

Special Education Department Plan 2024-2025

Section B - Standard 7 Transportation for Students with Special Education Needs



Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board

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Standard 7

Transportation for Students with Special Education Needs

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR) contracts with the Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO) to provide transportation to qualifying students in its jurisdiction. STSCO works closely with Special Education Department to provide equitable access to transportation for students with special needs.

Transportation for Students in Special Education Programs (Learning and Life Skills Programs and Primary Communications Classes)

Students who are placed by an identification, placement and review committee (IPRC) decision in special education programs, with parent consent, in their home school community will either walk to school or use existing transportation provided if they are beyond the established walking distances. When students are placed in special education programs but reside outside their home school attendance area and outside of walking distances established by KPR, then transportation may be provided for these students based on home address and availability of transportation.

Transportation for Students with Medical Needs – Home School Attendance Area Walk Zone

Students with diagnosed medical conditions which preclude their ability to walk to and from their home school unassisted may be provided with transportation following a review of their needs, supporting medical documentation, and a discussion between school staff and the system principal of special education.

Transportation for Students – Home School Attendance Area Bus Zone

The transportation needs of each student are assessed on an individual basis. The first consideration is transportation on the standard school bus. In some cases, a smaller, specialized bus may be required to ensure student safety and to allow for the transporting of wheelchairs. In some cases, individual student transportation may need to be considered. This decision is based upon the physical, safety, and behavioural needs of the student through consultation between the school principal and the system principal of special education and will be monitored on a regular basis.

We are dedicated to ensuring a consistent, fair and transparent process in assessing needs. We will continue to accommodate requests for specialized transportation that meet established criteria, ensuring each request adheres to the required standards and guidelines.

To determine eligibility for specialized transportation, the criteria are as follows:

- Physical Disability

- Cognitive/Intellectual Disability
- Medical Conditions or Diagnosis
- Communication Disorder
- Other

Students in Education and Community Partnership Programs (ECP) (Section 23, formerly CTCC)

If the parent/guardian receives permission to access an ECP program outside of the home school attendance area, then responsibility for transportation rests with the parent/ guardian. Permission to utilize existing transportation routes must be requested, in writing to [STSCO](#), requests are subject to available space and in compliance with transportation policy.

Students in Provincial and Demonstration Schools

Transportation for students enrolled in provincial schools is arranged by school boards or provincial schools. Transportation for students enrolled in demonstration schools is arranged by provincial schools.

Students Attending Summer School Programs

For secondary special education students who require transportation in order to attend summer school programs, transportation may be provided at a central location.

Board Tendering for Transportation of Students with Special Needs

KPR engages in a request for proposal (RFP) process for large and small school vehicles, which includes special needs vehicles. All special needs vehicles under this RFP must meet the same requirements as our regular large school buses (i.e., Class B driver with criminal background check, First Aid/CPR Training etc.) In addition, to these vehicles, the Board will continue to maintain a list of qualified taxi/transportation companies that are available to transport special needs students. When required, the Board will request a quote from these companies. Similar to our contracted bus companies, these additional companies must qualify each year by providing the Board with an annual confirmation that all drivers have signed a confidentiality agreement, hold a valid class E or B license in good standing and have a current criminal background check, vulnerable sector check on file and all drivers have submitted an annual offence declaration. These companies must also confirm that all driver license abstracts have been reviewed, and all drivers have up to date and current First Aid/CPR and Anaphylaxis training. Professional development is available upon request. As well, operators are provided information as appropriate for individual emergency plans for students. The Board includes equity, diversity, and inclusion principles in its general tendering processes.

For more information on transportation, visit [the STSCO website](#).

The following [Board policies and administrative regulations](#) address transportation:

Board Policy:

[BA-8.7 Student Transportation](#)

Administrative Regulation:

[BA-8.7.1 Student Transportation](#): Student Eligibility, Bus Operator Contracted Service, Route Operation, Safety and Conduct on Buses, Bus Collision/Incident and Injuries and Student Safety.