

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON)

REVISED POLICY 1118.1

Effective Date, February 14, 2008

Revised Date, March 14, 2016

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS

1. The Board of Education provides transportation for students to facilitate attendance at their catchment area school. There is no entitlement to public school bus service or transportation assistance for students enrolled in schools outside their catchment area.

2. Walk Limits

Student qualification for transportation is determined as follows:

- a) Students with Special Needs in Ministry Categories A – G who are not able to independently walk to school or access public transportation - no walk limit.
- b) Primary Students (Grades K - 3) - walk limit of four (4) kilometers.
- c) All Other Students (Grades 4 to 12) - walk limit of 4.8 kilometers to school or 3.2 kilometers to a school bus stop.
- d) Applications for exceptions are made to the Manager of Transportation by a parent or legal guardian. A medical certificate substantiating the need for transportation is required by those seeking exemption due to a medical condition.

3. Bus Routes

- a) Bus routes are considered if ten or more students reside beyond walk limits and road conditions are sufficient for safe operation of a school bus.
- b) Extension of an existing bus run is considered if four or more students reside beyond walk limits to the nearest school bus stop. Road conditions and the impact on the existing run schedule are considered before approval is given.
- c) Student transportation in urban areas is coordinated with available Public Transit services. Financial assistance for the use of public transit is offered as an alternative to a school bus route.

4. Eligibility for Courtesy Rides

When a student is not eligible for transportation according to the above criteria, parents or legal guardians may make application to the Manager of Transportation for a courtesy ride, providing space is available on an existing bus run and no route modifications are required. Eligibility for a courtesy ride will be considered in the following priority:

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- a) School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson) students.
- b) Students enrolled in independent schools.

5. Bus Overloading

Where the number of students on a bus exceeds the safe seating capacity of the bus, the following process will apply:

- a) Students under Section 3b) will lose their eligibility on a stop by stop basis, starting with the closest bus stop to the end of the morning route.
- b) Should further capacity be required, students under Section 3a) will lose their eligibility on a stop by stop basis, starting with the closest bus stop to the end of the morning route.

6. Transportation Assistance Payments

Students residing beyond walk limits and not transported by a school bus are eligible for transportation assistance payments. Assistance payment rates are established annually by the Board of Education. Eligible students reside in the School District and attend the school designated for their catchment area. Students assigned to a school other than their designated school or judged incompatible with school bus transportation may be eligible for transportation assistance.