



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT

Section: Business and Administrative Services

• **Transportation**

Policy Code: BA-8.3

Policy: ROUTE OPERATION

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Bus routes, including Board approved late bus runs, summer school busing and Board approved shared busing, shall be established by Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO), prior to school opening in September. Absolutely no changes will be made without prior consultation with STSCO.

1. Length of Time on Buses

- 1.1 Except in special circumstances, Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6 pupils should not be transported on the bus for more than 1 hour.
- 1.2 Except in special circumstances, Grade 7 and 8, and secondary school pupils should not be transported on the bus for more than 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- 1.3 Buses operating on a single route basis should be timetabled to arrive not earlier than 15 minutes before school commencement.
- 1.4 Buses operating on a double route basis should be timetabled to arrive not earlier than necessary.

2. Consistent Bus Pick-up/Drop-off Location

Within existing routes, consistent student pick-up/drop-off transportation service shall be defined as one fixed location for all school days for the school year. However, the location for pick-up for all school days for the school year may be different from the location for drop-off for all school days for the school year.

Where there is documentation and verifiable confirmation of a family separation and legally acceptable, or mutually agreed upon, joint custody, alternate pick-up/drop-off points may be established under the following conditions:

- 2.1 residences must be within the same school catchment area,
- 2.2 verifiable written separation agreement from both parties,
- 2.3 existing bus stops will be used if possible,
- 2.4 only two residences will be considered,
- 2.5 annual approval filed and approved by the principal,
- 2.6 changes to the originally approved request may not be approved, and
- 2.7 students must be able to determine the correct bus that they are to embark to their appropriate residence each day.

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Any other exceptions for emergencies must be approved by the school principal, or designate. Any exceptions on a special occasion event basis must be submitted in writing, in advance, and approved by the school principal, or designate.

3. Staggered School Hours

The Board, where feasible, will utilize staggered start/finish times to facilitate transportation cost efficiencies. The hours must be mutually approved by the appropriate superintendent and STSCO.

In the case of shared bus runs, STSCO will serve as intermediary in co-ordinating staggered school hours between the Board and other boards involved.

4. Shared Bus Routes

With the inception of Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario in February of 2005, the Board will henceforth work co-operatively with the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board in providing efficient, safe and effective student transportation. STSCO will plan and implement bus routes and transportation systems which are in full accordance with this goal and which may include the sharing of routes and vehicles between students of both boards.

5. Late Busing

Late busing is optional for the Board and, where feasible, should be shared among boards where there is shared busing.

Where secondary school principals, with the approval of the Board, wish to have established a limited number of late bus routes, they should submit their requests for the next school year to STSCO as soon after school closing as possible.

6. Summer School Busing

The provision of summer school busing will be at the discretion of the Board. When it is deemed necessary, appropriate routes and a corresponding budget will be discussed between the Director of Education or designate, schools and STSCO.

7. Inclement Weather Transportation

It is the policy of the Board that schools shall be open and operational to accommodate students on all instructional days regardless of weather conditions, unless otherwise approved by the Director of Education, or designate.

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Transportation services will inevitably be impacted during inclement weather and therefore, the Board acknowledges the right of parent(s)/guardian(s) to use their discretion in addressing student attendance at school during inclement weather.

Annually, each school shall develop and refine a school plan to address inclement weather emergencies. These procedures, including transportation contingencies, shall be shared with the school council and communicated to parent(s)/guardian(s).

8. Public Transportation

Wherever feasible and practical, the Board may utilize municipal public transit to transport students in place of regular contracted school bus service.

Administrative regulations will reflect the philosophy of this policy.

Established: March 25, 1999

Reviewed/Revised:

March 23, 2000

May 23, 2002

September 28, 2006

June 23, 2011

February 25, 2016

October 27, 2020