STUDENT BUSSING ELIGIBILITY

Scope

This policy applies to all students living in the jurisdiction of the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board.

Purpose

To establish guidelines for walking distances for students attending schools within the boundaries of the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board to ensure that transportation is provided in an efficient manner for students who are in elementary school and are greater than 1.0 km away from the school and/or bus stop, and for students who are in middle or secondary school and living more than 2.5 km away from the school and/or bus stop, while complying with Board and provincial regulations.

Cross Reference

Authorization

This policy has been authorized by the Board under motions number 2007-05-27.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the Director of Operational Services to ensure that this policy and administrative procedures are implemented.

Implementation

The Coordinator of Transportation will implement the policy and administrative procedures.
**Procedures**

Bussing will be provided to elementary students who live 1.0 kilometers or more from the school or bus stop.

Bussing will be provided to middle school and secondary school students who live 2.5 kilometers or more from the school or bus stop.

Bussing will be provided for students living off the main bus route, i.e. off-route or subdivision, if:

- the branch road is a Nova Scotia Department of Transportation listed road and properly maintained;
- there is a suitable bus turn-around near the location of the last pick-up;
- the student is in elementary school and the distance is greater than 1.0 km from the intersection
- or the student is in middle or secondary school and is greater than 2.5 km from the intersection.

No bus stop will be closer than 1.0 kilometers from the school for elementary students, or 2.5 kilometers from the school for middle and secondary students.

If a parent of grades P-3 students feel that the conditions under which their child has to walk is unsafe, they can appeal to the Coordinator of Transportation who will have it investigated with a recommendation to senior management for a decision to provide bussing as a courtesy.

The Board is not obligated to provide transportation for students who transfer to a school other than the one serving their area.

The Board will assign students eligible for bussing one bus route and one stop based on the address, as per the child’s registration.

Where the parent or guardian wishes to have their child discharged from the bus at other than their regular stop, they may make application to the Coordinator of Transportation. This must be a regularly scheduled change (e.g., same day every week). This may be approved as a courtesy, provided space is available on existing bus routes. This courtesy bussing may be discontinued should overcrowding occur due to route changes, enrolment changes or any other factor.

The Board will notify parents by letter providing two weeks’ notice should courtesy bussing be discontinued.

School buses are to be used only for the purpose of transporting students to and from school and for related purposes within the limits of the license issued to the Board.
**Related Guidelines**

The Regulations under the Education Act require school boards to provide transportation to students:

- who live more than 3.6 kilometers from the school to which they are being transported;
- who require transportation, irrespective of distance because of special needs;
- or if the School Board determines that transportation is necessary.

**Associated Forms**

**Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed by Director of Operational Services within three years from the authorization date.

**Distribution**

All Policy Manual Holders
Board Members