PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION
Educating Today for Success Tomorrow

POLICY EEA – STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Board believes that for resident children/students approved by the Board, it has a responsibility for the safe transportation of students to and from school.

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for the delivery of transportation services to Peace Wapiti Public School Division students.

DEFINITIONS:

1. Route: the path between the home and school on travelled roads or public right of ways.
2. For this policy the term 'student' includes both children below Grade 1 accessing Early Childhood Services (referred to as children in the Funding Manual and *Education Act*) and children in Grade 1 and higher (referred to as students in the Education Manual and *Education Act*).
3. * Eligible Winter Service Students – are students who need to walk from their residence to the approach of their property.
4. Primary or Secondary Highways - #1-216 and 500-986
    a. Inter Provincial Highways (level 1) - #1, 2, 3, 4, 16 and 43.

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

1. Service is provided within 0.4 km from the approach of the residence where the student resides.
    a) Exceptions:

    Requests for yard pickups may be approved, if in the opinion of the Director of Transportation, the driveway and turnaround area in the yard is able to accommodate a turnaround, and for:

    i.) any bus turnaround or student pickup on a Primary or Secondary Highway;

    ii.) bus turnarounds and student pickups that are deemed a safety issue by the Director of Transportation or designate because of limited sight lines and/or traffic patterns or if the driveway is not a suitable turn around and there are no other options for turning. i.e.) hills and curves;

    iii.) student pickups and drop offs on Primary Highways and rural roads that are deemed unsafe by the Director of Transportation or designate because of limited sight lines. i.e. hills and curves;

    iv.) turnarounds where appropriate waivers have been obtained.

    v.) PWPSD is not responsible for driveway maintenance, snow removal, or damage to driveways caused by the school bus going into a yard.

b) * Winter service shall be provided from November 1 to March 31. Eligible students* will be provided yard service during this time.

c) Winter yard service may be provided November 1 to March 31 to students whose residence is located in excess of .8 km from the nearest public road, subject to:

i) the driveway and turnaround area in the yard being able to accommodate the bus safely, in the opinion of the Director of Transportation; and

ii) the student at the residence does not exceed the age of nine.

2. Transportation of Students with Special Needs

a) When necessary, door service is provided for students with special needs upon application and approval of the Superintendent or designate.

b) Transportation contracts are provided for students with special needs who are unable to ride a bus under the following circumstances:

If the parent or guardian so agrees, the Board will provide remuneration at the prevailing jurisdiction transportation rate from the student's residence to the designated school or busing service point. Such a contract is to remain in effect until such time that:

i) either party provides the other with thirty (30) days' notice in writing of intent to cancel the agreement; or

ii) the Board can provide regular busing service or other transportation service as it deems appropriate to convey the student to a school to which he or she is placed; or

iii) the student ceases to be a resident of the jurisdiction; or

iv) the end of the school year.

3. The Board may enter into a contract with a student's parent or guardian to transport their student to the designated school or to the appropriate bus stop nearest to or at the student's residence, if:

a) the student is directed to a placement in a school outside the student's normal attendance area to receive special education services; or

b) the Board deems that a student is unable to be transported on a school bus due to the student's age or special needs.

4. Where students are required to walk to school, a walk limit of 1.6 km shall be used for kindergarten to Grade 6 students and 2.0 km for Grades 7-12 students to determine whether school bus service will be made available.

5. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 from 1.0 to 1.59 km and students in Grades 7-12 living beyond 1.0 km but less than 2.0 km may qualify for transportation services provided:

a) There is room on the bus.

b) The student meets at one of the designated bus stops established by Transportation.

c) If applicable, any annual transportation fees required are paid in full at the beginning of the school year.

6. Fees are subject to an annual review of associated costs.
7. The Board delegates to the Director of Transportation decisions about transporting preschool children accompanied by their parent/guardian while the parent/guardian is driving or being transported in the school bus.
8. If a parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the decision of the Director of Transportation regarding route design, they may appeal to the Transportation Committee of the Board on one occasion only, unless circumstances change significantly.

REFERENCES

Cross References:

Policy EEABA – Cross Boundary Transportation
Exhibit 1 – Waiver Form
Exhibit 2 – Transportation Fee Schedule

Legal Reference:

Education Act Section 53, 59
Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation Section 19

BM#: 051-96; 267-96; 238-02; 77-06; 20111117.1005; 20120405.1008; 20121213.1010, 20150910.1008; 20171005.1005; 20180426.1010; 20180927.1015; 20180927.1021; 20210325.1010; 20230316.1011; 20230525.1014; 20260521.1007

Next Review: 2028/2029