STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR TRANSPORT - WALKERS AND RIDERS

1. The Division may provide transportation support for eligible students in the following circumstances. An eligible student is defined as a student who meets the criteria to receive transportation support as set out below:

    a. for any student enrolled in grades K-6 in cases where the student's residence is 1.6 kilometres or greater walking distance from the student's catchment school as defined in paragraph No. 6;

    b. for any student enrolled in grades K-6 in cases where a hazardous roadway, as defined in paragraph No. 7, is situated between the student's residence and the student's catchment school and no Adult Crossing Guards are assigned to assist the students to cross the hazardous roadway. This provision also applies in cases where the student's residence is less than 1.6 kilometres walking distance from the student's catchment school;

    c. for any student attending an alternative catchment school in those areas where the Board of Trustees has established an alternative catchment school in addition to the primary catchment school (where both the catchment school and the alternative school use the same language of instruction) provided that the student's residence meets the eligibility criteria with respect to walking distance pursuant to paragraph No. 6 or the hazardous roadway criteria pursuant to paragraph No. 7 with respect to both the primary and alternative catchment school;

    d. for any student enrolled in grades 7-12 in cases where the Perimeter Highway, Wilkes Avenue or Sterling Lyon Parkway is situated between the student's residence and the student's catchment school provided that the student's residence is 1.6 kilometres or greater walking distance, as defined in paragraph No. 6, from the student's catchment school or from a transit stop;

    e. for any student in grades 9-12 in attendance at the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (MITT);

    f. for any other student for which the Division is obligated to provide transportation under The Public Schools Act or Manitoba Regulations.
    https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/p250e.php

g. for any student attending the student's catchment area school who is unable to walk safely to school as a result of a physical disability or an intellectual disability/deficit. An annual determination is to be made by the Principal of the catchment school and the Director of Transportation along with supporting documentation to support the decisions as to the inability of any student to walk safely to school. Any such student shall be eligible for transportation support to a day care centre instead of to the student's residence subject to there being no material cost difference or logistical route alteration and being further subject to review and agreement between the Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and the Secretary-Treasurer.

h. for any student designated for transportation support by the Board of Trustees who would not otherwise be eligible to be provided with transportation support under this Policy.

2. For purposes of applying this Policy, the student's residence shall mean the residence of the parent or legal guardian. Where service to a day care centre is part of the transportation plan for any eligible student, the student will be eligible to be transported to any specific day care centre when the address of the day care centre meets the same distance or hazardous roadway criteria as exists for the student's residence and can be accommodated on the route.

3. Transportation support to any eligible student to and from school shall be provided a maximum of once per day.

4. The Director of Transportation and, where appropriate, in consultation with the Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and the Secretary-Treasurer shall determine the most suitable form of transportation support for any student. The nature of the transportation support under Policy EEA or Policy EEAFA may take any one or combination of the following forms:

    a. school bus service;

    b. transit tickets or passes;

    c. taxi cab or van service;

    d. transportation allowance.

5. In any case where the Assistant Superintendent, Student Services, is considering that a student requires placement in a school other than in the catchment area school relating to the student's residence, consultation shall take place between the Student Services Department and the Transportation Department with respect to the cost and logistical implications of providing such transportation to the student. In any such case the student shall be eligible for transportation support to a day care centre instead of to the student's residence subject to there being no material cost difference or logistical alteration and being further subject to review and agreement between the Assistant Superintendent, Student Services and the Secretary-Treasurer.

6. The measurement of the 1.6 kilometres walking distance between the student's residence and the student's catchment school shall be taken from the school along the shortest public route available including any combination of sidewalks, streets, back lanes, walkways and paths, but not including bridges or overpasses and where the 1.6 kilometre walking distance falls part way within a block of residences, the Board may extend transportation eligibility to the entire block.

7. Hazardous roadways are defined as roadways, not divided by a median, with three or more lanes of traffic (excluding turning lanes) and designated as truck routes.

8. The Board may enter into agreements with Winnipeg Transit to ensure a suitable level of service for students in grades 9-12 attending their catchment area school.

    a. A parent or guardian of a student who is not eligible for transportation support may apply for transportation on a school bus on a fee basis pursuant to the Division's Seat Sale Provisions.

    b. A parent or guardian of a student who is eligible for transportation support but who is coming from or going to an address which does not qualify for transportation support pursuant to this Policy may apply for transportation on a school bus on a fee basis pursuant to the Division's Seat Sale Provisions.

    c. The Transportation Department may provide transportation support to students in paragraph 4(a) and (b) provided that the provision of such service does not require a material change to the distance, times or costs associated with the operation of the route.

9. The Principal of each school shall prepare a plan for loading and unloading each school bus. The plan shall designate a loading and unloading zone either on the grounds or at a point adjacent to the school grounds. The Principal shall supervise or assign a responsible person to supervise the loading and unloading of each school bus.

10. The Director of Transportation, each school principal and each school bus driver shall comply with all applicable provisions of The Public Schools Act and relevant Manitoba Regulations for which each is responsible.