfere with their liability insurance coverage. When the Director of Transportation deems it unreasonable to transport a resident student on a school bus for the purposes of transportation to and from school, the parent and the Board may enter into a contract for the provision of such transportation service.
6. Wherever possible the majority of students will ride on school buses for the least possible time.
7. The Board will strive to have no student ride the bus longer than 75 minutes, and exceptions shall be brought to the Board.
8. Resident students will be given first consideration in route planning and ride times. Approval of non-resident students will not impact the ride times for resident students.
9. The Board will transport students as per regulation. When requested, yard service may be available at a cost.
10. The Board will not cross jurisdictional boundaries to transport students residing in another jurisdiction to a division school unless the provision to do so has been mutually agreed to in writing by both jurisdictions.
11. Transportation for boundary exempt resident and non-resident students (School of Choice) is the responsibility of the parents/guardians. The Board may make bussing available for boundary exempt students.
12. Payride bussing services may be available to ineligible students.
13. Transportation will be provided on mechanically safe buses.
14. The routine operation of school buses must be altered on short notice where student safety is a concern.
15. The Board considers the contracting of bus services to be an acceptable way of providing student transportation.
16. Contractors will be selected as per established administrative procedures. Final selection will be approved by the Board.
17. Contractors will hire qualified, well trained, highly motivated school bus drivers.
18. A parent/legal guardian who drives a school bus may bring a maximum of two of his/her pre-schoolers while he/she drives the bus route as long as it does not compromise the safety of the students.
20. The Board encourages the use of school buses as the designated means of student transportation. However, the Board recognizes that there may be occasions when students are transported to school activities and/or functions in private vehicles. (EEB 25 and EEAE)
21. As per Provincial recommendation, no school shall purchase, rent, lease or borrow a 15-passenger van. (EEB 25)
22. Strobe lights on school buses shall be used from first student pick up to the last student drop off, unless local by-laws prohibit their use.