



P020, Transportation of Students Policy Review: Preliminary Provisions, Phase 2

To: Governance and Policy Committee

Date: 9 February, 2022

Report No.: 02-22-4258

Strategic Directions

- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that the preliminary provisions for the revised Transportation of Students Policy (P020), as presented in this report, be approved.

Context

The Transportation of Students Policy (P020) (the “Policy”) was adopted by the Board of Trustees on December 16, 1999 and last updated on October 27, 2005. The current Transportation of Students Policy is committed to the provision of safe and reliable transportation for resident students in accordance with the *Education Act*, section 21.

In September 2019, the Board initiated review of the Policy in accordance with the approved Policy Review Schedule. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the review was significantly delayed during the 2020/2021 school year.

On March 24, 2021, staff presented a report to the Governance and Policy Committee that included Policy decision-making points for the Committee’s consideration. The Committee considered the decision-making points and provided policy directions.

Based on the directions provided by the Committee, staff have worked with the Special Education, Indigenous Education, French Immersion, and Sustainability to identify additional areas of the current Policy that require review and revision. Subsequently, staff prepared preliminary provisions for the revised Policy. The provisions are listed below (Appendix A) and are provided for the Committee's consideration and approval.

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

Subject to the Governance and Policy Committee's directions and approval by the Board of Trustees, staff will prepare a draft revised Transportation of Students Policy (P020), based on the preliminary provisions outlined in this report, and will conduct public consultations for a period of 60-days. The draft Policy will subsequently be presented to the Governance and Policy Committee at the spring/summer 2022 cycle for consideration and approval.

Resource Implications

No additional resources will be required for implementation of the revised Policy at this time.

Communications Considerations

Following Board approval, the Policy will be communicated to the system and posted on the Board's public website.

Board Policy and Procedure Reference(s)

- Transportation of Students Procedure (PR504)

Appendices

- Appendix A: Preliminary Provisions
- Appendix B: Transportation of Students Policy (P020) – Current
- Appendix C: Transportation of Students Policy (P020) – Tracked Changes

From

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TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS POLICY (P020)**PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS****NEW****1: Application and Scope of the Policy**

- This Policy applies to all TDSB employees, students, parents/guardians, drivers, service providers, and volunteers.

NEW**2: Equity Principles**

- The principle of equity is foundational to the role of student transportation at the TDSB. The Board acknowledges that student transportation plays a central role in providing equitable access to educational programming and will ensure that the transportation of students at the TDSB is in accordance with the Equity Policy (P037).

NEW**3: Valuing Indigenous Education**

- It is the goal of the TDSB to ensure that Indigenous students are not deprived of their rights, including the right to education as outlined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (inclusive of First Nations, Métis and Inuit). The TDSB recognizes the important role that Student Transportation plays in accessing educational programming and Indigenous Education and Language programming.

NEW**4: Transportation for Indigenous Education Programming**

- The TDSB will provide transportation to all Indigenous students, consistent with the Voluntary First Nation, Metis and Inuit Self-Identification Policy (P077), who meet the distance criteria set out in Section 12.
- The Transportation department will work with the Principal and/or Superintendent to support the transportation of Indigenous students, in any grade, where it is determined that transportation is a barrier that has impacted attendance for Indigenous students who would otherwise not qualify based on Section 12.

NEW**5: Transportation for Provincial and Demonstration Schools**

- The TDSB will provide transportation to students attending a Provincial or Demonstration School and who meet the distance criteria set out in Section 12.

NEW**6: Electronic Devices and Privacy**

- Where electronic devices, such as security cameras or other devices used to record or track, are utilized, 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).

NEW**7: Staggered School Times**

- 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. School start and end times will not be altered unless the change results in a net reduction in buses.
- Once it is determined that a school will not be served by student transportation services for the coming year, a principal may adjust their bell times by up to 30 minutes with the approval of their Superintendent, in consultation with the Transportation Department, and their school community.

NEW**8: Environment**

- The TDSB recognizes the impact that the provision of transportation has on the environment and will look to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by providing active transportation alternatives, efficient routing of buses and by exploring alternatives to GHG emitting vehicles.

NEW**9: Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation**

- The TDSB supports the promotion and use of Active, Safe, and Sustainable Transportation.
- The TDSB will collaborate with internal and external partners to facilitate the implementation of school travel plans and road safety education in

keeping with the TDSB Charter for Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation.

- The TDSB will continue to invest resources to support Active, Safe, and Sustainable transportation to and from school, through the installation of bike racks, providing pedestrian and bike safety skills material, the ‘Routes to School Planner’ maps for every elementary school and other related supports.

NEW

10: Emergency Changes to Policy Provisions

- When there are unforeseen circumstances requiring immediate action, such as public health emergencies, extreme driver shortages, or other emergencies, the Toronto Student Transportation Group’s (TSTG) Governance Committee may, after consultation with TDSB staff, enforce temporary changes to the provisions specified in the Transportation Policy, including suspension of certain services, to ensure the safety of students and/or the continuity of service. The TSTG will notify the Board of Trustees and the school community as soon as possible to inform them of the changes.

REVISED

11: Distance and Eligibility Criteria (section 3.1a of current Policy)

- Transportation services will be provided to all TDSB students attending regular programs and schools, based on the criteria outlined in the following table. Those who do not meet the distance or other eligibility criteria may still benefit from transportation resources related to transit safety and Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation (ASST).

Eligibility:

| Grade | Distance*** | NEW Transportation Hazards Considered? |
|--------------|--------------------|---|
| Jk-5 | 1.6 km | Yes |
| Grade 6-8 | 3.2 km* | Yes |
| Grade 9-12 | 4.8 km* | No** |

*TTC/Presto tickets provided as method of transportation support for eligible students from grades 6-12.

** Generally, hazards are not considered for secondary students. However, they will be considered in exceptional cases.

***Distance to be measured from closest public thoroughfare of the residence of the student to nearest public access to the school property.

Note: Transportation is not provided for students attending programs under the Optional Attendance Policy (P013), even when distance is a factor.

REVISED and NEW

12: Transportation for Special Education Programming (section 3.1 (c) i of current Policy)

- **REVISED:** The TDSB will provide transportation to students placed by an Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) to a Special Education Program and who meet the distance criteria.
- **REVISED:** Transportation will be provided, regardless of whether they meet the eligible distance criteria, for students who have a qualifying medical condition, approved accommodation or exceptional circumstances that require transportation support.
- **REVISED:** The TDSB will provide transportation to students who require offsite treatment to support the educational needs of the student, that is not offered in their home school and that is a Board approved program for those who meet the distance criteria.
- **NEW:** Transportation will not be provided to Grade 9 to 12 Gifted Programs.
- **NEW:** In order to ensure that there will be no safety or other related concerns due to a lengthy bus ride, the TDSB will not place any student in a program or school where the transportation is likely to take more than 60 minutes (10 kilometres), one way under normal travel conditions. Should exceptions be requested, they will be reviewed by the Special Education department in consultation with the Transportation department, in consideration of alternative sites, and the safety and wellbeing of the student.

REVISED and NEW

13: Transportation for French Immersion Programming (section 3.1 (c) iii of current Policy)

- **REVISED:** The TDSB will provide transportation for eligible elementary students attending French Immersion/Extended French programs, as defined in the French-as-a-Second Language Programs Policy (P080), and who meet the distance criteria set out in Section 12, with the exception as outlined below.
- **NEW:** This transportation will either be by school bus or TTC tickets based on grade level.

- **NEW:** Transportation will not be provided to Grade 9 to 12 French immersion, extended French.

REVISED

14: Transportation for Education and Community Partnership Program (section 3.1 (c) iv of current Policy)

- **REVISED:** The TDSB will provide transportation to students attending an Education and Community Partnership Program (ECPP) consistent with Section 190 of the *Education Act* and the “Ministry Guidelines for Approval and Provision of an Education and Community Partnership Program”, and who meet the distance criteria set out in Section 12.

REVISED

15: School Relocation (Section 3.1 (c) iv of current Policy)

- Where an elementary school (JK-8) is relocating on a temporary basis due to an emergency, planned construction or other related move, students will be provided transportation where the distance from the new home school is in keeping with eligible distances in Section 12 below. For students in Grade 6-8, who meet the distance criteria (as outlined in Section 12), families will be consulted on the option of TTC or School Bus.
- Where a secondary school (Grades 9-12) is relocating on a temporary basis due to an emergency, planned construction or other related move, students will be provided TTC/Presto ticket support where the distance from the new home school is in keeping with eligible distances in Section 12 below.

REVISED and NEW

16: Method of Transportation (section 3.2 of current Policy)

- a) **UNCHANGED:** Transportation is provided to eligible students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 by contracted carrier services (bus or van) or Board fleet bus.
 - i. School-to-school transportation will be offered.
 - ii. Designated bus stop-to-school transportation may be provided as a result of an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC), with approved medical and/or accommodation reasons.
 - iii. Special Education students in district-wide programs will receive home-to-school transportation.
- b) **REVISED:** TTC tickets will be provided to eligible students as per Section 12, from Grade 6 through to Grade 12 upon parental /guardian request.

- c) **REVISED:** Grade 6 students will be deemed eligible for TDSB bus transportation if the most direct TTC route requires more than one transfer.
- d) **REVISED:** Taxi service may be provided for eligible students, with parent/guardian permission, for Board authorized medical or accommodation reasons.
 - o **NEW:** Students at the primary level between junior kindergarten and Grade three utilizing taxi services must be accompanied by an authorized adult or where no other suitable transportation is available and if given written permission by the parent/guardian;
 - o **NEW:** Non-verbal students utilizing taxi services must be accompanied by an authorized adult or where no other suitable transportation is available and if given written permission by the parent/guardian.

REVISED

17: Transportation for Summer Schools (section 3.3 of current Policy)

- **REVISED:** Summer school transportation will be provided, either by school bus or TTC, for the following designated programs following the same distance criteria as outlined in Section 12:
 - (a) Ministry-funded ECPP programs in treatment centres, hospitals, etc., that are an extension of the regular school year program;
 - (b) Programs offered by the TDSB for Special Education students;
 - (c) Students attending credit programs who are eligible for school bus transportation for accommodation and/or exceptional circumstances.

REVISED and NEW

18: Appeal Process (section 3.4 of current Policy)

- **REVISED:** 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 Supervisory Officer responsible for transportation.
- **NEW:** The Board will establish an appeal process to address: special accommodation requests, including requests related to compassionate circumstances, accommodations, exceptional needs, and/or financial hardship.

REVISED

19: Safe Behaviour on School Buses (section 3.5 of current Policy)

- **REVISED:** The Board is committed to the safety and well-being of students on school buses and will work with parents/guardians, principals,

students, and drivers to promote safe behaviour and implement the Behaviour on Buses Procedure (PR557).

REVISED

20: Empty Seats/Courtesy Seating Procedure on School Buses (section 3.6 of current Policy)

- **REVISED:** The TDSB will provide empty/courtesy seating to students on school buses if there are seats still available after all eligible students have been accommodated. It is understood that empty/courtesy seats will not result in the addition of new buses and that an empty/courtesy seat may be withdrawn if the space is needed to accommodate an eligible rider.

REVISED

21: Definitions

- *Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation (ASST)* refers to encouraging and supporting students and staff to find active ways to arrive to and from school every day by walking, cycling, use of mobility devices, and many other forms of human-powered transportation. The TDSB supports and promotes safe, active, and sustainable transportation and the Board's charter reflects the principles of Ontario's Foundation for a Healthy School (www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/Active-Transportation-Charter)
- *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.
- *Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECPPs)* formerly known as Section 23 programs, refer to voluntary collaborative partnerships between Ontario district school boards and government-approved facilities such as children mental health agencies, hospitals or youth detention centres. District school boards provide the educational component ("Education Program") while facilities provide the care and/or treatment.
- *French Immersion/Extended French Programs* refer to French-as-a-Second-Language programs in which French is not only taught as a subject but also serves as the language of instruction in other subjects.
- *Provincial and Demonstration Schools* refer to schools that are operated by the Ministry of Education and provide education for students who are deaf or blind, or who have severe learning disabilities.

- *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.
- *Toronto Student Transportation Group (Consortium)* – The Board partners with TCDSB to operate Student Transportation through an arrangement called “The Toronto Student Transportation Group” or “the Consortium”. The purpose of this arrangement is to operate student transportation services more efficiently by sharing routes, which is intended to minimize costs and minimize the number of buses on the road. This arrangement is mandated by the Ministry of Education.

Toronto District School Board

Policy P020

Title: **TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS**

Adopted: December 16, 1998

Revised: May 31, 2000, October 27, 2005

Review:

1.0 OBJECTIVE

To establish the criteria for the provision of student transportation and safety measures that will be taken

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Education holds primary responsibility for this Policy.

Within the Director's Office, the executive oversight and responsibility for the implementation, coordination and day-to-day management of the Policy is assigned to the Associate Director, Associate Director, Business Operations and Service Excellence.

3.0 POLICY

The Toronto District School Board is committed to the provision of safe and reliable transportation for resident students in accordance with the provisions of the *Education Act*, section 21. (2), and the administrative procedure section of this policy. The means of transportation for eligible students is by school bus, the provision of TTC tickets or by taxi.

3.1. Eligibility Criteria

(a) Distance

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 OAC: 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.

+ TTC tickets may be available depending on financial need.

(b) Medical Condition

Transportation may be provided, regardless of distance, for students who have a medical condition or disability that severely limits walking.

(c) Program Considerations

Transportation is provided:

- (i) 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 in section 3.1 (a);
- (ii) for students who are placed in a program by the Toronto District School Board which is not offered in their home school and who meet the distance criteria in section 3.1 (a);
- (iii) for students attending a French Immersion program not offered in their home school and who meet the distance criteria in section 3.1 (a);
- (iv) for students who, for program purposes as stated in the *Education Act*, Section 190. (1), are required to attend another school during the course of the school day and who meet the distance criteria in section 3.1 (a);
- (v) for students who require treatment at an approved treatment facility during the course of the school day;
- (vi) for elementary students who are placed in a holding school by the Toronto District School Board which is located farther than a closer school offering the same program and who meet the distance criteria for JK to Grade 5 in section 3.1 (a).

(d) Alternative Attendance

Transportation is not provided for students attending any school or special program at their request, even when distance is a factor.

3.2. Method of Transportation

- (a) Transportation is provided to eligible students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 by contracted carrier services (bus or van) or Board bus.
 - (i) School-to-school transportation would be offered.

- (ii) Designated site-to-school transportation may be provided as a result of an Identification, Placement and Review Committee or for medical reasons.
- (iii) Special Education students in district-wide programs (formerly Metro-wide programs) will receive home-to-school transportation.
- (b) TTC tickets will be provided to eligible students from Grade 6 through to Grade 8 on parental /guardian request. Grade 6 students may be provided with bus transportation if the most direct TTC route requires more than one transfer. Students in Grades 9 to OAC may receive TTC tickets provided the distance and financial criteria are met.
- (c) Taxi service may be provided for eligible students in situations where it is warranted.

3.3. Summer School Transportation

Summer school transportation may be provided, either by school bus or TTC, for the following designated programs using the same eligibility criteria as stated in Section 3.1:

- (a) Ministry-funded 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.

3.4. Appeal Process

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.

3.5. Transportation Manual

A Transportation Manual will be developed to include procedures, guidelines and protocols for issues such as:

- Mandatory performance requirements
- Child care
- Staggered school hours
- Section 29 programs
- Cancellation of transportation
- Bus evacuation
- Empty seat procedures
- Accident reporting

- Safety
- Student conduct
- Medical conditions
- Consolidation of schools
- Glossary

3.6. Empty Seats

An procedure shall be established to provide a process for filling seats on school buses that are available after all eligible students have been accommodated.

4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

The Director is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this policy.

5.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Operational Procedure PR504, Transportation of Students

Toronto District School Board

Policy P020

Title: **TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS**

Adopted: December 16, 1998

Effectuated: December 16, 1998

Revised: May 31, 2000, October 27, 2005; [new date]

Reviewed: May 31, 2000; October 27, 2005; [new date]

1.0 RATIONALE

The Transportation of Students Policy (the "Policy") supports the Toronto District School Board's (TDSB or the Board) commitment to safe, reliable, and equitable transportation for TDSB students in accordance with the *Education Act*, Section 21 (2).

2.0 OBJECTIVE

To establish the criteria for the provision of student transportation and safety measures that will be taken

3.0 DEFINITIONS

- *Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation (ASST) refers to encouraging and supporting students and staff to find active ways to arrive to and from school every day by walking, cycling, use of mobility devices, and many other forms of human-powered transportation. The TDSB supports and promotes safe, active, and sustainable transportation and the Board's charter reflects the principles of Ontario's Foundation for a Healthy School (www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Innovation/Active-Transportation-Charter)*
- *Board* refers to the Toronto District School Board, which is also referred to as the "TDSB".
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- *Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECPPs) formerly known as Section 23 programs*, refer to voluntary collaborative partnerships between Ontario district school boards and government-approved facilities such as children mental health agencies, hospitals or youth detention

centres. District school boards provide the educational component (“Education Program”) while facilities provide the care and/or treatment.

- French Immersion/Extended French Programs refer to French-as-a-Second-Language programs in which French is not only taught as a subject but also serves as the language of instruction in other subjects.
- Provincial and Demonstration Schools refer to schools that are operated by the Ministry of Education and provide education for students who are deaf or blind, or who have severe learning disabilities.
- 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.
- Toronto Student Transportation Group (Consortium) – The Board partners with TCDSB to operate Student Transportation through an arrangement called “The Toronto Student Transportation Group” or “the Consortium”. The purpose of this arrangement is to operate student transportation services more efficiently by sharing routes, which is intended to minimize costs and minimize the number of buses on the road. This arrangement is mandated by the Ministry of Education.

3.04.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Education holds primary responsibility for the implementation of this Policy. Within the Director’s Office, the responsibility for the coordination and day-to-day management of the Policy is assigned to the Executive Officer/Superintendent, Business Services.

5.0 APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This Policy applies to all TDSB employees, students, parents/guardians, drivers, service providers, and volunteers.

6.0 POLICY

6.1. Equity Principles

The principle of equity is foundational to the role of student transportation at the TDSB. The Board acknowledges that student transportation plays a central role in providing equitable access to educational programming and will ensure that the transportation of students at the TDSB is in accordance with the Equity Policy (P037).

6.2. Valuing Indigenous Education

It is the goal of the TDSB to ensure that Indigenous students are not deprived of their rights, including the right to education as outlined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (inclusive of First Nations, Métis and Inuit). The TDSB recognizes the important role that Student Transportation plays in accessing educational programming and Indigenous Education and Language programming.

6.3. Transportation for Indigenous Education Programming

The TDSB will provide transportation to all Indigenous students, consistent with the Voluntary First Nation, Metis and Inuit Self-Identification Policy (P077), who meet the distance criteria set out in Section 12.

The Transportation department will work with the Principal and/or Superintendent to support the transportation of Indigenous students, in any grade, where it is determined that transportation is a barrier that has impacted attendance for Indigenous students who would otherwise not qualify based on Section 12.

6.4. Transportation for Provincial and Demonstration Schools

The TDSB will provide transportation to students attending a Provincial or Demonstration School and who meet the distance criteria set out in Section 12.

6.5. Electronic Devices and Privacy

Where electronic devices, such as security cameras or other devices used to record or track, are utilized, 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).

6.6. Staggered School Times

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. School start and end times will not be altered unless the change results in a net reduction in buses.

Once it is determined that a school will not be served by student transportation services for the coming year, a principal may adjust their bell times by up to 30 minutes with the approval of their Superintendent, in consultation with the Transportation Department, and their school community.

6.7. Environment

The TDSB recognizes the impact that the provision of transportation has on the environment and will look to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by providing active transportation alternatives, efficient routing of buses and by exploring alternatives to GHG emitting vehicles.

6.8. Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation

The TDSB supports the promotion and use of Active, Safe, and Sustainable Transportation

The TDSB will collaborate with internal and external partners to facilitate the implementation of school travel plans and road safety education in keeping with the TDSB Charter for Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation.

The TDSB will continue to invest resources to support Active, Safe, and Sustainable transportation to and from school, through the installation of bike racks, providing pedestrian and bike safety skills material, the 'Routes to School Planner' maps for every elementary school and other related supports.

6.9. Emergency Changes to Policy Provisions

When there are unforeseen circumstances requiring immediate action, such as public health emergencies, extreme driver shortages, or other emergencies, the Toronto Student Transportation Group's (TSTG) Governance Committee may, after consultation with TDSB staff, enforce temporary changes in the Transportation Policy, including suspension of certain services, to ensure the safety of students and/or the continuity of service. The TSTG will notify the Board of Trustees and the school community as soon as possible to inform them of the changes.

~~The Toronto District School Board is committed to the provision of safe and reliable transportation for resident students in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, section 21. (2), and the administrative procedure section of this policy. The means of transportation for eligible students is by school bus, the provision of TTC tickets or by taxi.~~

3.1.6.10. Eligibility Criteria

(a) Distance

~~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.~~

Transportation services will be provided to all TDSB students attending regular programs and schools, based on the criteria outlined in the following table. Those who do not meet the distance or other eligibility criteria may still benefit from transportation resources related to transit safety and Active, Safe and Sustainable Transportation (ASST).

| Grade | Distance *** | Transportation Hazards Considered? |
|------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Jk-5 | 1.6 km | Yes |
| Grade 6-8 | 3.2 km* | Yes |
| Grade 9-12 | 4.8 km* | No** |

*TTC/Presto tickets provided as method of transportation support for eligible students from grades 6-12.

** Generally, hazards are not considered for secondary students. However, they will be considered in exceptional cases.

***Distance to be measured from closest public thoroughfare of the residence of the student to nearest public access to the school property.

Note: Transportation is not provided for students attending programs under the Optional Attendance Policy (P013), even when distance is a factor.

~~(b) Medical Condition~~

~~Transportation may be provided, regardless of distance, for students who have a medical condition or disability that severely limits walking. MOVED UNDER PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS~~

(c) Program Considerations

Transportation is provided:

- ~~(i) 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 in section 3.1 (a);~~

The TDSB will provide transportation to students placed by an Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) to a Special Education Program and who meet the distance criteria.

Transportation will be provided, regardless of whether they meet the eligible distance criteria, for students who have a qualifying medical condition, approved accommodation or exceptional circumstances that require transportation support

The TDSB will provide transportation to students who require offsite treatment to support the educational needs of the student, that is not offered in their home school and that is and that is a Board approved program for those who meet the distance criteria

Transportation will not be provided to Grade 9 to 12 Gifted Programs.

In order to ensure that there will be no safety or other related concerns due to a lengthy bus ride, the TDSB will not place any student in a program or school where the transportation is likely to take more than 60 minutes (10 kilometres), one way under normal travel conditions. Should exceptions be requested, they will be reviewed by the Special Education department in consultation with the Transportation department, in consideration of alternative sites, and the safety and wellbeing of the student.

- (ii) for students who are placed in a program by the Toronto District School Board which is not offered in their home school and who meet the distance criteria.
- ~~(iii) for students attending a French Immersion program not offered in their home school and who meet the distance criteria in section 3.1 (a);~~

The TDSB will provide transportation for eligible elementary students attending French Immersion/Extended French programs, as defined in the French-as-a-Second Language Programs Policy (P080), and who meet the distance criteria, with the exception as outlined below.

This transportation will either be by school bus or TTC/Presto tickets based on grade level.

Transportation will not be provided to Grade 9 to 12 French immersion, extended French.

- ~~(iv) for students who, for program purposes as stated in the *Education Act*, Section 190. (1), are required to attend another school during the course of the school day and who meet the distance criteria in section 3.1 (a);~~

The TDSB will provide transportation to students attending an Education and Community Partnership Program (ECPP) consistent with Section 190 of the Education Act and the "Ministry Guidelines

for Approval and Provision of an Education and Community Partnership Program”], and who meet the distance criteria.

- (v) ~~for students who require treatment at an approved treatment facility during the course of the school day;~~

The TDSB will provide transportation to students who require treatment for supporting the educational needs of the student, that is not offered in their home school and who meet the distance criteria.

- (vi) ~~for elementary students who are placed in a holding school by the Toronto District School Board which is located farther than a closer school offering the same program and who meet the distance criteria for JK to Grade 5 in section 3.1 (a);~~

Where an elementary school (JK-8) is relocating on a temporary basis due to an emergency, planned construction or other related move, students will be provided transportation where the distance from the new home school is in keeping with eligible distances. For students in Grade 6-8, who meet the distance criteria, families will be consulted on the option of TTC or School Bus.

Where a secondary school (Grades 9-12) is relocating on a temporary basis due to an emergency, planned construction or other related move, students will be provided TTC/Presto ticket support where the distance from the new home school is in keeping with eligible distances.

(d) Alternative Attendance

~~Transportation is not provided for students attending any school or special program at their request, even when distance is a factor.~~ MOVED UNDER DISTANCE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (SEE ABOVE)

3.2-6.11. Method of Transportation

- (a) Transportation is provided to eligible students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 by contracted carrier services (bus or van) or Board bus.
- (i) School-to-school transportation ~~would~~will be offered.
- (ii) Designated site-to-school transportation may be provided as a result of an Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC), with approved or for medical and/or accommodation reasons.

(iii) Special Education students in district-wide programs (~~formerly Metro-wide programs~~) will receive home-to-school transportation.

~~(b) TTC tickets will be provided to eligible students from Grade 6 through to Grade 8 on parental/guardian request. Grade 6 students may be provided with bus transportation if the most direct TTC route requires more than one transfer. Students in Grades 9 to OAC may receive TTC tickets provided the distance and financial criteria are met.~~

TTC tickets will be provided to eligible students as per the eligible distance criteria from Grade 6 through to Grade 12 upon parental/guardian request.

(c) Taxi service may be provided for eligible students, with parent/guardian permission, for medical or accommodation/warranted reasons. ~~in situations where it is warranted.~~

Students at the primary level between junior kindergarten and Grade three utilizing taxi services must be accompanied by an authorized adult or where no other suitable transportation is available and if given written permission by the parent/guardian;

Non-verbal students utilizing taxi services must be accompanied by an authorized adult or where no other suitable transportation is available and if given written permission by the parent/guardian.

6.12. Summer School Transportation

Summer school transportation may be provided, either by school bus or TTC, for the following designated programs using the same eligibility criteria as stated in ~~this Policy Section 3.4:~~

- (a) Ministry-funded ~~Section 29~~ ECPP 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 accommodation and/or exceptional circumstances. ~~medical reasons.~~

3.3-6.13. Appeal Process

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.

The Board will establish an appeal process to address: special accommodation requests, including requests related to compassionate circumstances, accommodations, exceptional needs, and/or financial hardship.

Transportation Manual

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~~
- ~~Cancellation of transportation~~
- ~~Bus evacuation~~
- ~~Empty seat procedures~~
- ~~Accident reporting~~
- ~~Safety~~
- ~~Student conduct~~
- ~~Medical conditions~~
- ~~Consolidation of schools~~
- ~~Glossary~~

6.14. Safe Behaviour on School Buses

The Board is committed to the safety and well-being of students on school buses and will work with parents/guardians, principals, students, and drivers to promote safe behaviour and implement the Behaviour on Buses Procedure (PR557).

3.4.6.15. Empty Seats

~~An procedure shall be established to provide a process for filling seats on school buses that are available after all eligible students have been accommodated.~~

The TDSB will provide empty/courtesy seating to students on school buses if there are seats still available after all eligible students have been accommodated. It is understood that empty/courtesy seats will not result in the addition of new buses and that an empty/courtesy seat may be withdrawn if the space is needed to accommodate an eligible rider.

4.07.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

The Director [of Education](#) is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this [Policy](#).

5-08.0 EVALUATION

[This Policy will be reviewed as required but at a minimum every four \(4\) years after the effective date.](#)

6-09.0 APPENDICES

[Not Applicable](#)

7-010.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

[Legislation:](#)

- [Education Act](#)

[Policies:](#)

- [Equity Policy \(P037\)](#)
- [Mission, Values and Goals Policy \(P002\)](#)
- [Optional Attendance Policy \(P013\)](#)
- [Voluntary First Nation, Metis and Inuit Self-Identification Policy \(P077\)](#)

[Procedures:](#)

- [Behaviour on Buses Procedure \(PR557\)](#)
- [Transportation of Students Procedure \(PR504\)](#)

[Other Documents:](#)

- [TDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#)