

Transportation Q & A

► FAQs

Student Transportation for School Start-up

Q: Is my child eligible for transportation?

A: The Board's distance criteria for eligibility is as follows:

JK & SK	residing more than 1 km from designated school of attendance
Grade 1-4	residing more than 1.6 km from designated school of attendance
Grade 5-6	residing more than 2 km from designated school of attendance
Grade 7-8	residing more than 3.2 km from designated school of attendance

Transportation eligibility information is available at your child's school.

Q: Is transportation provided from daycare or babysitter locations?

A: Yes, transportation may be provided subject to the following:

- a) The student is eligible for transportation from their home residence
- b) The daycare or babysitter address is within the designated school attendance area
- c) Available seats exist on the bus serving the area. Access to transportation may be provided subject to the provision of the Board's empty seat policy.

Q: Is transportation provided for students with medical conditions?

A: Yes, provided that written documentation is provided, through the school to the Transportation Department, from a qualified MD, which identifies the medical condition and specifically identifies that transportation is a requirement.

PLEASE NOTE: Specific to asthma, transportation will only be provided in circumstances where the MD has advised, in writing, that the student suffers from asthma, requires transportation, and is subject to restricted physical activity (ie. No participation in Phys. Ed.)

Q: Where is my child's bus stop and what time will they be picked up and dropped off?

A: All bus run information is available at your child's school effective the week prior to the commencement of school.

Q: If I don't like my child's bus stop, can it be changed?

A: Requests for changes to bus stops are accepted and will be reviewed only with respect to safety and/or efficiency issues at the bus stop location. No changes to bus stops are considered during the first six weeks of school. Centralized bus stops are used, so it should be understood that students will be required to walk a limited distance to and from the bus stop. Requests for bus stop adjustments to accommodate parent/caregiver health issues or convenience, will not be considered.

Q: If my child is not eligible for transportation, may I purchase transportation service from the Board?

A: No, the Ministry of Education prohibits Boards from charging fees for transportation service.

Q: I have enrolled my children in the school at school year start. Is transportation available immediately?

A: No. It may be up to a period of two weeks before transportation for your child is in place. Please be prepared to provide access to and from school for your child for up to two weeks.

Q: I have enrolled my child in a school which is not their designated school of attendance. Is transportation provided?

A: No. Transportation services are not provided for any students attending schools other than their designated school of attendance.

Q: My child is not eligible for transportation according to Board policy. Are there any other options available to me?

A: Yes. You may apply for an available empty seat on an existing bus to your school through the “Fill Up the Bus” policy. Applications are to be made at the school and successful applicants may commence riding the bus in mid-October. **Please be aware that this privilege is subject to change each year, and contingent upon availability, your child may not have transportation for the full school year, and will be reassessed each September.**

Q: Who is responsible for my child’s safety prior to boarding the bus and after disembarking from the bus?

A: The parent or caregiver is responsible for the student until they board the bus and after they disembark from the bus.

Q: My child is in kindergarten. Are there any special provisions for kindergarten students?

A: Yes. Kindergarten is a half day program. Kindergarten students being returned by bus at noon or at the end of the school day will not be permitted to exit the bus unless the appropriate parent or caregiver is present to meet them at their bus stop. Kindergarten students who are not met will be returned to their school and the parent/caregiver will need to make their own arrangements to pick them up there. This protocol also applies to grade one students.

Q: If the weather is bad, how do I know if buses are cancelled?

A: Bus cancellation information is provided to a significant number of media outlets, and is generally communicated by 6 AM. Specific information regarding this will be provided to you in early November. **Also, check the board website at www.dpdsb.org.**