

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 51 (BOUNDARY)

P O L I C Y

SECTION	TITLE	NO. 5091
STUDENTS	<u>Bus Transportation & Walk Limits</u>	

DATE ADOPTED: March 13, 2001

DATE AMENDED: May 10, 2011

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BUS TRANSPORTATION

The School Act does not require school districts to provide student transportation services. However, individual Boards of Education, at their discretion, may provide transportation services for certain students to and from school.

School District No. 51 (Boundary) is a rural district. As safe bus transportation plays a key role in student learning, the District is committed to providing safe and efficient transportation in a caring manner. The following factors are considered when determining whether to provide bussing services: whether there are sufficient students to justify the service, whether road conditions are suitable for school buses, and the distance affected students live from the nearest school. As well, bussing services provided are dependent on available funding (reviewed annually) and the need for operational efficiencies.

~~In accordance with the School Act, bus transportation for students to use in going to and from school is provided at the discretion of the Board. It will be dictated by Ministry funding guidelines, available funding, and the need for operational efficiencies. It is recognized that bus transportation routes will not suit the requests of all parents.~~

It is the parents' responsibility to determine how their children will safely travel to and from school or to and from the bus pick up and drop off locations. **It is recognized that bus transportation routes will not suit the requests of all parents.**

The Board will also make every effort to ensure inclusive practices occur for all school activities requiring bussing. If school bus transportation is not practical, the Board may consider providing "transportation assistance" to parents.

REGULATIONS

1. School bus transportation may be provided free of charge to:
 - a) A primary (K-3) student residing more than 4.0 kilometres from his/her neighbourhood catchment area school; or

- b) A student in grades 4-12 residing more than 4.8 kilometres from his/her neighbourhood catchment area school.

These distances shall be measured from the nearest passable road to a public school in which there is a grade and placement for the student(s).

2. Bus services are sometimes provided to students within the walk limits as a courtesy, providing there is available seating on the bus and time in the schedule. Should overcrowding occur, these students will be denied bus transportation.
3. ~~Bus routes will be reviewed annually with emphasis on safety and efficient use of resources.~~ School bus routes are established on the basis of safety and efficiency of service for students who meet the criteria for eligibility.
 - Route changes must be approved by the Director of Operations or designate
 - New routes may be considered with a minimum of sixteen (16) eligible students.
 - Where possible, routes will be designed to minimize the time students spend on a bus.
 - Routes will be reviewed annually
4. Student behaviour is a significant factor in bus travel and safety. ~~Codes of Student Conduct apply when riding school buses.~~ Traveling on a school bus is a privilege which may be suspended or revoked for a student not observing Codes of Conduct, and procedures below:
 - Wait for the school bus only in the area designated as a school bus loading zone;
 - Board or leave a school bus in an orderly manner;
 - Remain safely seated until the bus stops at intended destination;
 - Be courteous to other passengers and the driver;
 - Abide by instructions posted in the bus or given directly by the bus driver.
5. Also, students who ride buses will be asked to sign a [bus riding contract](#) each year. Bus drivers are required to report cases of unacceptable student behaviour to the school Principal. Consequences of such behaviour will be as per the District's progressive discipline policy (noted on XXX form).
6. The bus driver is authorized to:
 - Cancel a trip when, in his/her opinion, the current road conditions are unsafe and continuation of the trip presents a hazard to students on the bus;
 - Drive the bus and its riders to a location where a school Principal or District-based administrator can take appropriate action if there are concerns regarding discipline, safety or other exceptional circumstances