

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS

Background

The *School Act* directs School Boards to provide transportation to students subject to regulations made by the Minister of Education. Our District believes that, in many circumstances, the bussing of students, particularly from Kindergarten to Grade 6, is the safest route to school.

Procedures

1. The District will provide for transportation to:
 - 1.1 Elementary School students who live 1.2 kilometers or more from the school in their attendance zone.
 - 1.2 Middle school and high school students who live 2.4 kilometers or more from the school in their attendance zone.
 - 1.3 Elementary school students attending a middle school who reside kilometers or more from the school in their attendance zone.
 - 1.4 Kindergarten students – one-way transportation (transportation to school if attending only morning Kindergarten program OR transportation to home if attending only afternoon program) for those who live 1.2 kilometers or more from the school in their attendance zone. There are no mid-day bus routes.
 - 1.5 Special education students directed to attend District programming outside their attendance zone, as determined by the Associate Superintendent of Learning Services.
 - 1.6 Special programming students from all District attendance zones, regardless of their designated school boundary. Special Programming is defined as:
 - Notre Dame Sports Academy;
 - French Immersion;
 - St. Mary's School Fine Arts Academy.
 - 1.7 Students must be registered in these programs in order to qualify for transportation.
 - 1.8 Pre-school aged children who qualify for PUF may not ride a school bus , however, provisions for transportation, such as parent provided contracts, may be arranged, subject to eligibility.
2. The District will transport a student to school from one place of residence (see School Act Section 273). Eligible residence will be determined by the address from the registration form used for the submission to Alberta Education.
3. It will be the practice of the District to allow students who do not qualify for the provincial transportation grant to ride a school bus if space on an existing bus

allows and if students present themselves at an existing stop. Priority for non-eligible students will be determined on the basis of distance from the school, with preference given to younger students.

4. Students living outside the District boundary are not eligible for transportation. Due to safety concerns, it is not the practice of the District to allow parents to drop their students at a location inside the District boundary in order to receive transportation. However, if certain conditions and guidelines are followed, the Superintendent of Schools may provide permission to allow a student to be dropped off within the District Boundary, at an approved location, for transportation.
5. The District will communicate bus route information and student conduct on school buses information to parents of students as necessary.
 - 5.1 Each fall before school begins, a notice will be placed in the schools newsletters and on the District website.
 - 5.2 A notice on Student Conduct on School Buses will be placed in the school newsletters and on the District website.
6. It is the parents' responsibility for their child's safety and conduct while walking to, from and waiting at a designated bus stop. The School District's responsibility begins when the student boards the bus in the morning and is retained until the child leaves the bus at the end of the day, or until released to the parent/guardian.
7. Students riding in a school bus shall be under the immediate authority of the driver who shall report all cases of student misconduct to the principal of the school. The school bus is an extension of the school and as such the school principal is responsible for the discipline of students. It is expected that the students follow not only specific bus rules but those rules and regulations that the principal has established at the school.

Please refer to: [Student Conduct on School Buses](#)
[FAQ's](#)
[Transportation Handbook](#)
8. School shall investigate all reported misconducts.
 - 8.1 The school bus is an extension of the classroom.
 - 8.2. The discipline of the student is the responsibility of the School Administration
 - 8.3 All reported student misconduct shall be investigated by School Administration.
 - 8.4 As appropriate, School Administration may discipline the student which may include any of the following:
 - 8.4.1 Assigned seating for a period of time.
 - 8.4.2 Suspension from riding the bus from one day to the remainder of the year.
 - 8.4.2.1 If a bus suspension is being considered in excess of 3 days the administrator shall consult with the Superintendent and the Secretary Treasurer before issuing the suspension.

- 8.4.2.2 The parent will be solely responsible for transporting the student to and from school for any bus suspension with no financial recovery.
 - 8.4.2.3 A return from suspension may be allowed if the principal is satisfied that there is assurance from the parent and the student that the required conduct will be followed.
 - 8.4.3 In-School Suspension in accordance with the district policies and the School Act.
 - 8.4.4 Out of School suspension in accordance with the district policies and the School Act.
 - 8.4.5 Expulsion in accordance with district policies and the School Act.
 - 8.5 Report to Southland Transportation, the outcome of the investigation and any disciplinary actions taken.
9. Where it is determined by the District that third party transportation is not feasible, the District may enter into an agreement with a parent whereby the parent would provide transportation and be paid for the service.

Reference: Section 25, 45, 51, 52, 60, 61, 113, 117, 273 School Act
Traffic Safety Act
School Bus Operation Regulation
Student Transportation Regulation 250/98 (amended AR 197/2000)