

DRAFT DECISION MAKING POINTS: REVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS POLICY (P020)

Definitions:

- *Board* refers to the Toronto District School Board, which is also referred to as the “TDSB”.
- *Board Property* or “*Board Premises*” refers to any TDSB land, premises, location or thing at, upon, in or near which a student learns or an employee works.
- *Bussing* refers to....
- *Courtesy Seating* refers to...
- *Empty Seat* refers to...
- *Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID)* refers to...
- *TDSB* refers to the Toronto District School Board, which is also referred to as the “Board”.
- *TDSB Vehicles* refers to any vehicles owned, leased, or rented by the TDSB, and operated by Board staff.

1. Transportation for Special Education Programming

- Current: The TDSB will provide transportation to students placed by an Identification, Placement, and Review Committee to a Special Education Program that is not located in their home school and who meet the distance criteria set out by the Board

OR

- Option: For students who are placed by an Identification, Placement and Review Committee to a Special Education program that is not located in their home school and who meet the distance criteria set out by the Board, with the exception of students in a Gifted program that is not offered at their home school.

2. Transportation for French-Immersion Programming

- Current: The TDSB will provide transportation for students attending a French Immersion program not offered in their home school and who meet the distance criteria

OR

- Option: The TDSB will not offer transportation to students who attend a French Immersion program

3. Distance Criteria

- Current: Transportation is provided to students who would otherwise be excused from attendance at a school because of distance as provided by the *Education Act, section 21. (2)*, based on grade level as of September 1 of the school year. (i) Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5: 1.6 km or more* (ii) Grades 6 to 8: 3.2 km or more* (iii) Grade 9 to Grade 12: 4.8 km or more*+ *Distance to be measured from closest public thoroughfare of the residence of the student to nearest public access to the school building.

OR

- Option: Transportation is provided to students who would otherwise be excused from attendance at a school because of distance as provided by the Education Act, section 21. (2), based on grade level as of September 1 of the school year. (i) Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3: 1.6 km or more* (ii) Grades 4 to 6 3.2 km or more and Grade 7-12 : 4.8 km or more**+ *Distance to be measured from closest public thoroughfare of the residence of the student to nearest public access to the school building.** Grade 7-12 will qualify for TTC only.

4. Appeal Process

- Current: Parents may appeal the decisions regarding transportation. All appeals will be made to the Transportation Department. Further appeal may be made in writing to the appropriate Supervisory Officer responsible for transportation who will forward it to the Appeal Committee

OR

- Option: Parents may appeal the transportation decisions where there are accommodation needs or where there is a misinterpretation of policy. The process for appeals, including forms, will be provided in the accompanying procedures.

5. Summer School Transportation

- Current: Summer school transportation may be provided, either by school bus or TTC, for the following designated programs: (a) Ministry-funded ECPP (Section 29) programs in treatment centres, hospitals, etc., that are an extension of the regular school year program; (b) Programs offered by the Toronto District School Board for Special Education students; (c) Students attending credit programs who are eligible for school bus transportation for medical reasons

OR

- Option: The TDSB will not offer school transportation for designated summer school programs.

6. Transportation Manual

- Current: A Transportation Manual will be developed to include procedures, guidelines and protocols for issues such as:
 - Mandatory performance requirements
 - Childcare
 - Staggered school hours
 - Section 29 Programs (ECP)
 - Cancellation of transportation
 - Bus evacuation
 - Empty seat procedures
 - Accident reporting
 - Safety
 - Student conduct
 - Medical conditions
 - Consolidation of schools
 - Glossary

OR

- Option: The procedures will outline the Transportation Manual, guidelines and protocols for implementation of student transportation. The Manual will be reviewed annually.

7. Transportation for Indigenous Education Programming

- Option 1: The TDSB will offer transportation to Indigenous students who meet the distance criteria regardless of whether they attend an Indigenous Education Program.

OR

- Option 2: The TDSB will offer transportation to students who attend an Indigenous Education Program not offered at their home school who meet the distance criteria.

8. Transportation for Education and Community Partnership Program (formerly Section 29)

Option 1: The TDSB will offer transportation to students who attend an Education and Community Partnership Program (ECPP) not offered in their home school and who meet the distance criteria

OR

Option 2: The TDSB will not offer transportation to students who attend a Education and Community Partnership Program (ECPP) program.

9. Staggered School Times

- Option 1: The TDSB may alter school start and end times to reduce the number of busses required to transport students. School start times are not to be altered by more than 30 minutes. The process for altering bell times is as outlined in the Student Transportation procedures.

OR

- Option 2: *FOR SCHOOLS SERVED BY STUDENT TRANSPORTATION:* The TDSB may alter school start and end times to reduce the number of buses required to transport students. School start times are not to be altered by more than 30 minutes. The process for altering bell times is as outlined in the Student Transportation procedures.
- *FOR SCHOOLS NOT SERVED BY STUDENT TRANSPORTATION:* Once it is determined that a school will not be served by any student transportation services for the coming year by verifying through the student transportation office, a principal may adjust their bell times by up to 30 minutes by following the process as outlined in the Student Transportation procedures.

10. Transportation Hazards Criteria

- Option 1: As part of the eligibility for student transportation, the Board will develop hazard criteria to be considered when assessing applications. These criteria will be outlined in the accompanying procedures.

OR

- Option 2: The Board will consider transportation hazards on a case by case basis.

11. Misconduct on School Busses

- Option 1: The TDSB will develop and implement appropriate guidelines and procedures related to misconduct on school buses including roles and responsibilities and consequences.

OR

- Option 2: The TDSB will develop and implement appropriate guidelines and procedures related to misconduct on school buses including roles and responsibilities and consequences.
- A separate procedure related to misconduct on school busses will be developed for Indigenous students in consultation with Indigenous Education programs of the Board and relevant stakeholders.

12. Privacy, School Busses and Tracking

- TDSB school busses may have cameras installed for safety and security purposes. Privacy will be protected in accordance with appropriate legislation and TDSB Policies (e.g., Freedom of Information and the Protection of Privacy Policy – P094 and the Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources Policy – P088). Parents will be notified each September of the possibility of cameras and other tracking on buses, as well as the protections for the storage and use of said devices, as part of their school start up package.
- The TDSB may utilize safety and/or tracking tools, such as Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID), or other means to ensure student safety, on school busses. Privacy of all students will be protected in accordance with appropriate legislation and TDSB Policies (e.g., Freedom of Information and the Protection of Privacy Policy – P094 and the Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources Policy – P088). Parents will be made aware of any school that is using these tools as part of their school start up package.

13. Equity and Transportation

- The TDSB will ensure that the transportation of all students is equitable as per the TDSB Equity Policy (P037). Where there is financial hardship, or other unique circumstances, students may appeal to their principal for support for TTC or appeal to the Transportation Department.

14. School Buses and AODA

- All distributed information related to school busing whether sent electronically or in paper format will be delivered in a manner that is compliant with AODA and other appropriate legislation. TDSB will also comply with all other AODA provisions and appropriate legislation, and related TDSB Policies (e.g., Accessibility Policy – P069).

15. Empty Seats/Courtesy Seating Procedure on School Busses

- Option 1: The TDSB will establish an empty/courtesy seating procedure to outline processes for filling seats on school buses that are available after all eligible students have been accommodated.

OR

- Option 2: The TDSB will not provide courtesy/empty seats.

16. Partner Agencies and Transportation Programs

- As per the Multi Year Strategic Plan, the TDSB will liaise with partner agencies on initiatives related to active, safe and sustainable transportation. Procedures will outline the consultation, implementation and protocols for operating and expanding these programs.

17. Suspension of Provisions of this Policy

- Due to unforeseen circumstances, such as public health emergencies, extreme driver shortages, or other emergencies, the Board may need to suspend all or certain provisions of this Policy, with proper committee and Board approvals, to ensure the safety of students and/or the continuity of service.
- The Board may choose to have a staggered implementation to the school start up in order to facilitate a smoother start up. These options will be outlined in the accompanying procedures.