

## SD42 POLICY 5400

### STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED BY THE BOARD

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#### PHILOSOPHY

the Board of Education (“Board”) is committed to the ongoing provision of transportation to and from school for eligible students with disabilities and diverse abilities.

While there is no requirement within the [School Act](#) to provide school bus transportation service for students, the Board evaluates the provision of transportation for students without disabilities or diverse abilities annually during the preliminary budget process. Availability of this service is contingent upon budget considerations, and if approved for the next school year, additional eligibility criteria will be established and communicated.

#### SCOPE

This policy governs the transportation of students to and from school at the start and end of the school day using a contracted service provider. It does not apply to the ad hoc transportation of students between school and school-related functions such as fieldtrips or sporting events which commonly involves use of Board-owned 15-passenger vans/buses at secondary schools and is governed by [Policy 5401 Use of Board-Owned Buses](#).

#### AUTHORITY

The Board assigns responsibility for implementing this policy to the Secretary Treasurer who is authorized to develop procedures to guide its implementation.

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

##### 1. Eligibility and Courtesy Riders

- Transportation services are prioritized for students with disabilities and diverse abilities identified by the Ministry of Education and Child Care as category A-G<sup>1</sup> and who:
  - live within the catchment area for their school but are unable to independently walk to school or use public transportation, or
  - are required by the School District to attend a specialized program and are unable to walk to school or use public transportation.
- Additional bus transportation services may be provided, at the Board’s discretion, for students without disabilities or diverse abilities through the establishment of additional eligibility criteria (e.g. eligible catchment schools and minimum distances from the school) within the preliminary budget approved for the following school year. If established, the criteria will be communicated to parents/guardians during the registration period.
- Bus transportation service for ineligible students (courtesy riders) may be provided when there is sufficient available seating on the bus and no modifications to the existing bus route are required. When accommodating courtesy ridership, priority will

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<sup>1</sup> A - Physically Dependent; B – Deafblind; C - Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability; D - Physical Disability or Chronic Health Impairment; E - Visual Impairment; F - Deaf or Hard of Hearing; G - Autism Spectrum Disorder

be given to siblings of eligible students, students living furthest from the catchment school, and younger students.

## **2. Parental Responsibility**

- Parents/guardians transferring their children to a non-catchment school are responsible for providing their own transportation.
- Parents/guardians must apply for transportation service for their children each year during the transportation application period and must include relevant safety and contact information.

## **3. General Conditions and Standards for School Bus Service**

- Bus routes and schedules shall be established annually to accommodate eligible students effectively through route optimization and in compliance with safety standards and contractual obligations.
- Buses will only run on public roads maintained by appropriate authorities and will stop in the safest places regardless of possible inconvenience to individual students.
- Service is provided from and to the stop nearest to an eligible student's home address. Transportation may be provided to the stop nearest to either a daycare provider or a family member at a residence different than their home address if designated by the parent/guardian and only on an ongoing basis.
- Services may be suspended or modified in unsafe weather or road conditions.
- All transportation partners, including employees, contracted service providers, parents and students, must adhere to defined responsibilities, procedures and safety standards.

## **4. Fees**

- A user fee structure for transportation services will be set by the Board and reviewed periodically to ensure it achieves operational cost recovery targets and aligns with financial accessibility goals.

**APPROVED: June 12, 2013**

**UPDATED: April 16, 2025**