

Approved: February 13, 2001
Amended: February 8, 2005
Amended: March 12, 2009
Amended: April 23, 2013
Amended: September 1, 2015
Amended: February 26, 2019

502.5 Student Transportation/Bussing

Policy

Transportation shall be made available to students who qualify based on Alberta Education transportation regulations and funding guidelines.

Regulations

1. For the purpose of this policy, student transportation refers to regularly scheduled bussing and/or parent/guardian contracts.
2. The policy and funding applies to students who are within the boundaries of the Division.
3. Any contractors employed to provide transportation services shall share with the Division the responsibility for the safety of students while being transported.
4. The Division provides bussing service to students enrolled in kindergarten to grade 12 who reside at a distance of at least 2.4 kilometres from the site of their boundary school. The most direct route is determined by the Government of Alberta distance software.
5. The Division may also provide transportation to Division programs that are located in specific schools.
6. In some situations, the Superintendent or designate may use discretion regarding transportation services, the distance limits mentioned above notwithstanding.
7. For eligible grade 1-12 students, the Division provides bussing to school in the morning and from school after dismissal. Bus schedules are designed to balance convenience with the costs that are incurred in order to provide safe and efficient transportation.
8. Eligible kindergarten students in morning programs may access the busses going to the school, and eligible kindergarten students in the afternoon programs may access the busses going home after school.
9. If a student is directed by the Superintendent to a school other than their boundary school, transportation to the designated school will be provided or arranged.
10. The type of transportation service to be provided shall depend upon the number of students involved. The following types of service may be provided:

- 10.1. regular busses contracted or owned by the Division;
 - 10.2. transportation on regular city busses with the issuance of Breeze Cards managed by the Division Transportation Coordinator; or
 - 10.3. a contract with the parent/guardian of the student whereby the parent/guardian will convey the student to and from school or the bus route and receive payment.
11. Students are expected to conform to established expectations for behaviour on the bus and at bus stops. Any breach of conduct may result in withdrawal of transportation services for an individual, or possible discontinuance of bus service.
 12. In the event of delays in transporting students home such as a school bus accident, road conditions, or a return to the school for discipline reasons, the bus driver shall immediately notify the dispatcher who shall, in turn, notify the school's administrator. If school personnel cannot be reached, the dispatcher shall contact the Education Centre.
 13. In the event that a bus is involved in an accident, parents/guardians will be contacted in a timely and appropriate manner based on the circumstances.
 14. Student transportation shall adhere to the guidelines of the District Transportation Safety and Maintenance Program.

The Board delegated to the Superintendent the authority to develop the procedures necessary to implement this policy.

References

Alberta School Act:	Sections 51, 52
Division Policies:	501.3 School Attendance Areas, 602.2 French Immersion, 605.1 Inclusive Learning Supports, 605.2 Inclusive Learning Supports – Out of Division Placements, 502.1 Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments, 607.1 Field Trips, Off-campus Activities, and Student Travel
Other:	Lethbridge School Division Transportation Safety and Maintenance Program